



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1499

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Modernize infrastructure of several zoo exhibits and areas in order to provide a better guest experience and ensure crucial continued accreditation by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Funds would match zoo fundraising to help with modifications/repairs to habitats and/or holding areas for giraffe, rhino, bear, clouded leopard, alligator/crocodile, bald eagle, river otter, peccary, sloth, guenons, lemurs, aviaries, and quarantine/holding areas. Also to repair/replace/renovate bathrooms, trash cans, signage, and splash ground area.

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	100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	900,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

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)	1,000,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,000,000	50%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.**



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## 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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

08/31/2025

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

Zoo operational and reserve funds, funds obtained through fundraising campaign.

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.

The Central Florida Zoological Society, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, owns and manages the Zoo and would receive the funds.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Design and permitting costs.	100,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Modifications/repairs to habitats and/or holding areas for giraffe, rhino, bear, clouded leopard, alligator/crocodile, bald eagle, river otter, peccary, sloth, guenons, lemurs, aviaries, and quarantine/holding areas. Repair/replace/renovate bathrooms, trash cans, signage, and splash ground area.	900,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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Modernize infrastructure of several zoo exhibits and areas in order to provide a better guest experience and ensure continued accreditation by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. The zoo must maintain its AZA accreditation to retain many of its most popular species, that are part of AZA Species Survival Plans (SSPs) or Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) programs.

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

The zoo will be able to continue to offer the public the opportunity to see and learn about local and regional wildlife, as well as wildlife from many other areas of the world. It will also allow the zoo to continue offering important informal learning programs to Central Florida residents, and it will allow the zoo to continue to be a tourism driver for Central Florida, bringing more than 140,000 people to the area from 100 miles away or more annually.

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

A modernized/enhanced guest experience as they see and learn about local and regional wildlife, as well as wildlife from many other areas of the world. Also, informal learning programs and opportunities.

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

General population that visits the zoo, as well as Zoo staff and volunteers. The Zoo attracts more than 400,000 visitors per year.

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

The Zoo earning/retaining AZA accreditation in 2027. Installation/completion of improvements.

**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?**

Pro rata repayment of funds not used for project.

**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#:**

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



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**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**

**b. Firm Name**



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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.*