



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3004

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Requesting reversion of previous Saint Leo University Arena funding and reappropriation to The Saint Leo University Cybersecurity and Cyberforensics Training and Education Center. Funding will help establish a cybersecurity forensics laboratory and a Security Operations Center, hire renowned faculty to teach in our undergraduate and graduate cybersecurity programs, and provide resources to prepare graduates to enter the workforce. The Tampa Bay region is fast becoming a hub for tech companies. Recent projections indicate that there will be over 1 million open positions for cybersecurity roles in 2025-2028, with less than 400,000 professionals trained to meet this demand.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,500,000</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)	2,500,000	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>2,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

9/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

6/1/2026

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

The college's operating budget will absorb the operations and maintenance.

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.

Saint Leo University

### 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	2 Cybersecurity Faculty (\$150K each and 36% benefits cost)	408,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Hardware and software to support cybersecurity forensics lab and Security Operations Center. Computer hardware - workstations, laptops, smart-phones Cyber-forensic kits and software, mobile cyber-forensic kits and software. Routers, switches, firewalls, cyber-intrusion detection and prevention systems, Security Information and Event Management System. Licenses for computer forensics software.	1,092,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	1200 square foot cybersecurity and digital forensics laboratory and classroom space, i.e., Build out of work spaces, Build out of Cybersecurity Operations Center.	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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Funding will help establish a cybersecurity forensics laboratory and a Security Operations Center, hire qualified faculty to teach in our undergraduate and graduate cybersecurity programs, and provide resources to prepare graduates to enter the workforce. The Tampa Bay region is fast becoming a hub for tech companies. Recent projections indicate that there will be over 1 million open positions for cybersecurity roles in 2025-2028, with less than 400,000 professionals trained to meet this demand.

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

Funding will help establish a cybersecurity forensics laboratory, a Security Operations Center, hire two renowned faculty to teach in our undergraduate and graduate cybersecurity degree programs, and prepare graduates to enter the cybersecurity workforce. The Tampa Bay region is fast becoming a hub for tech companies, and there is strong demand for cybersecurity professionals in the region.

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

University classes and laboratory to be used for Florida citizens completion of Associate, Bachelors and Masters degrees in Cybersecurity.

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

University/College students; high school students; jobless persons; economically disadvantaged persons.

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

Improve quality of cybersecurity education in Florida. Cybersecurity trained and educated citizens of Florida who will hold Associate, Bachelors or Masters degrees in Cybersecurity. The Tampa Bay region is fast becoming a hub for tech companies. Outcome measured by the number of jobs secured by Saint Leo students in the field of Cybersecurity, Information Security, Digital Forensics, or related areas.

**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?**

Funding will be returned to the State.

**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#:**



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**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.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**



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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.*