



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2432

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Seaport Manatee is requesting a special appropriation of \$20,000,000 in nonrecurring General Revenue fund dollars be advanced by the Department of Financial Services and used by the public deep-water seaport to acquire and develop property directly adjacent to the port, to expand the operations of and protect the access to the seaport. The expansion and protection of access to the port will generate economic activity and lead to a return on investment of more than \$20,000,000 annually in state and local taxes (ROI of 20:1).

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	20,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	20,000,000

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)	20,000,000	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	20,000,000	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? No

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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 7/15/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 6/30/2030

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

Seaport operating revenues.

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.

There are several properties adjacent to the deep-water port that are available or potentially available for land acquisition through standard real estate transactions. The list of private property owners is subject to standard commercial real estate procedures and public procurement processes.

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	Funds will be used by the Port to acquire land directly adjacent to the Port and for development costs of port expansion and to ensure long-term protection of access to the Port.	20,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		20,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

General Revenue Funds (\$20,000,000) will be used by the public deep-water seaport to acquire property directly adjacent to the Port and for development costs to expand the seaport and generate economic activity and lead to a return of investment of more than \$20,000,000 annually in state and local taxes (ROI of 20:1), or more than \$400 million in generated state and local taxes over 20 years.

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



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Seaport Manatee is Southwest Florida's primary public seaport. Funds will be used to acquire land and generate economic activity in Southwest Florida. In calendar year 2023, Port operations supported 4,072 direct jobs, generated \$275.1 million in state and local tax revenues, and resulted in \$7.3 billion in total economic value for Florida's economy.

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

Transportation costs account for approximately 35% of the costs of all goods and services. Land acquisition will allow the public deep-water seaport to move cargo more efficiently which will result in a cost savings that will be directly be passed on to Florida residents and businesses.

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

Primary service area of the Port is 8 million residents in Southwest Florida and the Port also provides critical cargo (e.g., perishables, appliances, and building materials) from Miami in the south to the North Carolina in the north. The project will create jobs, generate tax revenue, and decrease the cost of goods and services. The project will allow the port to diversify operations, increase capacity, and increase redundancy of operations, to allow for faster statewide response and recovery efforts during tropical storm events in the future.

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

Increased export of Florida agricultural and manufactured products to South, Central and North America. Land acquisition will allow the port to further support export oriented activities. For example, imported shipping containers are stripped of goods, and Florida's agricultural and manufacturing communities can refill empty containers for export. This outcome will be measured through the total number of loaded shipping containers that are exported through the Port.

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?

Standard penalties.

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 Debby, 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#:

Not applicable. This is a mitigation project.

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



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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.