



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2126

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The requested \$985,000 in funding aims to establish a statewide educational initiative for K-12 students and their families, fostering a volunteer-driven coastal community protection partnership across four key Florida counties. This program is designed to address the impacts of hurricane devastation and promote coastal resiliency. By engaging students and families in hands-on learning experiences, the initiative seeks to achieve a variety of outcomes, including education and STEM engagement. Program will also provide ecosystem services.

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                          | 985,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>985,000</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)       | 985,000          | 51%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 825,000          | 42%         |
| Other  | 142,000          | 7%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b> | <b>1,952,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

| Fiscal Year<br>(YYYY-YY) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>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.**

We are supported by local, federal, and corporate grants. Also donations and sponsorships as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Organization.



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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                    | Project Head will serve as project leader of this program. Traveling to sites and meeting with partners to assure the goals are met and properly reported on. | 65,000         |
| Other Salary and Benefits  |   | 0              |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Travel Stipend (Hotel, Rental Vehicles, Meal Stipends)  | 3,000          |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Single Audit Required by FDACS and Contracted Project Accountant to handle FDACS grant compliance   | 10,000         |
| <b>Operational Costs</b>   |   |                |
| Salary and Benefits  | Two core staff to organize project, author curriculum, and manage deliverables of project for FDACS.  | 130,000        |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Farming and technical education equipment required for project modules and lessons.   | 506,000        |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | 1099 Contractors to help with builds, lessons, and other outsourced services to keep costs low.   | 271,000        |
| <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>985,000</b> |

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The requested \$985,000 will establish a statewide K-12 educational initiative that creates a volunteer-driven coastal community protection partnership across four key Florida counties, focusing on hurricane impact mitigation and coastal resilience. Through this program, students and families will engage in hands-on STEM learning experiences and citizen science activities, contributing to coastal monitoring and protection while building critical environmental awareness and disaster preparedness skills. The initiative will develop sustainable coastal protection strategies by establishing K-12 educational programs focused on coastal protection and resilience, creating volunteer-driven community partnerships, providing hands-on STEM learning experiences, enabling citizen science participation in coastal monitoring, building community capacity for disaster preparedness, and promoting environmental stewardship through direct engagement. By combining education with active community engagement

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

The funds will support a statewide K-12 educational initiative, fostering a volunteer-driven coastal protection partnership across four Florida counties. This initiative will provide a minimum of 10 hands-on STEM learning experiences, promote citizen science, and facilitate community engagement in coastal resilience projects.

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

The \$985,000 will fund a statewide K-12 educational initiative focused on coastal protection, directly serving students and families in five Florida counties. Services include hands-on STEM learning experiences, fostering student ingenuity and building STEM skills. The program empowers citizen science, enabling public participation in data collection and coastal monitoring.

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

The initiative will establish an early warning system for coastal hazards, training 1,000 community members in disaster preparedness and creating evacuation plans for 25,000 residents. The program will reduce storm surge vulnerability in targeted areas through natural infrastructure improvements.

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

The program will restore 10 sites of coastline through mangrove planting and establish 10 new living shoreline projects, improving habitat for native wildlife and reducing erosion. Participants will collect 1,000 of data points on a map, water quality assess, and assess coastal erosion patterns. Environmental improvements will be monitored through monthly habitat assessments, wildlife surveys, and water quality testing at established monitoring stations. GIS mapping and photo documentation will track the progress of restoration projects and changes in coastal ecosystem health.

**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?**

While the standard penalties outlined in the contract provide a strong framework for accountability, the contracting agency may consider additional measures tailored to the specific circumstances of noncompliance. These could include actions designed to encourage timely resolution, foster collaboration, and ensure future adherence to deliverables and performance measures. The goal is to address issues constructively while maintaining the integrity and objectives of the agreement.

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):**



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**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
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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.*