



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1983

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The construction of the facility will replace the aging facilities built in 1950. The facility would be constructed to serve as a natural disaster staging facility for local governments and post-storm recovery efforts by FPL. It will also be used for the educational promotion of the agricultural fair for youth. The facility would also be used year round to support community events, increase tourism as well as speed recovery from natural disaster.

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	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

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)	2,500,000	35%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	2,500,000	36%
Local	2,000,000	29%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	7,000,000	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		

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? 04/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 03/01/2027

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

The association is created through F.S. 616 to conduct fairs and expositions. It already has a long history of operational sufficiency of other large facilities as a public assembly facility.

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 Sarasota County Agricultural Fair Association, Inc. is created through F.S. 616 and fulfills a essential government purpose. It operates as a not for profit. The Board of Directors has no ownership interest in the facility and act as stewards.

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	struction of a 49,500 sq. ft. facility	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The facility's main goal will be to serve as a community resource during natural disasters by providing space for local governments to safely store equipment and manpower during the event. It will be used by FPL to stage the necessary equipment and manpower to restore power in the community. It will also provide space for the local community to enjoy the fair as well as other events.

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



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The fair has an agreement with FPL for storm staging and restoration as well as a lengthy history of doing such. Also, the facility will hold the Sarasota County Fair with over 120,000 residents visiting. During the year, the Fair offers it facilities to promote Sarasota with concerts, commercial activites,, expanded ability to increase sports tourism.

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

The ability to stage emergency teams and utility workers will provide a direct service to the citizenry at large by restoring servies in a quick and timely manner. It can be used to support regional as well as statewide disaster response. The facility will provide a secure environment for the youth to house and display their fair projects.

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

The target population is the community at large. It will serve over 500,000 people annually through the fair, activites and storm related services.

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

The benefit of the project is to have a facility that withstand a natural disaster, serve the community in the response as well as provide a center piece for the Sarasota County Fair. The methodology by which this outcome will be measured will be by the increased utilization and economic impact in Sarasota.

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?

We have no suggestions.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No Yes

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 infastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

Hurricane Debbie, Helene, Milton

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



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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.