



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1687

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The main objective of the State of Florida funding initiative is to support and enhance quality HIV/AIDS research through a pilot grant program leading to innovative cure research for HIV/AIDS and vaccine-developments in response to the health needs of Florida's citizens. One of our State Pilots is close to a breakthrough in terms of a cure for HIV infection. Further pilot awardees have gone on to secure competitive federal funding that has impacted our understanding of HIV/AIDS and new and emerging infectious diseases based on research supported by the State of Florida funding initiative. These pilot awards represent a significant return on investment for every dollar of State pilot funding, awardees have secured twelve dollars in federal funding. In addition, State funding supports a clinical research unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital which allows people living with HIV to participate in clinical studies to develop novel approaches to combating HIV infection.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**  Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<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	8%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	9,810,189	81%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,250,000	10%
Other	100,000	1%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>12,160,189</b>	<b>100%</b>

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	1,000,000	1023	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**  Yes
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

There is no other source of funding that would support the HIV/AIDS research and pilot grant program.



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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
<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	Research unit operational staff including lab manager, study coordinators, and other support staff salary and benefits	236,613
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	HIV Cure laboratory supplies, chemicals, and equipment. Operating costs for clinical research unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital	257,387
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds awarded as pilot grants and HIV Cure Research Symposium	506,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<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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The main objective of the State of Florida funding initiative is to support and enhance quality HIV/AIDS research through a pilot grant program leading to innovative cure research for HIV/AIDS and vaccine-developments in response to the health needs of Florida's citizens. Two of our State Pilot Awardees published with Dr. Ronald C. Desrosiers: one on a strategy that leads to an AIDS cure and another on significant advances in developing a potential HIV vaccine. These scientific accomplishments are an important step towards ending the AIDS epidemic and led to securing \$1.25M in county funding between FY25-FY26. Further pilot awardees have gone on to secure competitive federal funding that has impacted our understanding of HIV/AIDS and new and emerging infectious diseases based on research supported by the State of Florida funding initiative. Through the HIV/AIDS research conducted we are one step closer to reaching the Ending the Epidemic goals set on state and federal levels.

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

Support innovative research leading to a cure for HIV/AIDS and AIDS vaccine developments. State funds will be spent on pilot grant projects to allow researchers to develop fruitful lines of research and be more competitive for federal grant funding. The funds also support the research unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital, which ensures vulnerable populations are represented in clinical research. This research unit supports over 30 state and federal grants by supplying samples from these important populations.

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

Funding supports a research unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital which treats vulnerable populations through clinical research studies that provide access to cutting edge therapies.

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

The larger HIV/AIDS infected population in Florida are served with a direct impact on 130,000 individuals living with HIV. This is twice the national average and Florida is now the State most heavily impacted by HIV. This represents a significant health care cost to the State of Florida. Florida also ranks highest in terms of new HIV infections. One of our pilot awardees is on the verge of a breakthrough with a discovery that will provide not only a cure but also a prevention method. Such an advance would be transformative to people with HIV in Florida and beyond.

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

Improved health care outcomes, access to novel medications, and increased support for patients enrolled in clinical studies. Increased participation of key demographics in clinical research studies and increase access to cutting edge treatments. An increase in federal grant funding as pilot grants allow researchers to develop innovative lines of research and be more competitive for Federal grants. Currently, for every dollar in State Pilot funding allocated, we are receiving twelve dollars in Federal funding. This is a significant return on investment. State funds also drive innovative and high quality HIV/AIDS research projects aimed at developing a cure for HIV/AIDS as well as an AIDS vaccine-development in response to the health needs of Florida's citizens.

**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?**

Subject to the penalties put forth by the Florida Department of Health.

**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?**



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- 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:**

**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



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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

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.*