



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1814

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Infrastructure improvements at the Deering Estate – to support and house environmental programs, study, research, lectures, and wet labs. The project replaces 2 existing outdoor pavilions with 1 large enclosed pavilion, increasing capacity to meet demand for environmental programming while addressing appropriate heat and inclement weather safety issues during activities.

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	600,000
Total State Funds Requested	600,000

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)	600,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	600,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,200,000	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		

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.**

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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 09/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 09/01/2027

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

Participation and rental fees from partner agencies and organizations, grant funding for environmental study, admission fees for lecture and symposium participation.

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 Deering Estate is owned by the State of Florida, managed by Miami Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces. The Deering Estate Foundation is a volunteer driven community-based charitable 501(c)3 Florida Corporation that was founded in 1989 by members of our community for the sole purpose of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Deering Estate for this and future generations.

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	Costs associated with construction and planning and engineering associated with the resources, recreation, and water education project.	600,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		600,000

13. Program Performance

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

Proposed funds will be used to enclose and expand open air learning and research pavilions to provide for heat, rain, and lightning protection, while maintaining access to natural settings, providing needed infrastructure to deliver environmental programs, lectures, and ecological learning opportunities to residents and visitors in South Florida, primarily Miami-Dade County.



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

Direct services include nature-based environmental education programs conducted in pavilions: field study, citizen science, professional development workshops, volunteer community projects, and year-round day camps.

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

Direct services include nature-based environmental education programs conducted in pavilions: field study, citizen science, professional development workshops, volunteer community projects, and year-round day camps.

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

Over 30,000 community members and students, over 30 partner agencies, and countless scientists and researchers.

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

% interest in informal learning experiences. % interest in conserving the environment, species and habitat Outcomes will be measured by participant before and after surveys and visitor experience before and after surveys, and grant research outcomes.

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 penalties for non-compliance are adequate.

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?

- 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)?



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- 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
 - 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



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The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.