



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3197

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by cognitive and memory decline that worsens over time and it is believed to start 20 years before the onset of symptoms. An estimated 16.6% of the residents in MDC have the disease. Statewide, 12.5% of adults over the age of 65 are estimated to have AD. AD kills more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and the University of Miami Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and Aging and the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurological Surgery, Neurology and Molecular Physiology and Cellular Biophysics have come together to use a multi-factorial and innovative approach for the study of Alzheimer's disease. The diverse backgrounds in this collaborative team leverages the knowledge from different fields of science that can be successfully applied to fulfill our goals of improving the care of patients suffering from this disease.

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	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	5%
Matching Funds		
Federal	6,913,239	36%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,445,688	7%
Local	0	0%
Other	9,938,634	52%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	19,297,561	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	1,000,000	475	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.**



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If the current economic conditions improve, increased philanthropic and foundation support could support research funding. Increase federal spending for medical research would also allow our scientists to apply for additional federal research grants.

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.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Scientific Director (salary and benefits)	38,742
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	F&A	3,874
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Scientists, research associates, post docs and lab technicians	584,554
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	lab supplies, animals, core and F&A	372,830
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The purpose of this research is to improve the care of patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) by developing a multi-factorial approach for the study of AD with the goals of 1) Identifying therapeutic targets that are clinically relevant to AD pathogenesis, 2) Developing new therapies for those targets specific for the treatment of AD, and 3) Improving the way patients with AD are diagnosed and how their prognosis is monitored.

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

The research that will be conducted will be based on highly innovative approaches to gain a better understanding of how the inflammasome contributes to the early stages of AD. In addition, strong preliminary data and the proposed mechanistic and translational set of experiments will allow our multidisciplinary team of experts to advance inflammasome-based therapies to the clinic for the treatment of AD and other age-related neurodegenerative diseases.

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

Currently, no direct services will be provided to citizens. In the future, The Miami Project's goal is to translate this research into FDA approved clinical trials and develop new technology to identify AD sooner in individuals and advance new therapies to treat this disease.

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

The target population served by this project are the more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease kills more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. In 2020, COVID-19 contributed to a 17% increase in Alzheimer's and dementia deaths.

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

Each project will address specific research questions that are highly relevant to an important scientific problem using established technologies and experimental protocols. During the funding period, progress will be evaluated by written progress reports including qualitative and quantitative data related to the proposed specific aims. These findings will then be submitted to scientific journals for peer review and publication.

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?

The penalty for failing to meet the conditions and/or make any appropriate corrections of the contract is termination.

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):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply



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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	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="W. Dalton"/>	Last Name	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="Dietrich"/>
b. Organization	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis - University of Miami Miller School of Medicine"/>		
c. E-mail Address	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="ddietrich@med.miami.edu"/>		
d. Phone Number	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="(305)243-2297"/>	Ext.	<input style="width: 20%;" type="text"/>

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="The Miami Project - University of Miami Miller School of Medicine"/>		
b. Municipality and County	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="Miami-Dade"/>		
c. Organization Type	<input type="checkbox"/> For Profit Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Non Profit 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Non Profit 501(c)(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Local Entity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University or College <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		
d. First Name	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="Gigi"/>	Last Name	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text" value="Giobio"/>
e. E-mail Address	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text" value="mgiobio@med.miami.edu"/>		



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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.