



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1841

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Cox Science Center and Aquarium is expanding its facility to include approximately 75,000 SF of new space including a new public aquarium, new exhibit galleries, and new STEM education facilities. The project will serve more than 1,000,000 visitors annually including more than 100,000 local school children, residents of the state, and tourists.

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	5,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,000,000</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)	5,000,000	7%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	5,000,000	8%
Local	0	0%
Other	55,000,000	85%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>65,000,000</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	5,000,000	2347A	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.

### Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction



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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?

07/01/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2026

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

Ongoing operating and maintenance costs will be funded by private funds secured by the Cox Science Center and Aquarium through program revenues and private fundraising efforts.

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 owner of the facility is the Cox Science Center and Aquarium, Inc. This is the same entity that is applying for the funding.

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 new facilities and renovation of existing facilities.	5,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>5,000,000</b>

13. Program Performance

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

The funds requested will be used to construct new science center facilities in order for the Cox Science Center and Aquarium to expand its ability to provide STEM education programs and services to its target market of more than 3,000,000 residents.

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

The direct services provided to citizens include science center exhibit and planetarium experiences, educational programs, STEM skills training, job skills training, and early childhood learning programs,

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



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The direct services provided to citizens include science center exhibit and planetarium experiences, educational programs, STEM skills training, job skills training, and early childhood learning programs,

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

The target population includes residents of the following counties: Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie, Glades, Henry; students served by the School District of Palm Beach County, and tourists to the Greater Palm Beaches region.

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

1) The expanded CSCA will be the most attended cultural institution in the Greater Palm Beaches Region. This will be measured by attendance reports compiled by the Cox Science Center and Aquarium. 2) The expanded Cox Science Center and Aquarium will be the leading provider of out-of-school STEM programs to the School District of Palm Beach County. This will be measured by program reports compiled by CSCA and the School District of Palm Beach County. 3) The expanded Cox Science Center and Aquarium will add jobs and increase economic output in Palm Beach County through its expanded operations. This will be measured through payroll reports, tax collections, and visitor spending reports. 4) The expanded Cox Science Center and Aquarium will be one of the leading tourist destinations in the Greater Palm Beaches Region. This will be measured through tourism reports by Visit the Palm Beaches.

**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?**

Agency should withhold any funds not spent in accordance with the contract after three years.

**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)?**

- 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):**

Department of Commerce, HL 273, FY 2024=2025

**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.*