



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2869

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

USF's Institute of Applied Engineering (IAE) is dedicated to advancing national security and has provided the Department of Defense with diverse capabilities, safeguarding and enhancing the capabilities of our warfighters. This funding will acquire cutting edge equipment to enable the solution of national security, address dual-use interdisciplinary problems and increase private sector and military collaboration, ultimately fortifying the United States' national defense capabilities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	4,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>4,000,000</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)	4,000,000	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>4,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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)?**

**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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	High-performance graphic processors for AI model training, multi-core computer processors, high-capacity and high-speed storage for storing and managing large datasets and handling the rapid data transfers needed in model training, high performance compute platforms to allow for additional classified research.	4,000,000
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>4,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

USF's Institute of Applied Engineering (IAE) is dedicated to advancing national security and has provided the Department of Defense with diverse capabilities, safeguarding and enhancing the capabilities of our warfighters. This funding will acquire cutting edge equipment to enable the solution of national security, address dual-use interdisciplinary problems and increase private sector and military collaboration ultimately fortifying the United States' national defense capabilities.

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



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To remain competitive in an era where rapid technological advancements create significant strategic advantages, the acquisition of this equipment will allow USF's IAE to operate at the secret/top-secret level and is essential for developing intelligent systems for highly secure domains.

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

Leveraging USF's existing Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF), the equipment will make secure, high-performance computational resources and capabilities available at a much greater capacity. This will enable engineers and researchers to develop an advanced AI system from classified datasets as well as enhance large-scale simulations and computations critical to national security.

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

University students and faculty and U.S. Department of Defense and classified military research.>800 individuals are expected to be served.

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

Protect the general public from harm - This equipment will reduce AI model development from weeks/days to hours, accelerate AI inference to near real-time, and accelerate simulation/computations, enabling our research sponsors (USSOCOM, etc.) to quickly adapt to highly dynamic geo-political conditions around the world - this will be measured by additional classified research leveraging cutting-edge technology and interdisciplinary collaboration and national security initiatives.

**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?**

Reduced or discontinued funding.

**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):**

**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:**



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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**

**c. E-mail Address**



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d. Phone Number

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