



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3061

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) requests 1.5M to establish a Security Operations Center (SOC) Training Hub at the Niceville Campus to develop an innovative facility directly connecting education and industry within the emerging cybersecurity sector. Such an endeavor aligns with Governor DeSantis' Workforce Education goals, addresses the acute labor shortages in the cybersecurity field, and encourages a talent conduit into current and future career demands.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,500,000	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.

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?

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.

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 College seeks capital funds to technologically outfit and renovate an existing facility to provide the necessary footprint for this SOC Training Hub with an investment of \$1.5 million. The facility (Building 360) would be strategically located next to the current IT facility and provide an ideal location for a SOC Training Hub.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

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



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By establishing the SOC Training Hub, Northwest Florida State College will be at the forefront of efforts to address the national cybersecurity crisis of employment and provide collaboration with local businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions provides tailored training programs, risk assessments, and strengthened regional cybersecurity defenses.

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

The SOC will create short-term, high-value certificate programs within fields such as Cybersecurity Essentials, Network Security, and Ethical Hacking & Risk Management; preparing students to gain prominent certificates, among them CompTIA Security+, Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), and CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional). It will also foster collaboration with local businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions to provide tailored training programs, risk assessments, and strengthened regional cybersecurity defenses.

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

The target population are individuals and businesses in Okaloosa and Walton Counties who are currently employed, or have interest in employment in the burgeoning cyber security sector. In Okaloosa and Walton Counties, as a percentage of the population, the number of cybersecurity jobs exceeds the national average and represents a high-wage occupation at a median pay rate of \$44.74 per hour for workers with an associate's degree. Walton County experienced an 8% increase in the availability of cybersecurity jobs between 2023 and 2024.

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

A SOC Training facility would protect the institution and its partners while developing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals in a resilient and secure workforce for the future.

The outcomes may be measured by the number of students who complete certificates and training at the SOC and, from the number of students who are employed in the cybersecurity sector, and from the number of employers who engage with the SOC for cybersecurity assistance and services.

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 may result in 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#:



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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.