



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2112

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Community Innovation Center is a transformative initiative to establish a central hub for workforce and career skills development, STEM education, media production, digital and small business entrepreneurship, and innovation across all fields of technology and economic development, partners bring a combined 50+ years of successful, award winning, well-documented and proven expertise across critical measures of economic development and positive social impact across all fields of technology and manufacturing.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>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)	500,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	200,000	20%
Other	300,000	30%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,000,000</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?**  Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

In lieu of state funding, other local sponsorships and funding can be secured, but because of the varying nature of those funds may result in either some reduction of community programming, or increased costs to facility users.



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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)?

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
<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	Program delivery staff, representing 30% of salaries	90,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	STEM and small business education resources and equipment upgrades for the expansion of robotics, automation, manufacturing, prototyping and fabrication and AI training programs, media training as well as the development of a Mobile STEM lab, significantly expanding outreach and impact.	350,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Development of improved impact measurement, tracking and reporting tools, and contracted services for customization of Mobile STEM Lab.	60,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to create a vibrant, inclusive, transformative space where community members can learn, collaborate, and innovate, advancing inclusive opportunities for Tampa residents across STEM and media fields, and to provide accessible education, training, and resources in media production, engineering, coding, mobile technology, robotics, and entrepreneurship, empowering participants to achieve personal and professional growth and economic well-being.

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

The facility will build on work currently done by program partners, expanding public access to state of the art, full-service media studios, a full scale public Fab Lab with machine shop with fabrication and prototyping capabilities including 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, bench, power and hand tools, a textiles and sewing center, arts center, computer lab, resources for robotics and drone programs for youth and adults, entrepreneurship & small business center, and social enterprise opportunities.

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

Direct services will include :

- Entrepreneurship and small business education and support services
- Youth STEM education programming for elementary through high school
- Textiles/Sewing programming for youth and adults
- Expanded STEM Summer Camps
- Video Production Training including Mobile videography and cinematography workshops
- Tech Career Advancement Programming
- Professional Development for educators
- Artificial intelligence education and training
- Vocational Rehabilitation for youth and adults, including those with disabilities
- Manufacturing education and training
- Electronics education and training
- Automotive Technician training with a focus on ADAS and automation technologies
- Mechatronics Microcertifications

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

This program will serve residents and businesses throughout Tampa, but especially in the immediate area of the facility, with priority given to youth, families, individuals and small businesses from the surrounding area that can most benefit from the capacity building resources, training and opportunities afforded to them by the CIC. 1500-2000 individuals are expected to be served directly each year.

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

Specific benefits are exposure and experience to 21st century skill building experiences across mechatronics, entrepreneurship and STEM education, and improving overall knowledge base, communications, teamwork skills, and enhanced hireability. Specific expected annual outcomes include: \*100+ youth in-house receiving direct experience in mechatronics through competitive robotics programs, gaining improved academic and workforce skills, and microcertifications in CAD, programming, and mechatronics, as well as learning improved communications and teamwork skills \*Minimum of 30 micro-credentials issued for completion of mechatronics related programming for adults\*Minimum of 10 work internships created through Creative Expressions and related workforce skills programming for adults \*20 Early stage Entrepreneurship training cohort members completing program, with at least 12 viable companies launched. Outcomes verified through observation, surveys & credentials issued.

**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?**

FCDI should have 60 days to rectify any missed deliverables or performance measures.

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)



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- 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)?**

- 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**



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- 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

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