



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2109

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

4. Project/Program Description

State support would provide one-time costs to secure Williams Park, including enhanced security lighting and electrical infrastructure to improve visibility and highlight entrances, exits, gathering areas, walkways, and facilities; perimeter fencing and security cameras; retaining walls to add elevation from the street; and sidewalk replacement and repair to provide a safe pedestrian buffer between street traffic that surrounds the park. Support from the state would help to address safety and security concerns that currently exist at historic Williams Park and will also support the enforcement efforts of HB 1365 (2024). The Williams Park Partnership, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group comprised of local private sector leaders, plans to invest \$1.5M over the next three years in Park improvements. Additionally, the City of St. Petersburg has identified \$1.2M to invest in the Park's historic bandshell.

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	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	800,000

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)	800,000	23%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,200,000	34%
Other	1,500,000	43%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,500,000	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.
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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?

August 1, 2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/01/2025

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

The Williams Park Partnership will engage with partner organizations and private donors for ongoing operations and maintenance.

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.

City of St. Petersburg. The Williams Park Partnership is an nonprofit based in the City of St. Petersburg to support revitalization efforts within the park.

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	Construction and material costs for enhanced safety features including, but not limited to, lighting, sidewalk improvements/enhancements, fencing, and electrical.	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

13. Program Performance

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

Support will be used for safety and security improvements to historic Williams Park that will also support the enforcement efforts of HB 1365 (2024). Identified improvements include replacing the outdated lighting, repairs to the sidewalk, and increasing fencing and retaining walls to make the park more secure and safe for residents and visitors.



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

Kimley-Horn, a national civil engineering firm and landscape architecture company, has completed a study with specific recommendations on needed safety enhancements within in the park. Park improvements include general and enhanced security lighting making it easier to navigate the area; sidewalk replacement that will provide a safe buffer between street traffic and the park as well removing hazards related to cracked and older concrete; expansion of fencing and a retaining wall to add elevation from the street for safety; and increasing electrical outlets to provide more opportunities for events within the park.

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

250,000 St. Petersburg residents and over 950,000 residents within Pinellas County, as well as visitors, will benefit from general and enhanced security lighting that will improve visibility; sidewalk replacement that will remove hazards, the expansion of fencing and a retaining wall for safety; and increasing electrical outlets will provide more opportunities for events within the park.

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

Williams Park welcomes and serves visitors and residents of all ages and backgrounds from throughout St. Petersburg, Pinellas, and the larger Tampa Bay community. Williams Park is also an event space for large community events, hosts dedicated events that recognize and honor our veterans at memorials located within the park, and is located within the Downtown core where it next to businesses and a St. Pete College campus, which also has a high school program. St. Petersburg is home to over 250,000 residents with over 950,000 residents within Pinellas County.

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

Safety improvements to Williams Park will enhance tourism and economic development within the downtown core by providing improvements that make the space more inviting to residents, visitors, and businesses. Additionally, these improvements will provide a safe route within and for events and functions within the core of the City for all events and travelers in the downtown area. We will measure our success by participation in events and programs as well as available commercial property data source and real estate evaluations of rental and for sale properties.

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?

Funds for deliverables not met will be returned to the State.

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

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



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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.