



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2118

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Dr. Walter L. Smith Library & Museum serves as a hub for educational access, cultural preservation, and community development across Florida. This project empowers undeserved populations through digital literacy, workforce development, and cultural enrichment initiatives. By leveraging technology, local partnerships, and modern facilities, the library reduces barriers to education while fostering economic mobility and lifelong learning. Key activities include virtual learning platforms, community engagement events, and the preservation of Florida’s cultural heritage. The requested funds will expand services through staff hiring, infrastructure upgrades, and innovative programming. Addressing Florida’s priorities—such as workforce readiness, community resilience, and cultural appreciation—this project will impact thousands annually, driving measurable improvements in education, economic opportunities, and social well-being across the state.

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	150,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	150,000

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)	150,000	46%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	175,000	54%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	325,000	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? Yes
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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Philanthropic donations from private donors, foundations, and corporate sponsors provide essential contributions, especially from those invested in education, community development, or cultural preservation. Federal grants, such as those offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), present valuable opportunities to secure additional funding.

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	CEO (Part-Time)	32,250
Other Salary and Benefits	CASO (Part-Time) Chief Administrative and Strategy Officer	30,125
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment/Travel/Supplies	3,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Grant Writing	10,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Director of Communications (Part-Time) Secretary (Part-Time) Library Attendant (Part-Time)	62,125
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies, Maintenance and Equipment	6,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Program Facilitators	6,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		150,000

13. Program Performance



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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

The funds requested enable the Dr. Walter L. Smith Library & Museum to strengthen its foundation and expand its capacity to serve as a vital resource for communities across Florida. These funds will support expanding and enhancing educational programs, community enrichment initiatives, and workforce development opportunities that directly benefit residents statewide. By hiring and retaining qualified staff, including part-time executives and program facilitators, the library will expand its ability to deliver meaningful educational and community-focused experiences. Critical investments in IT and operational support will ensure the library remains a modern facility capable of providing services such as digital literacy programs, virtual learning platforms, and workforce training tailored to Florida's needs. Additionally, these funds will enhance community engagement by fostering partnerships and securing additional resources through grant writing and outreach activities.

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

The funds will support a range of activities and services aimed at maximizing community impact and fulfilling the library's mission. Key activities include expanding educational programs such as digital literacy workshops, workforce development training, and virtual learning platforms tailored to Florida's diverse population. The library will foster community engagement by building partnerships with local organizations, securing additional funding through grant writing, and hosting cultural enrichment events to promote awareness of Florida's rich heritage. Services provided will include access to modern IT infrastructure, enabling underserved communities to benefit from current technology and resources. Staff and program facilitators will receive professional development to ensure the delivery of high-quality educational and enrichment activities. Library visitors will also access curated resources, programs, and events that support lifelong learning and community resilience.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services addressing educational, cultural, and technological needs for citizens across Greater Hillsborough County and the State of Florida. These services include digital literacy training to help individuals navigate modern technology, workforce development programs that prepare residents for competitive job markets, and access to virtual learning platforms that support lifelong learning. Additionally, citizens will benefit from community engagement initiatives such as cultural enrichment events that celebrate and preserve Florida's heritage and partnerships with local organizations to deliver targeted programs.

The library will also offer access to upgraded IT infrastructure, ensuring residents in underserved communities can utilize cutting-edge technology and resources. Curated collections and programs focused on cultural understanding and resilience will be available to foster a deeper connection to shared histories and values.

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

The target population for this project includes Florida residents, with a particular emphasis on underserved and underrepresented communities such as individuals from low-income households, youth, and adults seeking educational and workforce development opportunities. The project also aims to serve those interested in cultural enrichment and lifelong learning, ensuring equitable access to resources and programs that foster personal and professional growth. Approximately 5,000 to 7,000 individuals are expected to be directly served annually through library programs, workshops, and community events, with thousands more benefiting indirectly from enhanced resources, partnerships, and statewide outreach initiatives. These services, including digital literacy training, workforce development programs, virtual learning platforms, and cultural events, will address critical needs while promoting broader access to cutting-edge technology and enriching educational experiences.

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

The project aims to enhance educational access, promote workforce development, preserve cultural heritage, and strengthen community engagement across Florida. By offering digital literacy programs, skills training, and cultural enrichment initiatives, it seeks to reduce barriers to education and technology for underserved populations, contributing to economic and social vitality. Outcomes will be measured through participation metrics such as attendance, resource usage, and the number of individuals benefiting from workforce programs. Surveys will assess participants' skills, satisfaction, and program impact, while performance data, including job placements and certifications earned, will be tracked. Additionally, partnerships with local organizations will be evaluated based on joint program participation and funding secured. This approach ensures measurable improvements in education, economic opportunities, and community well-being, aligning with Florida's priorities.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

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LFIR # 2118

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?

Suggested penalties may include adjustments to future funding allocations, additional reporting requirements, or temporary suspension of specific activities. If deliverables or performance measures are not met, the contracting agency may request the return of unspent funds, ensuring transparency and accountability while allowing for collaborative solutions to address challenges.

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):

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**



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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

d. Phone Number

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