



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2415

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Construction of a new 10,000 sq. ft. Eco-Discovery Center which will be located on a 22-acre county owned parcel on SR100 along the Heritage Crossroads Byway and approximately 1 mile east of I-95 and 3 miles west of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway in Flagler Beach. This location is also approximately .25 miles from the newly constructed pedestrian bridge and adjacent to the future Bulow Creek Headwaters Regional Park. This conservation and educational center will act as the main hub in Flagler County to protect, conserve and enhance recreational, natural, historical, and cultural resources.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	10,000,000	70%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	4,335,052	30%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>14,335,052</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future 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.**

Other State and/or Federal Grants. TDC funds are being used for a portion of this project.

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**



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**If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.**

Flagler County has received approximately \$20 million from CARES which was used for business and individual assistance grants, local government including municipalities and public safety. Flagler County has also received \$22 million in ARPA funds which is for local infrastructure projects and broadband.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 11. 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?**

**12. 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.**

Flagler County Board of County Commissioners

### 13. 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: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Permitting, site work and construction of a 10,000 square foot facility	10,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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Construction of the Flagler County Regional Conservation & Eco-Discovery Educational Center will further support the goals, objectives, and strategic priorities of Flagler County, Northeast Florida Regional Council, and the Scenic A1A Byways. The Eco-Discovery Center aims to provide unique, immersive, and educational experiences for nature and cultural heritage enthusiasts, families, and educational groups while increasing economic activity, job creation, and enhanced quality of life.

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

Construction of a new 10,000 sq. ft. Eco-Discovery Center will be situated in an ecologically significant part of the county, and will offer interactive exhibits, guided tours, recreational services (biking, hiking, birding, kayaking, wildlife viewing) and various revenue streams. It will support local entities regionally and provide information, education, and interpretation of local resources.

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

The Center will be the main hub for regional ecotourism information to provide experiences for recreational and educational opportunities. Facility will also include indoor/outdoor event space for rental opportunities that will fill a gap in the community as indicated in a recent study. Connectivity and access to future Bulow Creek Regional Park, new pedestrian bridge, and existing trails.

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

All county residents (130K) plus tourists visiting the area. There are currently millions of tourists that come to the Sunshine State each year. The new Eco-Discovery Center will be 30 minutes from Daytona and St. Augustine. These two cities combined host well over 17 million tourists each year. Since the Center will be located right off I-95, they could tap into the millions of tourists already coming to the area.

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

The center will improve the physical health of the public through offering various eco-tourism experiences including hiking, biking and kayaking. This would be measured through the number of people coming to the center and requesting information on these activities. It will also improve transportation conditions into Flagler Beach through offering a shuttle service from the center to the beach area. This will be measured through the number of riders. Finally it will increase economic activity and tourism for Flagler County and local businesses through supporting and advertising of the local businesses at the center. This will be measured by the number of tourists visiting with hotel stays and the number of businesses indicating increased traffic and sales as a result of the promotion.

**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 the contract?**

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

**16. Recipient Contact Information**

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- 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**

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**