



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2507

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

In an increasingly digital world, cybersecurity threats pose a serious challenge. We aim to continue building a state-of-the-art cybersecurity program that can train our students to mitigate these threats. Funding for this initiative would help in establishing laboratories, hiring renowned faculty, and providing scholarships to attract talented students. We have a major donor who is interested in partnering with us in this area to help build capacity. This could be a great public/ private partnership in the Tampa Bay region, which is becoming a hub for tech companies. Recent projections show that there will be over 1,000,000 open positions for Cyber Security roles in 2023 with less than 400,000 professionals trained to meet this demand. Threats from nation-states such as China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and others continue to grow. To build a Security Operations Center (SOC) on campus in the existing Cyber Security lab. This initiative would include lab equipment, staffing, research.

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	1,714,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,286,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</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)	3,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>3,000,000</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.



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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.

The total amount of federal assistance received by Saint Leo University during the COVID19 pandemic is \$35,559,452. The university received \$4,806,326 (Cares Act), \$10,984,932 (CRRSAA) & \$19,559,452 (American Rescue Plan). The funding was used to assist students in their transition during the pandemic with economic assistance as well as provide financial assistance to the university to maintain sustainability and capacity.

## 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.

Saint Leo University

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	3 Cybersecurity Faculty (\$150,000 salary for each plus 36% benefits cost)	612,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Hardware and software to support Cybersecurity Operations Center Computer Hardware - workstations, laptops, mobile devices; cyber-forensic kits and software, mobile cyber-forensic kits and software Routers, switches, firewalls, cyber-intrusion detection systems, security information and event management system	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	1 curriculum consultants for cyber learning module development (\$75,000 each plus 36% benefits cost)	102,000
<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	2000 Square foot cybersecurity laboratory and classroom space Build out of workspaces Build out of Cybersecurity Operations Center	1,286,000



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<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>
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**14. Program Performance**

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

Funding will help establish a cybersecurity teaching laboratory, a Security Operations Center, hire renowned faculty, and develop online cybersecurity modules to prepare graduates to enter the workforce. The Tampa Bay region is rapidly becoming a hub for tech companies. Recent projections indicate that there will be more than 1 million vacancies in cybersecurity roles in 2024, with fewer than 400,000 professionals trained to adequately meet this demand.

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

The establishment of a teaching laboratory, a Security operations center, and more will allow Saint Leo to provide exceptional curriculum to its students in the cybersecurity field.

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

University classes and laboratories will be available for Florida citizens to complete bachelor's and master's degrees in cybersecurity at Saint Leo.

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

Once completed, the program expects to serve more than 800 university and college students.

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

The project will improve the quality of education offered by Saint Leo, allowing students to obtain degrees in the highly relevant field of cybersecurity, which can be measured by the number of jobs secured by program graduates. Additionally, the program will protect the general public from harm by bolstering the cybersecurity workforce, which can also be measured by post-graduate employment data from the program.

**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?**

Appropriated funds would be returned to the state,

**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

Non Profit 501(c)(3)

Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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**