



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1299

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Endangered Species Annex at the Manatee Rescue Center campus will focus on conservation initiatives aimed at saving some of the often misunderstood and underappreciated native species of our diverse state. From breeding programs for the threatened Striped Newts and Eastern Indigo Snakes to educational initiatives for protected amphibians and reptiles, the area will be a conservation and learning center for school field trips, camps, Zoo School and more than 1.2 million annual visitors.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,000,000	10%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	4%
Other	23,500,000	86%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	27,500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation of the Florida Endangered Species Annex at Manatee Rescue Center.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?



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In addition to the endangered species breeding work done at the Annex, visitors will be able to view other native species of amphibians and reptiles.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

More than 1.2 million visitors per year will be able to see the Florida Endangered Species Annex and learn the importance of species conservation. ZooTampa's work is helping to preserve the endangered amphibian and reptile populations for the benefit of the environment and for the enjoyment of future generations of Floridians

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target populations served by this project are the residents of and visitors to the Tampa Bay region. More than 1.2 million residents and visitors are expected to be served.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Conservation of two Florida endangered species, the Striped Newt and Indigo Snake, through a breeding program. This will preserve the population of these two species and ZooTampa will track and report all numbers.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Funds will be returned to the state (FWC) if the project deliverables and performance measures in the contract are not met.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?



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- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

18. Recipient Contact Information

- a. Organization
- b. Municipality and County
- c. Organization Type
 - For Profit Entity
 - Non Profit 501(c)(3)
 - Non Profit 501(c)(4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (please specify)
- d. First Name Last Name
- e. E-mail Address
- f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number



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The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.