



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2963

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Leon County will host the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park which is the most prestigious international cross country running competition. The event is returning to the USA for the first time since 1992, and it is expected to draw more than 550 runners from over 60 countries that will compete in five official World championship races in Leon county. The requested funds will be used towards expenses related to the execution of the event such as planning, operations and logistics, marketing, live streaming, temporary structures to enhance the course, etc.

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	875,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	875,000

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)	875,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	875,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,750,000	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.



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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)?

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The requested funds will be used towards both direct event costs and marketing (such as planning, operations and logistics, marketing, live streaming, temporary structures to enhance the course, etc.)	875,000
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)		875,000

13. Program Performance

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



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In 2022, World Athletics announced that Leon County has been awarded the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships (WAXCC) at the award-winning Apalachee Regional Park. As the 2026 WAXCC event host, the County is required to provide a significant financial commitment (a minimum of an \$1.75 million) towards the formation and execution of the event such as planning, operations and logistics, marketing, medical and anti-doping requirements, and any needed facility improvements. The requested funds of \$875,000 will be used towards both direct event costs and marketing.

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

The requested funds will be used towards both direct event costs and marketing related to hosting the event (planning, operations and logistics, live streaming, temporary structures to enhance the course, etc.). Our vision of the event is to create the best, most challenging, and most unique edition of the 2026 World Cross Country Championships to date. The theme of the event and course is "Welcoming the World to Florida" featuring various FL-related course elements.

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

The 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championship is expected to draw more than 550 runners from over 60 countries to the award-winning Apalachee Regional Park in Leon County. While it will be internationally broadcast, the event is projected to be attended by over 10,000 spectators from around the world, bringing in an estimated economic impact of over \$4.3 million.

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

All residents of and visitors to Leon County will benefit from this project.

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

Four performance indicators that will gauge the success of our event include hosting the greatest number of countries represented than any previous edition of the Championships, as well as the number of attendees, ticketed spectators, and corporate partnerships secured.

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?

Deobligation of funds.

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



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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
- 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.