



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3008

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds will support the construction of a marine science research facility (OCEARCH's global headquarters) and allow for greater access to the public, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and other research entities to conduct and expand the base of knowledge on conservation. Request is for three years to expend the funds.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	33%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	10,000,000	67%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	15,000,000	100%

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	0		No

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.

Jacksonville University would continue to seek potential future funding from private support - individuals, corporations, and foundations.

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)?

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?

The operational funding for the project will be supported through a diversified approach. This includes revenue generated from a variety of activities such as program fees and events, as well as strategic partnerships with marine science research organizations. These collaborations will involve shared use of the space, allowing for cost-sharing opportunities and mutual benefit to increase community offerings.

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 is land lease and dock owner and will receive and administer the funding for the OCEARCH Headquarters, marine science research facility and marine science research vessel project.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The requested funds will be used complete design, construction, and other construction related costs associated with the building project.	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Funds will support the construction of a marine science research facility and OCEARCH headquarters that will consolidate the operations and research activities and allow for greater access to the public, K-12 institutions, colleges, universities and other research entities to conduct and expand the base of knowledge on marine research. The facility will make Florida the global headquarters and leader in research and public policy by providing access to an unprecedented dataset to help manage the ocean and bring its recreational and commercial benefits back to abundance.

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

The funding will support collaborative research, experiential education, and serve as OCEARCH's global headquarters. It will educate students on the importance of apex predators, Florida's coastline, and the importance of thinking globally & acting locally when it comes to conservation efforts. This complex will include building(s) for public education and displays, public meetings, OCEARCH ship operations including the quick response vessel for marine research and marine animal rescue. The facility will house laboratory, data management, and academic resource management to assist collaborative scientists and researchers in their efforts.

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

Education outreach efforts will include (but not limited to): Using OCEARCH Curriculum, outreach focused on engaging students in STEM through research efforts on the MV OCEARCH & the OCEARCH Global Tracker. Teacher workshops designed to engage them with STEM curriculum. On-site experiential education inspiring students to be global stewards, ensuring we can continue to create oceans that are sustainable and provide abundance. The facility will host collaborative scientific research on sharks and other marine life in Florida water; stakeholder services to develop data-centric policy recommendations for marine affairs; and, marine mammal rescue programs utilizing the customized first response catamaran.

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

The target population includes over 1M residents in Duval County and the 22M overnight and day trippers who visit Duval County annually. Nearly 28,000 people visit Jacksonville every night and another 30,000 day-time visitors. As an international leader in shark and ocean research, the facility will also attract visitors from around the state of Florida and other other states and countries. With Mayport's rich maritime history, our target audience includes residents and visitors of Duval County, citizens of Florida, and a global audience, as we work to educate, inspire, and enable in-person and virtual visitors to connect with our blue planet in unique ways.

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

The OCEARCH Headquarters and marine science research facility will provide economic benefits to Mayport, Jacksonville, and Florida at large through generated tourism, with outcomes measured by annual visitors, and overall economic impact. Expanding scientific knowledge of sharks will play a key role in the facility's overall mission. Outcomes will be measured by number of research efforts hosted, papers published, and overall impact in driving data-centric maritime policy efforts. Local education outreach will be measured by number of students served and career development will play a critical role in the facility. Additionally, the general public will develop a better understanding of public safety measures when it comes to sharks. This outcome will be measured through outreach numbers and visitors surveys.

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?

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

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.