



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1483

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The SPEAR Accelerator, an initiative powered by the Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative (VEI), is dedicated to empowering veteran-led tech startups into industry leading ventures. Each cohort is strategically focused on an industry vertical, providing tailored support, expert mentorship and strategic collaboration opportunities with major industry leaders. We harness the unique leadership skills, tenacity, and resilience of veterans, pairing them with the resources, mentorship, and network they need to make a significant impact in the technology sector.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	96%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	10,000	4%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	260,000	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		
2024-25	250,000	0	1019	No

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.**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1483

To supplement state funding for a veteran entrepreneurship program, we can leverage a mix of federal grants, corporate sponsorships, and sustainable revenue streams. A strong option is the SBA's Community Navigator Pilot Program, which funds organizations that support underserved entrepreneurs, including veterans. Additionally, introducing participation fees and engaging local business sponsorships.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

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	Director/Project Head	30,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment, In-State Travel	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant, Contract Services	15,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Program Coordinators, Marketing Specialist	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment, In-State Travel, Supplies, Marketing	95,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Subject Matter Experts	50,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1483

The purpose of the funds is to create and deploy a military veterans space vertical technology program that provides tailored mentorship, training, and resources to small veteran-led technology companies. This program's goal is to accelerate the path of commercialization and innovation.

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

The followings are activities that will be provided in each of the cohorts; three day in person training, six months of mentoring, one week of workshops and a two day demonstration event.

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

An estimated eighty four hours of training and skill enhancements through industry focus cohorts with the purpose of accelerating the path of commercialization and innovation which could result in external capital investments, revenues, and job creation.

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

The target population is military veterans, dependents, reservist and National Guard Members.

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

The expected benefits are improving physical and mental health, enriching cultural experiences, quality education, improving economic activity, job creation, enhancing individuals' economic self-sufficiency, veteran's welfare, and state effort recognition. The benefits are measured through the collection of surveys, assessments, and final reporting.

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?

Failure to complete all deliverables in accordance with the requirements will result in DEO's assessment and potential of financial consequences. If appropriate, should the Parties agree to a corrective action plan, the plan shall specify additional financial consequences to be applied after the effective date of the corrective action plan. This provision for financial consequences shall in no manner affect DEO's right to terminate the Agreement.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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#:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1483

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)?

- 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1483

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

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