



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1742

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Florida Aquarium Storm and Flood Protection project will enhance the resiliency of the Aquarium. The project provides total perimeter protection for the property at 701 Channelside Drive to protect animal habitats and critical life support systems from wind and flood damage. The Florida Aquarium is currently undergoing a capital improvement project, but during Hurricanes Milton and Helene, water crested the seawall putting the first floor of the Aquarium facility at risk. State funding would enable the Aquarium to add storm and flood protection to the improvement plan.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
<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	7%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	14,000,000	93%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

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?**  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)?** Yes

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?** 12/1/2025

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 05/31/2026

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

The project will improve the facility that is currently operating as a public aquarium. Operation and maintenance is paid for by ticket sales and other earned revenue as well as private philanthropy and corporate partnerships.

**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 facility is owned by the City of Tampa. Florida Aquarium, Inc. has a long-term contract with the City to operate the facility.

**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		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of flood barrier walls; renovation of exterior entrances to include door floor barriers.	1,000,000
<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?**

The Florida Aquarium Storm and Flood Protection project will enhance the resiliency of the Aquarium and its economic benefit to the Tampa Bay area. The project's goal is to provide total perimeter protection for the property at 701 Channelside Drive to protect animal habitats and critical life support systems from wind and flood damage.

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



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Concrete barrier walls will be built around the perimeter of the Aquarium; entrances will be improved with door flood barriers.

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

This project will provide protection for TFA's infrastructure critical to animal safety and conservation, as well as facilities that provide education to the public.

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

The Florida Aquarium's facility receives 1,000,000 visitors annually; the majority of visitors are Florida residents.

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

The expected benefit is improved protection for future storm and flood events compared to the 2024 hurricanes Helene and Milton. This will be measured by the cost of damages to the facility during the next significant storm/flood event in Tampa as compared to the cost of damages in 2024.

**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?**

If funds are not spent on the intended purpose, they must be returned.

**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):**

Hurricanes Helene and Milton

**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:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied



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- 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):**

### Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

**17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?**

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

**18. What is the population economic status?**

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

**19. What is the status of construction?**

**20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

**21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

**22. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**



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b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 23. 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.

#### 24. 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.*