



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3387

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Construction of the new Florida Wildlife Interactive Education Center (FWIEC) to include costs relating to the sitework, hardscaping, landscaping, associated infrastructure, parking, lighting, buildings, and ancillary structures. Also includes costs for highly interactive educational & advanced technology elements and furniture, fixtures & equipment throughout the FWIEC. The FWIEC will be dedicated to educating residents from all of Florida, and of all ages, on Florida's legacy of preservation, agriculture, ranching, and farming.

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	24,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	24,000,000

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)	24,000,000	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	24,000,000	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		
2024-25	0	6,000,000		No

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3387

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	Construction of the new Florida Wildlife Interactive Education Center (FWIEC) to include costs relating to the sitework, hardscaping, landscaping, associated infrastructure, parking, lighting, buildings, and ancillary structures. Also includes costs for highly interactive educational & advanced technology elements and furniture, fixtures & equipment throughout the FWIEC.	24,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		24,000,000

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3387

Will enrich cultural experience; Improve agricultural production/promotion/education; Improve quality of education. Community hub involving residents and visitors, offering workshops and training on sustainable farming practices showcasing different agricultural techniques & technologies. Will incorporate interactive and hands-on learning experiences from a multidisciplinary approach using technology integration, create outdoor classrooms and outdoor adventure activities, environmental clubs, networking & conferences; invite guest speakers, and engage students with Scientific research and more.

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

Organized events, festivals, workshops, presentations that showcase cultural celebrations and traditions, incorporating environmental themes. Create local partnerships to create joint exhibits to explore the interplay of culture and environment. Educational Programs tailored to school, locals, and visitors promoting Organic Farming practices, composting, drip irrigation, native planting, permaculture design, agroforestry, Integrated Pest Management, seed-saving program, rainwater harvesting, etc. Can also extend educational platforms to schools, community organizations, and Online education platforms to reach a broader audience.

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

The residents of Florida, Southwest Florida, and all visitors to Florida. Target population exceeds 800.

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

Increase or improve economic activity, Increase tourism, create specific immediate job opportunities; enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality. The FWIEC will be actively involved in the preservation of critical ecosystems, endangered species, and mobilizing support for policies and initiatives that protect the environment. Encourage conservation efforts and promote responsible stewardship of natural resources. Will hire people from different ages encouraging our local community to participate. Encourage volunteer programs, intern and outreach programs. Requires additional staff for admin and all 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?

Standard Penalties

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#:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3387

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) Independent Special District

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number **Ext.**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3387

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.