



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2351

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funding will help repair Clearwater Marine Aquarium's facilities that were devastated by hurricane Helene and Milton. CMA plays a significant role in boosting local tourism by attracting visitors from all over the world who are eager to learn about marine life and conservation efforts. As a key destination in Clearwater, Florida, the aquarium not only showcases rescued marine animals but also provides an engaging experience that emphasizes the importance of protecting ocean

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	380,000
Total State Funds Requested	380,000

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)	380,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	380,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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)? Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 07/01/25

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 05/01/26

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

CMA's budgeted operational funding

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.

CMA

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	Repair and/or replacement of including HVAC, elevators, drywall, electrical, motors for life support and filtration, paint, cement, pipes, lab requirements	380,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		380,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funding will help repair Clearwater Marine Aquarium's facilities that were devastated by hurricane Helene and Milton. CMA plays a significant role in boosting local tourism by attracting visitors from all over the world who are eager to learn about marine life and conservation efforts. As a key destination in Clearwater, Florida, the aquarium not only showcases rescued marine animals but also provides an engaging experience that emphasizes the importance of protecting ocean

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



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Repair of CMA's facility furthers our community mission - to rescue, rehabilitate, and release marine animals while promoting conservation through education and research. CMA focuses on the care of injured sea turtles, dolphins, and other marine life, providing a sanctuary for these creatures and raising awareness about the threats they face in the wild.

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

CMA visitors learn about the changes they can make to create a safer environment for marine life. Through its various programs and community outreach, CMA aims to inspire visitors to take action in protecting marine ecosystems and fostering a greater understanding of marine life.

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

Persons with poor mental health. Persons with poor physical health. Economically disadvantaged persons. At-risk youth. Developmentally disabled. Physically disabled. Grade school students. High schools students. University/college students. General (the majority of funds will benefit no specific group).

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

CMA staff and volunteers rescue sick or injured marine life measured by number of patients that come through our animal hospital. CMA guests leave with the knowledge necessary to change their lives to better help their environment and marine life living in it, and that is measured by change in behavior- conserving water, eliminating single use plastics, etc.

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?

CMA would return funds to the state.

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):

Hurricane Helene

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:



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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**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number

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