



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1486

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The program targets elementary school students in Grades 1-6 and their families, introducing them to marine careers through engaging, grade-appropriate content. Designed for both Grades 1-3 and 4-6, the program integrates STEAM-based learning to spark curiosity and exploration. In addition to student engagement, the initiative aims to raise awareness among Florida elementary educators, equipping them with resources to incorporate marine career education into their classrooms statewide.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	750,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	750,000	100	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

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	Director, Maritime Workforce Programs- (2)- \$59,250 x2 \$118,500.00 Director, Strategic Partnerships (1/2 FTE) \$48,000.00	166,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Curriculum Expansion - \$350,000 (Digital Class Teaching Kit, video services, digital magazine, student engagement connections, technical education advisor) Educational Content & Training Platform for Program Participants \$50,000 Recruitment Marketing - \$30,000	430,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Maritime Industry Specialist \$60,000 Project Management \$50,000 Training Location \$43,500	153,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to expand marine career education in Florida by introducing interactive STEAM-based learning for Grades 1-6 through the Ocean Rangers program while providing middle and high school students with certified marine apprenticeships. The program offers hands-on experiences, soft skills training, and industry partnerships to prepare students for land and at-sea careers through updated resources, educator outreach, and digital engagement.

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

Students will embark on an ocean adventure with the Ocean Rangers exploring fun lessons and activities focused on ocean safety and cleanliness. Through STEAM and SEL materials, they'll learn about ships, build their own boat, and discover the importance of the Ocean Rangers in protecting our planet's waters and ecosystem health, all while demonstrating how STEAM translates into practical jobs.

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

The funding will provide Florida students with hands-on learning through the Ocean Rangers program, focusing on ocean safety, cleanliness, and ecosystem health. Students will explore ships, build boats, and learn STEAM and SEL concepts tied to real-world marine careers. These activities promote teamwork, problem-solving, and environmental stewardship, giving students valuable skills for the future.

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

High School and Middle School Students and their families in the state of Florida. Elementary School students in Grades 1-6 and their families. We expect 1 million plus individuals 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?

The Ocean Rangers program introduces Grades 1-6 to marine careers through STEAM-based learning while providing middle and high school students with hands-on experience, certifications, and apprenticeships. It fosters career readiness, environmental awareness, and workforce development. Success will be measured through assessments, student engagement, teacher/employer feedback, job placement tracking, and long-term career outcomes to evaluate its impact on education and industry readiness.

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?

Notice with opportunity to cure before suspension of funding.

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



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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)?

- 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.



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19. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- 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.