



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1760

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Borden Institute of Higher Learning seeks funding to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study for re-purposing the former Regional Hospital of Williston buildings into a multi-purpose vocational and technical training center. This initiative aims to create classroom spaces for veterinary technicians/assistant students, agricultural students, and for other vocational programs based on market needs; provide space for a non-profit veterinary teaching hospital serving both adults and high school students; and lease a portion of the facility to the Veterans Administration (VA) to provide essential services to veterans.

- 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	528,168
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	528,168

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)	528,168	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	528,168	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.**

No other funding sources have been identified as of yet, but we constantly mine for private donations, as well as Federal and local government 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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Feasibility Study to Include 1) Phase 1 Environment Assessment, 2) Property Conditions Assessment (PCA) – (structural, plumbing, fire, HVAC systems, electrical), 3) Mold Study / Assessment & Testing, 4) Architectural – Conceptual study and drawings. Program needs assessment to include market research & curriculum development	528,168
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		528,168

13. Program Performance

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



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The funding will enable a feasibility study to assess the potential for transforming abandoned buildings into a state-of-the-art career training center, addressing workforce gaps in Florida. Key objectives include:

1. Determining the structural and logistical requirements for re-purposing the facility.
2. Developing curricula aligned with workforce needs and market demand.
3. Strengthening local economies by creating a community hub that supports education, employment, and veterans' services.

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

- Conduct stakeholder interviews and focus groups to understand community needs.
- Collaborate with local schools and businesses to ensure alignment with regional workforce priorities.
- Explore VA partnership opportunities to enhance services for veterans

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

Short-Term: Completion of a feasibility study, including detailed market research and curriculum outlines.
Identification of funding sources for future phases.

Long-Term:

- Expanded workforce in high-demand fields such as veterinary care and agriculture.
- Revitalization of blighted properties, creating a community asset.
- Improved services for veterans and disabled persons.
- Creation of temporary construction jobs and long-term employment opportunities

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

Adults, high school students, veterans, economically disadvantaged individuals, agricultural and farm workers, and disabled persons. More than 600 individuals annually.

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

This project will transform abandoned facilities into a vibrant career and education hub. The feasibility study will evaluate: Economic revitalization through job creation and workforce development. Enhanced support for veterans through VA partnerships.

Metrics for Success:

- Completion of the feasibility study by 6/30/2026
- Identification of viable career paths and class offerings.
- Defined plans for infrastructure improvements and partnership development.

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?

Standard contract penalties for failing to meet deliverables are sufficient.

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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- 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) 501(c)(3) public charity classified under IRS section 509(a)(2)

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.