



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2621

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Calhoun Liberty Hospital has long been a lifeline for thousands in rural North Florida, serving as the only critical access hospital for Calhoun and Liberty Counties with 25 patient care rooms and essential services. However, Hurricane Michael's devastating winds in 2018 left over 60% of the hospital uninhabitable, drastically reducing the hospital's ability to care for patients. In 2024, Calhoun Liberty Hospital broke ground on a long-awaited replacement hospital to restore care to the community (Phase I). However, a surge in material prices, rising labor costs, and ongoing supply chain shortages left the hospital with only enough funding to reconstruct 8 of its original 25 patient care rooms. The requested funding will fund Phase II, building the remaining 17 patient care rooms and bridging this critical gap, enabling the hospital to fully rebuild to capacity and restore access to quality healthcare for generations to come.

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	5,400,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,400,000

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)	5,400,000	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	5,400,000	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		
2024-25	0	750,000	1173	No

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.
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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/03/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

02/27/2026

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

In addition to the traditional revenue streams of a non-profit hospital such as Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and patient self-pay, as a critical access hospital Calhoun Liberty Hospital receives cost-based reimbursement from Medicare which helps cover operational expenses and ensures the facility remains financially sustainable while providing essential healthcare services to the community. Phase I is under construction, Phase II

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.

Calhoun Liberty Hospital operates as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The hospital is governed by a Board of Directors, none of whom hold any ownership or financial interest in the organization.

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	The funding will be utilized to cover expenses directly related to constructing 17 additional patient care rooms, which will fully restore the healthcare capacity of the hospital.	5,400,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,400,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The requested funds will be used to complete the construction of 17 additional patient care rooms, restoring Calhoun Liberty Hospital to its pre-hurricane capacity of 25 rooms. This will ensure the hospital can fully serve the healthcare needs of Calhoun and Liberty Counties, providing essential services such as emergency care, inpatient treatment, and outpatient procedures. By restoring the hospital's full capacity, the funding will help address critical healthcare access gaps in this rural, underserved region, improving community health outcomes and supporting the area's resilience to future emergencies.

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

The funds will support activities directly related to the construction and completion of 17 patient care rooms, including all regulatory compliance requirements. The Calhoun Liberty Hospital project management team is currently successfully managing the construction of the new 8 room hospital which is nearing 82% completion. Without these additional rooms, the community faces gaps in critical services, longer wait times, and increased strain on neighboring facilities.

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

The additional rooms will increase the hospital's capacity to treat patients, ensuring that individuals facing life-threatening conditions, such as heart attacks, strokes, or trauma, receive immediate and effective care. With the restored capacity of 25 patient care rooms, the hospital can accommodate more patients who require hospitalization for illnesses, surgeries, and recovery, reducing wait times and ensuring timely treatment close to home. As a critical access hospital, Calhoun Liberty serves a rural and underserved population. The expanded capacity will ensure equitable access to healthcare for individuals who might otherwise face significant barriers to receiving care.

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

The area is characterized by a mix of socioeconomic challenges that are all too common in rural areas including higher poverty rates, lower median household incomes, and an aging population with a greater need for medical services. Nearly 20% of the service area population is over the age of 65. The poverty rate is estimated at 19.9% with the median household income of just \$38,568. The community is already grappling with systemic barriers to well-being and access to healthcare—often a lifeline for rural populations—has become one of the greatest challenges.

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

Restoring the hospital to full service capacity will bring numerous benefits to the community. It will reduce emergency response times, enhance health outcomes by ensuring timely access to care, and ease the burden on neighboring healthcare facilities. Furthermore, this project will fortify the local healthcare infrastructure, providing the community with the resilience and resources needed to effectively respond to future emergencies. Key indicators the hospital will look towards to measure the increased patient care capabilities include evaluation of community health outcomes such as preventable hospitalizations and better management of chronic conditions along with economic factors like increased jobs and access to healthcare/improved quality of life.

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 the appropriation is granted as a fixed capital outlay with a three-year contract period, we do not anticipate any delays. We suggest a reasonable monetary amount as a penalty for any delays encountered with the option to amend the contract when needed to account for delays that are outside of the control of the hospital. We suggest non-payment of any work left incomplete after the three-year period of this appropriation.

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):



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DR-4399 | Hurricane Michael

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#:

83619 - NOTE: The funding received does not include the scope of work requested

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

0

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):

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)



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- 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.