



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2543

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

St. Augustine Airport is the primary aviation hub serving St. Johns County and its surrounding areas. Known for its focus on aviation training and education, the airport seeks to expand its capabilities by acquiring resources for an aviation maintenance training program. This program will include a partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Saint Augustine high school.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>250,000</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)	250,000	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>250,000</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.

If state funding is not secured for this project, alternative funding sources would need to be explored. Potential options include seeking federal grants, securing private sector partnerships, engaging in fundraising initiatives, or reallocating existing resources where feasible. However, these alternatives may not fully cover the costs or provide the necessary stability to sustain the program at its intended capacity, which underscores the importance of state support in ensuring its success.



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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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	This initiative includes the procurement of a used, non functional piston single-engine aircraft to serve as a training platform. The program's budget will also cover the following: Transportation costs for the aircraft, Specialized aviation tools and Educational audiovisual equipment to support remote learning and virtual instruction	250,000
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		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>250,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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The goal of this program is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the aviation industry through hands-on training, equipping them with the practical skills and knowledge necessary for success in this dynamic field. By offering real-world experience in various aviation-related tasks, this program will bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry demands, allowing students to gain valuable insight into the technical, operational, and safety aspects of aviation. Through specialized instruction, mentorship, and exposure to industry-standard equipment, participants will be empowered to pursue careers in aviation with confidence and competence. We seek this grant to support the development and expansion of this program, ensuring that students have access to the resources they need to excel in this growing industry.

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

The purpose of this grant is to fund activities that will immerse students in hands-on training focused on repairing and maintaining aircraft, as well as other essential airport-related roles. These activities will include supervised workshops, practical sessions in aircraft mechanics, and real-world simulations of airport operations, where students will work on a variety of tasks such as troubleshooting, equipment handling, and safety protocol implementation. By participating in these activities, students will gain valuable, industry-specific skills and experience, helping to prepare them for careers in aviation and airport management. The program's focus on practical learning will ensure that students are not only knowledgeable but also job-ready, contributing to the workforce with a strong foundation in both technical and operational aspects of the aviation industry.

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

An airport maintenance program offers crucial services that ensure the safety, efficiency, and operational readiness of airport facilities and aircraft. By providing comprehensive training in aircraft repair, systems maintenance, and troubleshooting, such a program equips students and professionals with the skills to maintain the high standards of safety and reliability required in aviation. The benefits of this program extend beyond hands-on technical expertise; it also fosters a deeper understanding of airport operations, enhancing career opportunities in a growing industry. Students trained through the program are prepared to address the complexities of maintaining airport infrastructure, keeping aircraft in optimal condition, and adhering to regulatory standards, all of which are vital for ensuring smooth and secure air travel. Additionally, airports benefit from a skilled workforce capable of reducing downtime, improving service quality, and maintaining compliance.

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

The target population served by this project includes aspiring aviation professionals, particularly students interested in aircraft maintenance and airport operations, with an estimated 50 individuals expected to be served annually through hands-on training and educational activities.

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

The expected benefit of this project is to equip students with practical, industry-relevant skills in aircraft maintenance and airport operations, enhancing their employability in the aviation sector. The outcome will be measured through a combination of assessments, including hands-on performance evaluations, feedback from industry mentors, and tracking the successful placement of graduates in aviation-related careers. Additionally, student progress will be monitored through pre- and post-training surveys to evaluate knowledge gains and skill proficiency.

**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?**

If deliverables are consistently not met or performance falls below an acceptable threshold, the contracting agency may choose to terminate the contract and seek alternative service providers.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No

**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)



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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):**

**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



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- 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

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