



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2880

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Events Building is proposed to be 2,000 sq. ft. to 2,300 sq. ft. located on the edge of the Imperial River. Large outdoor decks surround the building on three sides. On the south side, visitors can enjoy views across the Imperial River; on the east side they can look into the walk-thru aviary, and on the north side they get a view across the Main Lawn. The main gathering space is intended to accommodate around 100 guests for a sit down dinner. The number will increase significantly for a cocktail function if the outside decks and Main Lawn are being used for the function.

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	1,300,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,300,000

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)	1,300,000	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	1,300,000	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.

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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 01/05/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 01/05/2027

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

Wonder Gardens revenue and support from our donors.

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.

Property owner is City of Bonita Springs, applicant and operator is Bonita Wonder Gardens, inc. which has a Public-Private Partnership Operating Agreement (4/3/2024) in place with the City of Bonita Springs.

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	Planning, engineering, and permitting costs through the City of Bonita Springs. Engineering plans drawn by consultants, Kitchen Appliances, tables, chairs, fixtures, plumbing, electrical, concrete, building	1,300,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,300,000

13. Program Performance

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

This building will provide a safe indoor space to host private events, community events, and occasional educational programming until we are able to build an education center. This would also provide us an onsite kitchen area.

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



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The space will be available for hosting parties, weddings, and other gatherings by members of the community, as well as for events hosted by the Wonder Gardens. We will also use this space for education programs as needed, including summer camps, field trips, and day camps.

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

This will provide a safe indoor area for events and education programs to be held when we have inclement weather. It will also include more public restrooms for guests in the park. The deck would overlook the special event area, the Imperial River, and Riverside Park, as well as provide an entry to a walk-through aviary adjacent to the building.

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

This will benefit both members of the community and surround area with the ability to provide weather safe event space for both community and private events. This will also benefit the influx of visitor during the winter months who visit the Wonder Gardens. We serve over 80,000 visitors each year.

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

This building will let us provide a space for community members to gather together for different reasons. We will be able to host both private and public events all year long. Being able to offer indoor space for gatherings will allow the Wonder Gardens to further the sense of community in downtown Bonita Springs. This will also provide a safe space that can be used for occasional educational programs like summer camp and field trips. We have not been able to host summer camp for multiple years now due to no safe indoor space during the stormy summer season. This will be measured by increased revenue from renting the space as well as reports about extended education programming.

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?

Repayment for any fees for services that were not completed.

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):

Hurricane Ian

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



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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.