



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2422

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

For Florida to protect its economy and maintain its cutting-edge position in university-based hurricane re-search, innovation, and testing, the highly successful FIU Wall of Wind (WOW) hurricane simulator needs a complementary and more powerful testing facility capable of reaching 195-200 mph wind speeds (that we informally call "Cat 6"), together with storm surge, wave, and flood testing capabilities.

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	30,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>30,000,000</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)	30,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>30,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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?** 07/01/2025

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 07/01/2027

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

Federal grants and private research.

**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.**

Florida International University

**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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The FIU "Cat 6 WOW" would be located on the FIU Engineering Campus to the immediate north of the current Wall of Wind and be able to research and test the ability of structures, components, products, innovations, and techniques to withstand the effects of extreme winds combined with storm surge, wave action, and flooding.	30,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>30,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

For Florida to protect its economy and maintain its cutting-edge position in university-based hurricane re-search, innovation, and testing, the highly successful FIU Wall of Wind (WOW) hurricane simulator needs a complementary and more powerful testing facility capable of reaching 195-200 mph wind speeds (that we informally call "Cat 6"), together with storm surge, wave, and flood testing capabilities.

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



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There is a critical need for full- scale research and testing facilities capable of simulating extreme conditions and devising test solutions for a stronger safer and more resilient community.

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

Direct services accruing from the facility will respond to a pressing statewide and national imperative to promote more resilient communities to thrive sustainably and equitably and improve quality of life.

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

The general public. This could potentially served the millions of Florida residents.

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

Increase in hurricane qualified engineers and scientists to build the next generation workforce. Inclusion of disaster reduction course modules in K-12 classrooms and build natural hazards engineering and science curriculum in colleges and universities. Reduction of economic losses and fatalities in future hurricanes. Reduction of traffic disruption pre- and post-hurricane events, and reduction of losses to transportation infrastructure during hurricanes.

**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?**

Return of state funds.

**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):**

Hurricanes and Storm surge

**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



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- 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

d. Phone Number



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