



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2545

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

In 2023, FIO enhanced its statewide oceanographic research capabilities by acquiring through donation the 117' Research Vessel (R/V) Western Flyer. Built in 1996, the ship has all its original machinery and appurtenances. A midlife refit & remodel and equipment modernization for the Western Flyer will bring a technologically advanced research platform into Florida's R/V fleet and extend the service life of the vessel serving Florida and the nation's marine research needs for another 20+ years.

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

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	6,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	6,000,000

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)	6,000,000	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 2024-2025	6,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future 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.**

Private philanthropic funds could be used to fund the equipment in lieu of state funding but this vessel is state-owned by the USF Board of Trustees.

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



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Yes

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

USF has received institutional COVID-19 assistance funding from the federal government but the funds received cannot be used for the project outlined in this request.

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.

13. 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: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding for the following: Overhaul 5 main diesel engines, overhaul 2 GE electric drive motors, upgrade dynamic positioning system, upgrade ride stabilization systems, upgrade/replace aging and underpowered A/C, install ballast water management system, replace deck crane, update mission control room for new remotely operated vehicle, remodel wet and dry research labs & other updates as necessary.	6,000,000
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)		6,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The funds will be used to refit, remodel and provide an equipment modernization to the Western Flyer, a 117' research vessel that FIO acquired in 2023 to enhance its statewide oceanographic research capabilities. The ship was built in 1996 and has all its original machinery and mostly original equipment, and this funding will provide equipment to bring a technologically advanced research platform into Florida's R/V fleet and extend the service life of the vessel serving Florida and the nation's marine research needs.

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

A mid-life refit and remodel of the R/V Western Flyer so that the ship is safe for extended time at sea and technologically advanced research can be performed. The equipment is needed to recruit world-class researchers and conduct preeminent oceanographic research.

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

This will provide students with a unique mix of at-sea and on-shore training and mentoring opportunities to help build skills in the field of Ocean STEAM. The vessel is purposed for the Peerside Program that focuses on engaging students who don't have access to sea-going platforms. The new equipment and technology gives students access to marine science through at-sea experiences.

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

High school and university students. Approximately 200+ students will be served. Plus world-class marine science researchers across the state who are members of the FIO, including all 12 SUS institutions and other state entities like the FWC.

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

This equipment including new advanced mapping equipment will support advancements and investments being made to map all of Florida's coastlines to better understand flooding patterns and habitat - Expanded research, educational and mentoring opportunities for students in critical areas like marine science and oceanographic research. Equipment will help understand critical issues such as water quality and quantity, red tides and other harmful algal blooms, sand movement and availability for healthy beaches, fisheries resources, accurately tracking whale and other marine mammal migrations to co-exist with economically important uses such as shipping, ports, tourism and fishing.

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?

Return of funds if deliverables are not met.

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

For Profit Entity



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- 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