



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2369

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Tampa Bay Watch's primary mission for over 31 years has been restoration and preservation of shorelines in and around Tampa Bay. Damages to coastal shorelines in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton were significant. The vessels purchased would be used to facilitate repair to current waterfront damages to existing Living Shorelines and installation of new waterfront protection projects in the area.

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	342,790
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	342,790

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)	342,790	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	342,790	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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2369

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		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	Five Carolina Skiff Boats: Two Carolina Skiff 25 LS and Three Carolina Skiff E24 DLX with Yamaha engines, trailers and rigging	342,790
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		342,790

13. Program Performance

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

Tampa Bay Watch utilizes boats to support a variety of environmental restoration initiatives, including design, implementation and monitoring of our living shoreline projects, marine debris removal efforts and native wetland plantings and seagrass transplanting. Boats are used to transport supplies and volunteers to our project sites, including oyster reef balls, oyster shell, wetland plants and sea grass plugs, all of which are critical components of our habitat restoration efforts.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2369

Repair of existing, and construction of new Living Shorelines in Pinellas & Hillsborough counties. The vessels will replace aging Carolina Skiffs, which are required for on-water installation of shell reefs to protect the shoreline from sea rise and storm surge.

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

Tampa Bay Watch provides direct services to citizens through creation of Living Shorelines and protecting the coastline from sea rise. The vessels purchased will be used to help with repair and recovery of shorelines damaged during both Hurricanes this past year and proactively adding additional Living Shorelines to new locations within our communities.

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

The target population served by the project is the entire Tampa Bay community and visitors.

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

Sea level rise imposes an existential threat to low-lying coastal communities like Tampa Bay. Living shoreline solutions provide a nature-based approach to coastal management with the goal of protecting, restoring and enhancing coastal and estuarine shorelines. Measured improvements in water quality, seagrass growth and retention and reduction in erosion.

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?

Tampa Bay Watch (TBW) has been operating for over 31 years and has successfully completed hundreds of projects and initiatives. If the organization were unable to meet its commitments, TBW understands that funds would be reclaimed/due to the agency, and also recognizes funding for future initiatives would not be considered due to this precedent.

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):

Hurricanes Helene and Milton

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:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2369

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



The Florida Senate Local Funding Initiative Request Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2369

d. Phone Number

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