



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1558

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The proposed \$3.5 million appropriation for St. Thomas University (STU) in Miami will directly address the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in the region by expanding access to nursing and healthcare training programs. This investment will enhance educational resources, increase enrollment capacity, and provide cutting-edge facilities, ensuring that more students can pursue high-demand healthcare careers. In turn, this expansion will produce a skilled workforce ready to meet the needs of local hospitals, clinics, and community health services. By empowering future healthcare professionals, this appropriation not only strengthens Miami's healthcare system but also stimulates local economic growth, creating jobs, supporting businesses, and improving public health outcomes across the region.

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	3,268,750
Fixed Capital Outlay	230,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,498,750

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)	3,498,750	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	3,498,750	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.

N/A



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/01/2025

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

University funds and private philanthropic dollars.

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.

St. Thomas University is a non-profit corporation governed by its Board of Trustees. Nonprofit corporations do not have owners but rather are structured under Florida law with directors and members. Any improvement to a building or facility would benefit the University directly.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director of project to expand allied health and nursing undergraduate and graduate programming. Responsible for administration of the project, hiring and supervision of faculty and staff, and responsible for student engagement and job placement functions.	156,250
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits to support new faculty and student-support services personnel. Faculty include new nursing faculty, allied health, and exercise science faculty. Student support services personnel include student-facing advising and counseling and job-placement and tutoring functions.	1,250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Costs include laboratory equipment, supplies, a peer-to-peer tutoring solution, general IT and maintenance services, job placement coordination solution, and other miscellaneous expenses.	1,862,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Minor, one time renovation to university simulation lab (\$150,000) and associated construction material costs (\$80,000).	230,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,498,750



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13. Program Performance

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

To double the number of allied health-science and nursing students enrolled (to 4,000) in program aligned with Florida's most in-demand healthcare occupations in 3 years, graduating at least 8,000 (net new) students in critical healthcare programs by 2030. St. Thomas University (STU) boasts an average annualized wage exceeding \$70,000 for its graduates. STU is access-driven, affordable, and a majority Pell-serving institution.

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

The principal activities and services will be student-centered, providing quality instruction and other support services in view of certificate or degree completion and job placement.

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

N/A

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

Residents of the State of Florida. Approximately 10,000 residents will be served by 2030.

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

The primary outcome of the \$3.5 million appropriation for St. Thomas University's healthcare and nursing programs is a significant increase in the number of skilled healthcare professionals trained locally to meet the growing demand for healthcare services in Miami. This will address workforce shortages in the region's hospitals, clinics, and community health centers, improving access to high-quality care for underserved populations. Outcomes include: More students will have the opportunity to pursue nursing and healthcare training, leading to higher graduation rates in these fields; A steady influx of well-trained, qualified healthcare professionals will fill critical roles, directly improving healthcare delivery; The expansion will generate new jobs at the university and in local healthcare institutions, stimulating the regional economy. Enrollment data, job placement statistics, economic impact studies, healthcare outcome improvements, and community feedback will be used to measure.

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?

Consequences might include items such as the withholding of a certain amount of funding (appropriate to the level of service being addressed) or reductions in specified payments and/or a pro rata return of funds.

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



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- 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)?

- 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)



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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

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