



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3298

1. **Project Title** Florida Gulf Coast University Babcock Ranch Learning, Research and Outreach Facility

2. **Senate Sponsor** Kathleen Passidomo

3. **Date of Request** 3/6/2025

4. **Project/Program Description**

FGCU has consistently emphasized environmental stewardship, integrating it into the university's mission, programs, and academic core. Dating back to 2008, FGCU and Babcock Property Holdings identified a shared interest in resiliency and began discussions about forming a partnership in Charlotte County. These discussions have laid the groundwork for a partnership where FGCU will create a learning community focused on resiliency and best practices, in collaboration with Babcock Ranch.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Board of Governors

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	43,464,553
Total State Funds Requested	43,464,553

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)	43,464,553	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	43,464,553	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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?** No

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?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

07/01/2028

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

Operational funding will be derived from current appropriations and/or auxiliary related revenues if available.

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.

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). State owned facility.

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 funding is for the planning, constructions and equipment of the new facility. The land will be provided by Babcock Ranch.	43,464,553
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		43,464,553

13. Program Performance

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

Resiliency through service-learning and internships: Students will gain practical experience in resilient and best practices through service-learning and internship opportunities by working with local organizations and industries focused on resiliency, fostering career-readiness and a commitment to environmental stewardship while sharing information with our Southwest Florida community. Additionally, the Charlotte County hub will include agribusiness and better serve our five county region.



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

Research initiatives, field experimentation, and scholarly pursuits. Additionally, the development of graduate degrees, courses of study (including early college programs and degree completion options like FGCU Complete), certificate offerings, service-learning opportunities, internships, co-ops, and community outreach programs.

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

It will improve graduation rates, retention rates and provide a skilled workforce. Develop partnerships through research and industry to promote environmental stewardship and resiliency with community outreach.

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

University students with thousands of students served.

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

Strengthen academic and workforce alignment with curricula that meet our regional demand, respond to industry trends, include transferable skills and empower students to pursue involvement to gain hands-on work to deepen the connection to the community. Metrics: FTIC Four Year Graduation Rates; Retention and % of Bachelor's Graduates Employed \$40K+. State University Performance-based Metrics.

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?

All FGCU construction contracts have mechanisms for penalties and payment retaining in order to create incentives for the project to be completed on time.

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

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:



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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

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.