



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1910

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The renovation of an existing education building including upgrading HVAC system, creating classrooms and teaching exhibit area along with specialized storage area for specimens, taxidermy mounts and exhibit materials. The construction of new buildings to house a natural history museum, meeting rooms, offices, lobby area and teaching spaces.

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	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	25%
Other	500,000	25%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,000,000	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	0	900,000		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.

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

01/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

01/01/2027

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.

Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc., is an independent non-profit under the direction of a Board of Directors.

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	Engineering, permitting and construction of building, furnishing of building and exhibit design and installation and Independent Audit	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

The renovation of an existing education building including upgrading HVAC system, creating classrooms and teaching exhibit area along with specialized storage area for specimens, taxidermy mounts and exhibit materials. The construction of new buildings to house a natural history museum, meeting rooms, offices, lobby area and teaching spaces.

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

Construct indoor and outdoor teaching areas, new natural history museum to replace aging museum double-wide, outdoor accessible restrooms, community meeting spaces and additional exhibit and education storage with administrative offices.

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



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Being the ONLY nature center in Lake County and having reached maximum capacity, the Center will expand its education programs and events, and add new programs for the community, families and youth. This will include concurrent programs, business retreats and professional development training. Exhibits would be placed in climate controlled exhibit area.

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

TLNC works with all groups (from young to old) ethnicities and groups including physically challenged. Currently, during an average year about 30,000 are served with direct programming. With expansion of our facilities and exhibits, we anticipate this number increasing each year.

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

Research shows getting out and connecting with nature improves both physical and mental health TLNC provides school field experiences and in-school programs along with nature-based education to schools, the community and families. TLNC works to improve the habitat and ecosystems found on its property to increase biodiversity and protect the opportunity for visitors to see wildlife in its natural environment. Exposure to natural area may increase people's appreciation for natural areas and understanding of their functions while contributing to the mental and physical health. TLNC works to remove exotics on its property and educate the public about how they can help remove and protect against the proliferation of exotics in Florida which impact our economy, agriculture and more. By expanding our facilities, we will be better able to meet the needs of future visitors and increase visitor numbers which will have a positive impact on the area's economy.
Remove invasive exotics

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?

Typical penalties will be applied to all contractors that do not perform work as contracted.

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:



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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
- 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



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d. Phone Number

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