



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2734

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The building which houses The Academy of Environmental Science was originally built as a residential condominium. The Surfside Condominium collapse in 2021 triggered legislative changes for this type of building. In 2022 the building which houses the school was inspected by an engineer and a number of structural upgrades were recommended to continue occupancy. The funds requested will be used to aid in completing these upgrades and bring the building to a more modern code for student safety.

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	240,000
Total State Funds Requested	240,000

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)	240,000	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	240,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	42,000	110	No

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.**



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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?

1/1/2022

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

7/31/2026

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

FTE Funding for public schools.

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.

The City of Crystal River Florida owns the property and leases it to The Academy of Environmental Science, INC, which operates as a Florida Public Charter School with The Citrus County School Board as our sponsor.

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 building sits 14 feet in the air on concrete pilings. Roughly 40% of the metal floor joists have structural deficiencies and need replaced. Roughly 40% have already been replaced. In addition to the joists, repairs need to be completed on pilings and the brackets that fix the pilings to the joists and other support structures.	240,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		240,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The facility will be safe to operate at our 120 student capacity for the foreseeable future. The joists being used as replacements are resistant to the corrosion which caused this issue over the last 30 years.

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

Construction has already begun under the direction of a Licensed Florida Engineer. These funds will be used to complete the construction required to be completed to remain open in the 2026-2027 school year.

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

The Academy of Environmental Science is the only "A" rated high school in Citrus County, and one of only 2 in the entire district. This facility promotes and encourages students to achieve by empowering their natural curiosity in a way that can only be achieved by being in the field, rather than just a classroom. The growing number of alumni are deeply rooted in our community, and State. Many have become local business owners, scientists, teachers and much more.

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

The facility services roughly 120 students per year directly. Indirectly, the public is able to enjoy the property through the means of a nature boardwalk that is open to the public. Since 1999, the school has serviced over 2,600 high functioning students.

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

Data provided by The Citrus County School Board shows that AES has been a top performing school since it opened in 1999. Even while the rest of the district declined, AES continues to be the top performing school in the district as proven by state and local tests. The desired outcome is to continue operating in our current capacity until the school is eventually expanded.

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?

The funds shall be returned.

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)
- 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#:



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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
- 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



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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.