



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3290

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This program provides Florida's K-12 students with an immersive, inspirational experience in the American Space Program, by integrating space missions into the STEM curriculum both virtually and in person at the Kennedy Space Center to enhance learning and engagement. Tailored to grade level, it fosters a deep interest in space exploration while equipping students with in-site into the critical STEM skills needed. By exposing students to real-world applications and career opportunities in the aerospace industry, the initiative inspires them to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering, and math, expanding their awareness of the vast possibilities within space exploration.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>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)	500,000	30%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	1,066,374	63%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	125,000	7%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,691,374</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)?

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
<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 Educators @ \$70,000 and 1 Lead Educator @ 85,000 each to provide lessons, activities, and give an orientation to the Kennedy Space Center. 1 Program Coordinator/ Logistics Director @\$75,000 to oversee scheduling, entry, procurement, Liaison between NASA and AMF educational initiatives. 1 Technology Support @ \$50,000 to maintain new technology in all spaces	350,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Educational Supplies and content creation @ \$50,000 - Allow for the purchase of materials used in hands-on activities, demonstrations and the creation of educational content. Update the technologies in all classrooms @ \$100,000 - to be used to create the classrooms of the future using technology to transform the current spaces into a hands on interactive environment.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>



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**13. Program Performance**

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

Support for this program will provide 25,000 Florida K-12 students firsthand experience of the American Space Program. Technology upgrades and added resources will expand the program's reach by over 525% and allow for on-demand and streaming educational content to be available to all students and teachers statewide. The goal is to spark students' interest in space exploration and encourage them to actively participate in it through tailored programming and associated STEM content.

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

This free program will engage students in hands-on lessons tailored to grade-level and introduce them to NASA missions and associated STEM content learning centered around current and future missions from educators, subject matter experts, or even an Astronaut. Students will also explore the KSC Visitor Center to learn about space exploration during their visit.

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

Over 25,000 Florida K-12 students (up from 4,000) will take part in hands-on lessons that deepen their understanding of space exploration, aerospace missions, and the skills vital to the American space program. Tailored by grade level, these STEM-focused lessons help students connect their experiences at KSC with classroom learning, ensuring they can apply their knowledge beyond their visit.

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

The initiative expects to expand its reach significantly, increasing student participation from the current 4,000 to over 25,000 K-12 students from school districts across Florida, as well as students from schools of choice and a growing home-school population. This will be accomplished by providing immersive, inspiring experiences at the Kennedy Space Center and virtually.

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

The primary expected benefits of this project are to significantly expand access to high-quality space and STEM education by inspiring students and educators with the knowledge necessary to increase awareness in space exploration and related STEM fields. Therefore, enhancing Florida's role as a national leader in space education and exploration. The success of this project will be measured using a combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics, including:

- Tracking the number of students engaged in educational programs annually.
- Pre- and post-program surveys to assess changes in student interest in STEM and aerospace careers.
- Evaluating student applications for participation in events.
- Collecting feedback from teachers and educators on program effectiveness.
- Measuring the number of schools and districts incorporating AMF's virtual and hands-on STEM resources.

**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?**

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met would be returned to the state.

**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.*