



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2021

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Over the past 15 months, Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, and Helene have highlighted the Howard Conference Center's critical role as a staging site for Florida Power & Light Operations and lineman housing. The current HVAC system is nearly 60 years old and due to fail this year. Replacement of the HVAC systems are essential to ensuring the center remains a resilient hub for disaster response and a vital resource for Columbia County and the region.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	750,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>750,000</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)	750,000	88%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	50,000	6%
Local	0	0%
Other	50,000	6%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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)?** No

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?** 9/1/2025

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 10/1/2025

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

This is a renovation to a current facility to replace the HVAC system. No additional funding will be needed after renovation as current college funds will continue to operate the existing/renovated structure.

**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.**

Florida Gateway College, Department of Education - State of Florida

**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	Cost of materials & labor for new HVAC system	750,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>750,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The funds will be used to replace the obsolete and aging HVAC system. A new system will provide energy efficiency and improved air quality. This will enable the center to continue to be a staging site for FPL Operations during hurricanes, host job fairs for the community, graduations, and cultural events.

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



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The funds will be used to replace the obsolete and aging HVAC system. A new system will provide energy efficiency and improved air quality. This will enable the center to continue to be a staging site for FPL Operations during hurricanes, host job fairs for the community, graduations, and cultural events.

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

Any citizen visiting Florida Gateway College and the Howard Center and students, faculty, and staff will benefit from improved air quality systems and energy efficiency. Additionally, over 200 linemen would be staged at this site during any hurricane.

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

College students and the people of Columbia County who utilize this facility as the only multi-purpose facility in the County. Additionally, through our partnership with Florida Power & Light, their linemen staging for hurricane response will be served. Tens of thousands of individuals are expected to be served.

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

The expected benefit is our students, citizens, and FPL linemen will benefit from an updated HVAC system compared to the current system that is scheduled to cease operations in the next 12 months. This large population relies on the use of this multi-purpose facility of which is the only multi-purpose facility of its kind on the Florida Gateway College campus and Columbia County.

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables will result in a return of funds for administering agency.

**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):**

Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene and future hurricanes

**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.*