



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2986

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The goal is to establish the Fort Walton Beach campus shared by Northwest Florida State College and the University of West Florida as a premiere technology education hub for northwest Florida. We will create robust talent pipelines specific to the region's growing industries in engineering and technology by ensuring curriculum is relevant and aligned to workforce needs, thus equipping students with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the local workforce.

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	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</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)	3,000,000	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>3,000,000</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)?** No

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

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 08/01/2026

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

E&G Funding. NWFLSC will also partake in the upkeep and maintenance of the STEM Campus.

**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 and Northwest Florida State College; the institutions have an MOU in place to share the campus

**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	UWF Dean of Technology — manages programs and faculty at technology hub. Stipend for 3 years to current administrator.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits	UWF/NWFSC Industry Coordinator/Officer. 3-year salary with benefits.	300,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing services to advertise new programs	150,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Academic advisor. 3-year salary with benefits.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Purchase equipment for engineering laboratories and collaborative spaces for industry-led capstone projects	300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation of laboratory and capstone spaces; renovation of student common areas for student engagement	2,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

Increase the number of students attending NWFSC/UWF at the Fort Walton Beach campus majoring in areas of engineering and technology. Increase the number of students entering the local workforce in the engineering and technology industries.

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



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The services provided will be 4-year degree programs in areas of engineering and technology relevant to the needs of the local industry. Activities included will be student advising, student success initiatives, industry-led advisory board, capstone projects (with industry), certifications, internships, and apprenticeships.

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

The direct service will be the offering of 4-year degree programs in areas of engineering and technology. The local workforce will also see an increase in available graduates for hire.

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

The target population lies within Fort Walton Beach and east to Panama City. Currently 200 students are enrolled at the Fort Walton campus. Under the re-brand, the goal for total number of students served is 600. Individuals working within local industry will also be able to hire talent directly from the graduate pool.

**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 is a home-grown talent pipeline for local industry in the Fort Walton Beach area. The methodology to measure outcomes are 4-year graduation rate and number of students working in the local industry.

**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?**

Deactivation of under performing degree programs. Overall failure to meet deliverables will result in returned funds to the distributing 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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- 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.*