



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1752

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Further develop, enhance and expand innovative science-based coral restoration technologies that have demonstrated success, allow for physical coral habitat restoration work to be completed, provide ex-situ life support systems for threatened coral types, increase genetic diversity for reproduction and future planting, and develop additional strategically located in-situ and ex-situ coral nurseries for increasingly efficient and efficient coral reef habitat restoration.

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	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,000,000</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)	2,000,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	1,000,000	25%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,000,000	25%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>4,000,000</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		
2024-25	0	1,000,000		No

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.

In-kind donations and volunteers.

### 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)?

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	Scientists, technicians and intern salaries and benefits to conduct coral research, maintain coral gene bank and restoration nurseries, and conduct multi-species coral habitat restoration work, with increased focus on resiliency to disease and high water temperature events.	1,150,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Operation and maintenance of existing sSummerland Key, Key Largo, and Islamorada ex-situ coral nurseries and existing in-situ coral nurseries, along with expansion of new coral nurseries/restoration (i.e., Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve & Pennekamp State Park), and extreme evenet recovery infastructure that are all strategically located for enhanced restoration and efficiency and parternships.	850,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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>2,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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

Expand science-based technology to enhance resilient coral restoration & increase survival, develop strategically located nurseries for efficient & effective restoration along entire FL reef tract, educate the public and visitors on value of coral reefs, and expedite recovery from extreme temperature and disease events, while establishing contingencies for future extreme environmental events.

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

Florida's coral reefs are the third largest living reef on the planet. The direct services of restored coral reefs and their numerous ecological, aesthetic, economic and cultural functions - providing habitats for over 6,000 marine species, attracting 16 million visitors per year, and supports over 71,000 local jobs, drawing \$6.3 billion to Florida economy.

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

Residents/visitors: commercial & recreational fishing, diving, restaurant, hotel & tourism. >800

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

Maintain and increase natural resource experience for Florida residents/visitors, i.e. coral reefs are iconic for the Florida experience as a palm tree. - Economic impact studies of coral reef ecosystem conducted regularly by Federal and State entities.  
 Provide K-12 STEM educational experiences and general public outreach of coral reef importance through the coral nursery and planting operations and higher level education for coral research and restoration technologies.- Number of educational and outreach events, interns, and fellowships through State grant agreements.  
 Restoration of Florida's coral reefs which are essential habitat commercial/recreational fishing will strengthen and expand the state's economic engine while addressing conservation issues. - Deliverables for coral planted through State grant agreements.  
 Coral reefs are Florida's first line of defense against natural disasters -Deliverables for # of reef corals planted  
 FL coral reefs attract 16 million visitors per

**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?**

Funding would be withheld via a grant agreement with FWC for deliverables not achieved, e.g., percent of coral reef restoration or nursery work not completed.

**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



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### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1752

- 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
  - University or College



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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.*