



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1683

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative (FCI) is a unique program led by the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, which was awarded designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This program aims to understand and address why Firefighters are at increased risk of developing and dying of cancer relative to the populations that they serve. FCI supports novel translational research, wide scale education and prevention initiatives, and collaboration with Firefighters to develop and implement practices that can reduce noxious exposures associated with disease.

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	3,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	3,500,000

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)	3,500,000	99%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	30,000	1%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,530,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	2,000,000		No

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.

In the absence of state funding, FCI would suffer significantly. Because of the Florida Legislatures generous investment, FCI is at the forefront of the national effort to address the excess cancer risk in firefighters and our goal is to continue to lead in this way. We,are however, always seeking alternative funding sources to support our work, including federal and foundation grants.



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

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

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	Faculty, research team members and project management team	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Research equipment, supplies, and travel	2,500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Research outreach, recruitment, and education	500,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified the Working group of occupational exposure as a firefighter as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), on the basis of sufficient evidence for cancer in humans. With this new classification, FCI will continue to expand firefighters access to cancer screening through our mobile clinic, which provides screenings on-site at fire stations locally; expand access to clinical screenings in remote and rural areas of the state of Florida via telemedicine; develop a satellite resource center in St.Lucie/Martin/Indian River counties to create a physical presence in this area as well as navigate firefighters and their families to care at Sylvester, provide support services to survivors, and enroll firefighters in FCI studies; expand access to education on best practices for cancer risk reduction including on-line access to curriculum and developing guidelines for sub groups; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk.

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

Expand research on characterizing firefighter cancer as well as expand access to cancer screening and earlier detection of disease through 2 mobile clinics and telemedicine; expand access for firefighters across the state to education on best practices for cancer risk reduction and prevention strategies, including virtual curriculum and education modules for firefighters and firefighter cancer survivors; and tailored guidelines for sub groups; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk and field test new technology and methods that measure exposure in the field through wearable and mobile devices; evaluate the impact of best practices on cancer risk reduction; and work with IARC and WHO internationally to highlight the need for continued research on cancer in the fire service and collaborate with NIOSH at the Federal level in building the National Firefighter Cancer Registry.

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

Funds are invested in increasing participation in cancer screening and prevention for cancers overrepresented among active and retired firefighters, including access to these services through a unique mobile clinical infrastructure. Additionally, funds will support the expansion of clinical services to firefighters in remote and rural areas via telemedicine. FCI will develop a resource center at a satellite location to interact and navigate firefighters to services at Sylvester and provide support services to cancer survivors and their families. Funds will allow for continued evidence-based education of Florida firefighters, fire sub groups and local healthcare providers on the cancer risks from occupational exposures as well as best practices for risk reduction derived from our scientific progress to date. Funds will also provide for scientific inquiry and evaluation of cancer in the fire service and ways to track and evaluate exposures.

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

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative serves the Florida fire service, both career and volunteer firefighters including fire subgroups (investigators, wildland, trainers and urban search and rescue (USAR)). FCI has engaged over 8,000 in research projects, over 800 firefighters have been screened by the FCI clinical team. We anticipate increasing this number by 1,000 in the coming year as well as continuing in our efforts nationally, as FCI leads the national conversation on cancer in the fire service.

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

FCI aims to increase the life expectancy of firefighters and their families by better understanding cancer risks related to occupational exposures. FCI research findings will result in developing new safety standards and best practices to reduce firefighters' increased risk of developing and dying of cancer. Outcomes will be measured in various ways, including number of firefighters engaged; number of firefighters screened for cancer; successful new technologies to monitor exposure; number of tumor specimens submitted to the tumor bank to identify biomarkers and therapeutics; continued analysis of the dataset linking the Florida Cancer Data System with State firefighter data. We plan to increase uptake of best practices, including cancer screenings, as well as increase the amount of federal dollars brought to Florida for this initiative.

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?

Subject to the penalties put forth by the Florida Department Financial Services.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**



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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
- 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