



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1997

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funds being requested will be used to build and deliver a new associate in science degree in Artificial Intelligence. In order to reach this goal, the program will need new classroom resources and technology that will provide a leading-edge educational experience and provide up to date instruction. In addition to the physical lab enhancements, the funds will be used to train and develop learning activities.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,700,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,700,000

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)	1,700,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,700,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? No

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Office equipment, including technology, phone, software and licensing. Travel expenses associated with industry engagements, training and conferences.	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Industry subject matter experts to develop learning materials and content to support defined curriculum.	75,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Modernization of classroom space for modern classroom layout and use of technology. New labs to include equipment test areas, smart classrooms, visualization studio, conference room, and office space. Equipment needs include servers, network infrastructure, visualization screens, computers, monitors, software.	1,300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Architect and engineering	250,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,700,000

13. Program Performance

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

The funds being requested will be used to build and deliver a new associate in science degree in Artificial Intelligence. In order to reach this goal, the program will need new classroom resources and technology that will provide a leading-edge educational experience and provide up to date instruction. In addition to the physical lab enhancements, the funds will be used to train and develop learning activities.

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



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Citizens will be able to study artificial intelligence and specialize their technology-based career on this area of growth. These courses will be available online as well as on campus, to citizens who wish to earn a degree in these fields.

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

Citizens will receive high quality instruction from teachers and facilitators at Hillsborough Community College, in a new field of study. Students will learn about the use of artificial intelligence in business and prepare to become entry level IT or business employees.

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

Elderly persons, jobless persons, economically disadvantaged persons, at risk youth, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, veterans, grade school students, high school students, university/college students, currently or formerly incarcerated persons.

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

Citizens will receive high quality instruction from teachers and facilitators at Hillsborough Community College, in a new field of study. Students will learn about the use of artificial intelligence in business and prepare to become entry level IT or business employees. Outcomes and success will be measured by student enrollment and retention in these fields using HCC enterprise software to investigate job opportunities and salaries.

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?

Reversal of funding.

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.