



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2980

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The Public Policy Institute at JU is the only Institute of its kind in Florida and seeks to expand its efforts in addressing the partisan divide, educating future leaders in public policy and public service, and providing expertise to policymakers. To sustain and scale its impact, funding is needed for investments in training, curriculum, faculty, staff, events, and research. The Institute aims to broaden its reach by preparing and graduating a new kind of leader for public service, preparing graduates in public policy, offering town hall programs, and speaker series, including televised debates accessible to citizens locally, statewide, and nationally. These initiatives will foster a new generation of policy leaders, promote civic education, and bridge the public policy understanding gap across the nation.

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	1,482,200
Fixed Capital Outlay	517,800
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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)	2,000,000	64%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,125,000	36%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,125,000	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.**

If the state does not provide funding, the project will not be able to enhance and expand as described.



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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?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025

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

Tuition revenue

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.

Jacksonville University, 501c3

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	Assistant Director of Marketing, Assistant Director of Admissions, Administrative Assistant salaries and benefits	217,200
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel, Office Supplies/Computers, Marketing Materials	30,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Faculty positions	600,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Events, Speakers, Computers and Office Supplies, Scholarships, Studio equipment	635,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovations of event spaces	517,800
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The funds requested will enable the Public Policy Institute to scale its mission, and Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree programs, by increasing the number of graduates in public service, advance the Institute’s nonpartisan, values driving, data driven approach to higher education in public policy and expand public policy programs, events, and community engagement initiatives. The goal is to address the growing partisan divide, educate future leaders, provide policy expertise to solve community problems, and promote civic education. The funds will also support faculty, research, training, and the expansion of public sector training platforms, ensuring long-term sustainability and broad-reaching impact across Florida and beyond.

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

The funds will support activities such as expanding the MPP degree program, public policy programs and events on campus, community engagement and problem solving, and promoting civic education. Services will include training for government officials, policy expertise and consulting, research on public policy challenges, and capstone projects. The funds will also support televised debates, town hall programs, educational forums, speakers series, and the development of scalable online platforms for public sector training.

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

The appropriation project will directly provide citizens with an expanded, well trained and values driven workforce in public service, nonpartisan educational events, including town hall programs, speaker series, and televised debates on local, state, and federal races. It will also offer community engagement through public policy forums and conferences, where citizens can participate in discussions. Additionally, the project will provide policy expertise, training, and consulting to local government officials, school districts, and other public sector stakeholders to address community issues.

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

The target population served by this project includes Florida citizens, government officials, public sector employees, students pursuing public policy education, community leaders, and national and international audiences for the Institute’s nonpartisan television and radio commentary on public policy, law, and politics. The initiative aims to engage a broad audience, including those interested in civic education, policy understanding, and leadership development. The number of individuals served is expected to reach tens of thousands locally through events, televised programs, training sessions, and community engagement initiatives, impacting both local and statewide populations, and millions nationally and internationally through its growing television and radio commentary.

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

The expected outcome of this project is an increase in the workforce of a new kind of leader in public service, expanded education and training in public policy, a more informed and engaged citizenry, and improved policy-making. Benefits include increased civic participation, a better understanding of public policy, and enhanced governmental effectiveness. Outcomes will be measured through metrics such as increased graduates in the MPP degree program, attendance and participation rates in events, the number of public officials and stakeholders trained, and audiences nationally and internationally for the Institute’s commentary. Additionally, attendance and feedback from participants and community members will assess the effectiveness of events and training.

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?

Awardee to return any unexpended funds to the state of Florida.

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):



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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:

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)



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- 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

d. Phone Number

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