



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1791

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

To create 2 Museum exhibits to tell the story of each of the iconic HDEC's anchor artifacts during the Holocaust. In 2007, the HDEC acquired a Railcar from the Polish government. After an extensive restoration process, German designation numbers were revealed on the undercarriage of the Railcar. As a result, the Railcar was identified as a Karlsruhe number 37657 G. This Railcar transported men, women, and children from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka Death Camp. A steel floor will be put over the Railcar floor and an elevated platform and stairway as well as a wheelchair lift, for handicap accessibility, will allow visitors to walk through the Railcar and have a unique opportunity to view the interior. The HDEC has also acquired a U.S.M-4A3E8 Sherman Tank of the type that was used during the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. The Sherman Tank which was on permanent loan from the United States Army has just been gifted to the HDEC.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,000,000	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		
2024-25	100,000	375,000	3266A	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.**



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Private Foundation - Scherr Family Foundation

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

7/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

6/30/2026

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

Private Foundation - Scherr Family Foundation

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 Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, Inc., is a Non Profit 501(c)(3).
The owners and the entity are the same.

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		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Graphics, storyline, creating the permanent exhibits for the Railcar and the Tank, providing electrical access in close proximity to create an elevated platform, a wheelchair lift for handicap accessibility, and steel material bridges across over the floor of the Railcar to measure approximately 6 feet wide and 8 feet long. Museum Designer, Exhibit Fabricator, Lighting Consultant to develop interpretive design, graphic layouts, concept, drawings, and construction administration.	500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance



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

The goal is to create two permanent exhibits for the HDEC's two anchor artifacts, the Railcar and the Tank, that will enrich and enhance the visitor museum experience. In addition visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about the significance and importance of these two artifacts. Visitors will also have the profound opportunity to walk in and through the Railcar.

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

These two exhibits of the Railcar and Tank will be a part of the HDEC full museum experience which is open to all visitors and school field trips. In addition, any programs, films, events, and traveling exhibitions at the time will also be available for touring.

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

All citizens will be able to schedule tours of the museum, visit the Library, the Interactive Learning Center, become a volunteer such as a transcriber, audit editor, proofer of the HDEC's globally recognized Oral History Collection of Survivors, Liberators, and Rescuers eyewitness testimonies which to date total 2300+. Visitors will also be able to access the 59,000 eyewitness testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation, which was founded by Stephen Spielberg. Citizens will also be able to schedule Speakers from the HDEC Speakers Bureau for their community organizations, foundations, schools, and universities.

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

Students from elementary through college and universities, elderly, Holocaust Survivors and their families, historians, authors, scholars, researchers, representatives of Holocaust museums, locally nationally, and internationally, educators, and legislators. The HDEC anticipates to serve over 36,000 individuals.

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

The Railcar and the Sherman Tank are a unique artifact grouping, exclusive to the HDEC. The Railcar which is a "cattle car" gives visitors an insight to the conditions of what it was like for human beings to be transported to the concentration camps during the Holocaust and the US Sherman Tank tells the story of the Liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp, by the US Army. These two artifacts will be situated side by side in the Museum, thus presenting the two absolute stark contrasts of the Tragedy and the Triumph. The methodology by which this outcome is measured are the evaluations forms that are given to every visitor to complete.

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?

Return of deliverables to the state agency.

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)

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.