



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2802

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Institute for Freedom in the Americas supports curriculum and exhibitions at the Freedom Tower to narrate the story of the search for freedom, explore the plight caused by communism, and educate future generations on its historical, cultural, and societal impact. It fosters freedom through civic engagement, global dialogue, and a Fellowship program for students to learn from Latin American leaders via academic studies, workshops, and interactions with leaders from the Western Hemisphere. Established in 2024 under Florida Statute 1004.89, it advances democracy and human rights.

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	5,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	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	5,000,000	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		

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.

Non available.

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)?

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Includes contracted services, employee benefits, and other essential administrative expenses required for daily operations.	1,000,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Encompasses office supplies, educational materials, and other consumables vital for daily operations and the fellowship program. Additionally, supports the fellowship program through hands-on training, professional development, mentorship opportunities, project funding, essential resources, and travel and accommodations for guest lecturers.	1,850,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing and promotion for recruitment campaigns, events, brand awareness, and outreach initiatives across TV, radio, and print media.	1,000,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	General operational expenses, including rental fees, office buildouts, utilities, technology infrastructure, office furnishings, and equipment.	1,150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The specific purpose of the Institute for Freedom in the Americas is to educate and inspire future generations by narrating the search for freedom and examining the societal impacts of communism. Through its curriculum, exhibitions, and Fellowship program, the Institute aims to preserve the historical significance of the Freedom Tower, foster civic engagement, and empower emerging leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean to advance governance, human rights, and democratic values in the Americas.

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

The funds will support developing curriculum and exhibitions at the Freedom Tower to explore the plight caused by communism. The Institute will offer a Fellowship program featuring academic studies, hands-on workshops, and mentorship from leaders in governance. Additionally, it will host events, foster global dialogue, and build partnerships to advance democratic principles and civic engagement across the Americas.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services to students, including access to educational programs, exhibitions, and resources at the Freedom Tower. It will also offer a Fellowship program with academic studies, hands-on workshops, and mentorship opportunities, empowering students to engage with democratic principles, governance, and civic leadership. These services will prepare students for impactful roles in their communities and beyond.

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

The target population of 2.8 million residents in Miami Dade County in addition all students throughout the State of Florida.

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

The project aims to foster understanding of freedom and democracy, highlight the Freedom Tower's significance, and empower future leaders. Outcomes will be measured through attendance records, participant surveys, Fellowship enrollment, alumni success tracking, and pre- and post-program evaluations.

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?

Withholding payments or requiring corrective action plans, to address unmet deliverables or performance measures, ensuring accountability and alignment with project goals.

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



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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
- 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.



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19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	<input type="text" value="Monica L. Rodriguez"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Ballard Partners"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="monica@ballardpartners.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(850)577-0444"/>

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