



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2071

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The STARS Complex is the primary resource for academic support, structured arts and cultural programming, organized athletics, and after school and summer camp programs for Low Moderate-income families in the historically disadvantaged Dunbar Community within City of Fort Myers. The expansion will serve as a category 3 hurricane shelter for underserved residents during national disasters, but will also house a new gymnasium, auditorium, kitchen space, offices, classrooms, dance studio, bathroom, locker rooms, and workout space. Along with this wide variety of community-building programming, the STARS Complex also serves as a community resource center during natural disasters and emergency events.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,500,000</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)	2,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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		
2024-25	0	0		No

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.



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### 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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

11/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

11/01/2029

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

The City of Fort Myers allocates annually to the operations, maintenance, and facilitation of the STARS Complex.

**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 City of Fort Myers owns the STARS Complex and will be the direct recipient of any assistance provided through this fixed capital outlay.

**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	Funds will be spent to build a gymnasium, auditorium, kitchen space, offices, classrooms, dance studio, bathrooms, locker rooms, and workout space. During natural disasters or other emergencies, the 31,7000 square foot expansion will serve as a Category 3 Hurricane shelter.	2,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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The STARS Complex expansion project's goal is to increase services and capability to an existing, municipally owned facility to provide critical services to an under served community. The facility will be designed resiliently with the ability to function as a hurricane shelter in the event of a weather related emergency.

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

The STARS Complex expansion will house a new gymnasium, auditorium, kitchen space, offices, classrooms, dance studio, bathroom, locker rooms, and workout space. Along with this wide variety of community-building programming, the STARS Complex also serves as a community resource center during natural disasters and other emergencies.

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

The STARS Complex expansion project will lead to job creation to manage essential programs, reduce recidivism, provide important after school care, and offer safe refuge to under served populations. This project will also provide emergency protective services to a historically under served community and provide essential opportunities for distribution, emergency aid, and resources.

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

The total number of beneficiaries, within City of Fort Myers, is 96,000. The highest concentration of very Low Moderate-income residents reside in the immediate areas surrounding the STARS Complex. While the entire population of City of Fort Myers will be served by this project, the targeted population is the 49,910 (51.99%) Low Moderate-income citizens that will benefit the most from these critical services the expansion would provide.

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

The current STARS Complex serves over 30,000 City residents per year, with over 60% residing within walking distance of the facility. At completion of the expansion, the City anticipates the improved facilities and programs will create an increase in the number of users as well as an increase in usage frequency. During the STARS Complex Redevelopment public workshop, May 2019, only 27% indicated participation in activities/ programs citing lack of space, programming for teens/adults, parking, and year-round activities as basis for not utilizing.

**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?**

In addition to the contracting agencies standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in a contract, the repayment of funds would be an additional suggested penalty.

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 infrastructure)

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

Hurricanes Ian, Milton, Helene

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.*