



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2033

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The funding will support critical STEM education initiatives that directly impact Florida's future workforce and economic growth. Through STEM2 Hub's proven programs, students across the region gain hands-on experience in computer science, robotics, and aerospace, equipping them with the skills necessary to meet the demands of emerging industries. These initiatives also strengthen the talent pipeline for Florida's high-tech and defense sectors, ensuring a competitive workforce that aligns with state economic priorities. By fostering innovation and equipping students with 21st-century skills, this investment directly benefits Florida's economy, security, and long-term prosperity.

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	975,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	975,000

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)	975,000	58%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	400,000	24%
Other	300,000	18%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,675,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	975,000	104	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**
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LFIR # 2033

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Curriculum and material to support programs, both in and out of school, such as robotics, computer science, 3D printing, cyber-security, drone competitions, Arduino and breadboards, IoT, augmented and mixed reality, artificial intelligence, aerospace, math and science manipulatives and other materials and on-line resources needed to prepare students for careers in emerging technologies and industries.	625,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services for program support training, and professional development for teachers and program providers in targeted STEM+C fields, such as robotics, computer science, cyber- security, drone technology, data analytics, mathematics content, artificial intelligence, aerospace/space, data science and other emerging career pathways.	350,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		975,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The requested funds will be used to empower students with skills and dispositions needed for workforce readiness aligned to the needs of the Florida economy. The specific goals of the funding request include: 1) Expanding access to robotics, STEM, and computer science instruction for students in Northeast Florida during the school day. 2) Expanding access to innovative STEM and CS opportunities in afterschool and summer programs. 3) Building teacher content knowledge in math and science across the region to improve student achievement. 4) Improving digital literacy and closing the digital divide to ensure all students have access to essential technology and skills. These initiatives will help prepare students for high-wage, high-demand careers in STEM fields while strengthening Florida's workforce pipeline.

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

The funds will support expanding hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), strengthening teacher expertise, and preparing students for high-demand careers. Teachers will receive training in subjects such as computer science, robotics, cybersecurity, aerospace, and data science, equipping them with the knowledge needed to provide high-quality instruction. Schools and programs will be provided with advanced technology, including robotics kits, drones, 3D printers, and digital tools. Students will participate in events, competitions, and projects that reinforce problem-solving and technical skills. The program will help strengthen the pipeline of skilled professionals in fields that drive economic growth and innovation.

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

Services include hosting STEM events and competitions; teacher professional development in CS, mathematics, science, and STEM; distributing advanced technologies such as 3D printers, drones, and science tools, facilitation of CS festivals, implementation of high-quality STEM programs to foster digital literacy and career readiness aligned to FL economic needs, serving over 120,000 students.

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

The target population served by this project includes students, teachers, coaches, facilitators, and the community at large. The initiative reaches these groups through public, private and charter schools, as well as afterschool program providers, increasing the availability of hands-on learning and career-building opportunities. By equipping educators with specialized training and providing students with engaging STEM experiences, the program strengthens connections between education and the workforce, benefiting both individuals and the broader economy.

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

The expected benefits of this project include increasing student proficiency math science, and computer science, expanding access to advanced coursework, improving teacher effectiveness, and strengthening connections between education and workforce needs. This will lead to a greater number of students pursuing high-demand careers, a more skilled workforce, and enhanced economic opportunities for the region. To measure these outcomes, we will monitor enrollment in STEM courses and advanced coursework, participation in professional development, student performance on state and local assessments, and participation in events. Additional measures include surveys after competitions and events, as well as evaluating the growth of industry partnerships that provide mentorship and career exploration opportunities. Data will be collected through surveys, program evaluations, and third-party assessments to ensure continuous improvement.

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?

Should we fail to meet our deliverables or performance measures, we should be given notice and the opportunity to come into compliance. Should we fail to address the concerns, funding should be withheld until a time that the project is in compliance with the requirements.

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)



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2033

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)?

- 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



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- 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

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