



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1537

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Youth are interested in STEM, but many lack engaging educational opportunities and do not consider STEM as a future job. 75% of Gen Z express interest in the field, but only 29% consider a STEM career as their first choice. The aerospace industry in Palm Beach County supports over 20,000 jobs and produces goods worth over 4.5 billion dollars. The Wolfpack CubeSat Dev Team (WCDT) in partnership with the Palm Beach State College proposes the ACET Program to provide authentic aerospace education and certification pathways to precollege students at Palm Beach County. ACET Program goals are: 1. Inspire and educate youth in Palm Beach County with hands-on aerospace experiences to include building and launching small satellites within 18 months, and 2. Provide interested youth with a pathway to pursue aerospace from high school into the workforce. The WCDT have obtained numerous LOS from the community and secured in-kind donations equal to \$143,400 and direct funding of \$36,000.

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	844,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	844,000

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)	844,000	82%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	143,400	14%
Other	36,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,023,400	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.



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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)?

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	Travel expenses, supplies	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	6 DREAM BIG 0.5U satellite units. Engineering support, acceptance and verification testing, integration, and launch services, telemetry for the 6 DREAM BIG 0.5U satellites.	624,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Palm Beach State College - \$160,000 to implement the workforce development element of the ACET program. Aerospace and Innovation Academy - \$40,000 to support communications with schools, to organize meetings and prepare teams to present at the SmallSat Education Conferences at KSC's AMF-CSE.	200,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		844,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team, in partnership with the Palm Beach State College, proposes the Aerospace Career Experiences and Training (ACET) Program to provide authentic aerospace education to precollege students at Palm Beach County. ACET will Inspire and educate youth with hands-on aerospace experiences to include building and launching small satellites within 18 months and provide interested youth with a pathway to pursue aerospace from high school into the workforce.

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

NearSpace Education will provide 6 x 0.5 U sats and engineering support to launch 6 student-built spacecraft within 18 months. They will secure FCC licenses, conduct testing and integration and support the operations of those missions. WCDT will provide project management and coordinate all training. PBSC will lead the workforce development element of the ACET program.

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

Students at 5 high schools and Palm Beach State College will receive aerospace and engineering training sufficient to build payloads for 6 x 0.5U ThinSats. Students will receive increased access and opportunities for training and certifications for aerospace-related technicians.

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

Palm Beach County middle and high school students, primarily at Title 1 schools, and students at Palm Beach State College. ~2000 students will be impacted.

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

Increased student engagement in authentic STEM, increased student participation in STEM competitions and conferences, and increased awareness of aerospace career opportunities and more confidence for at-risk youth. Program will lead to more student scholarships, increased and increased student opportunities for aerospace careers. Longitudinal data will be collected on student outcomes and enrollment numbers in PBSC for certifications programs needed by area aerospace companies.

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?

Refund the appropriation.

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.