



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1926

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

OSC is requesting state appropriation funding for a new Rural Education Outreach program in collaboration with UF's Florida 4-H Youth Development Program to identify and connect with rural communities to provide school districts throughout Florida the assistance they need for their teachers and students to thrive. This initiative not only aims to improve student learning outcomes but also boosts teachers' confidence in their ability to deliver engaging and impactful science education.

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	368,167
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	368,167

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)	368,167	90%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	42,494	10%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	410,661	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)?

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	Vice President of Education will conduct oversight, develop curriculum, and provide management for the project. Orlando Science Center will match \$13,926.	13,926
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Director of Ed Initiatives, Director of Ed Youth Program, Education Specialist, Educators, Coordinator of Education Initiatives and VP of Visitor Experience will provide program development, curriculum content development, program implementation, coordination with school and families, program evaluation, and vehicle purchase and maintenance. OSC will match \$28,468.	164,241
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Two program vans including vehicle wrap, transportation to and from program sites including gas and vehicular maintenance; and program supplies.	190,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		368,167

13. Program Performance

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



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

OSC's Rural Education Outreach program will provide focused workshops and customized teacher professional development training designed to meet the needs of each community by collaborating with rural school district administrators to identify specific Florida State Science Education standards where teachers need support to enhance science instruction.

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

OSC will serve up to fifteen schools across five districts in rural counties. OSC Educators will travel to each school to provide in-classroom workshops focused on areas identified by the schools where their students are struggling. OSC will equip teachers with the tools and strategies needed to implement hands-on lessons effectively through standards-based professional development training.

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

Funding will allow OSC to support students attending schools in rural counties such as Osceola, Lake, Marion, Highlands, Desoto and Okeechobee counties, which include two (DeSoto and Okeechobee) that are among the lowest ranked school-grades in Florida. We anticipate that we will serve over 3,000 students and teachers through this program.

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

Empower children to be more competitive in science and math; Increased understanding and focus from teachers on "hard-to-understand" science and math concepts; Increased student confidence and interest in science and math concepts that gives them access to lucrative STEM careers. OSC will measure impact through pre and post surveys.

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?

OSC will furnish reports to describe the project progress during the period of performance. Any unused funds will be returned to the State of Florida.

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



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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

Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name



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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.