



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2985

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The University of West Florida serves the economic and talent needs of the northwest Florida region, home to numerous military bases and a variety of companies that require civil engineers. According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Civil Engineering is one of the fastest growing occupations in the state with a projected job growth of 13.4%. In the northwest Florida region, the projected growth is even more pronounced, with the demand for civil engineers expected to grow by 24.6% by 2030. The purpose of this funding request is to establish and offer an ABET-accredited Civil Engineering program at the campuses of the University of West Florida. The program will give UWF students a unique, hands-on experience that prepares them to be leaders in the Civil Engineering field; it will be student-focused and offer students many opportunities for experiential learning.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</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)	1,500,000	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>1,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	1,500,000	147	Yes

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?  Yes

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.

University of West Florida - an institution belonging to the State University System.

### 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	Department of Civil Engineering Chair	203,465
Other Salary and Benefits	Office Administrator, Laboratory Manager, and Academic Advisor	215,870
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expense Budget (Includes ABET Accreditation fees)	30,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	11 Faculty (Instruction and Research) to support and manage Civil Engineering curriculum	1,050,665
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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>1,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The purpose of the requested funds is to offer the Civil Engineering curriculum and provide space for new students. The end-goal is to offer an ABET-accredited Bachelors degree program in Civil Engineering at the campuses of the University of West Florida with an overall 5-year enrollment target at 200 students per year and a 5-year graduation target at 50 students per year.

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



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The activities will include: (1) development of an ABET-accredited Civil Engineering curriculum, (2) offering of an ABET-accredited Civil Engineering curriculum, and (3) purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for Civil Engineering labs. As part of the curriculum development, the concentrations for ABET accreditation will be planned and integrated into the curriculum, and shared resources with other Engineering disciplines and Physics will be determined.

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

A Bachelor's degree pathway in Civil Engineering will be provided to citizens in the northwest Florida region and beyond.

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

The target population for the Civil Engineering program are high school graduates and adult learners in the northwest Florida region. The 5-year plan is to build to 200 students participating in the Civil Engineering program per year.

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

The expected benefit of this project is the establishment of a Civil Engineering program that will become a talent pipeline for companies in northwest Florida who have articulated a need for Civil Engineers. The methodology by which this outcome will be measured is the enrollment numbers and the number of Civil Engineer graduates each year.

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables will result in a return of funds to administering agency.

**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:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**



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## Local Funding Initiative Request

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LFIR # 2985

- 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

d. Phone Number



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