



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3194

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Tampa Bay Watch has proven highly effective in mobilizing the Tampa Bay community to participate in restoration and protection activities. Thousands of volunteers of all ages have joined forces with Tampa Bay Watch to participate in habitat restoration projects such including living shoreline creation projects which incorporate native wetland plantings and oyster reef construction, demonstrating environmental stewardship in its purest form. Learning how to achieve and maintain a healthy environment is a legacy that will influence our children and future generations for years to come.

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	1,100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,100,000</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)	1,100,000	49%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	1,141,971	51%
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>2,241,971</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

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.

Tampa Bay Watch received \$434,872 from the Paycheck Protection Program. 100% of the proceeds were used for payroll during the Covid-19 pandemic. Both of these loans were "forgiven" by the federal government.

## 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)?

No

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
<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	New Hire Restoration Specialist- 100%, 2080 hrs. @ \$17.00/hr Oyster Reef Ball Program Coordinator - 60%, 1664 hrs @ \$21.00/hr. Native Plant Program Coordinator - 80%, 1040hrs @ \$21.63 Restoration Lead Scientist - 20% Support 520hrs. @ \$40/hr. Payroll taxes & benefits	431,379
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Field Materials - \$101,550 Production Materials - \$68,850 Lab Materials - \$8,000 Office Materials - \$4,421 A/V production - \$20,000 Software - \$4,350 Equipment - \$28,800 Travel - \$52,650	288,621
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Engineering - \$110,000 Oyster Reef Ball fabrication/installation - \$270,000	380,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>
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#### 14. Program Performance

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

Sea rise imposes an existential threat to low-lying coastal communities like Tampa Bay. Living shoreline solutions provide a new nature-based approach toward long-term resiliency building that aims at preserving the increasingly delicate balance between natural and human systems. These projects will address ecosystem concerns, including the stabilization of the shoreline that helps protect local residents and species. Methods used (including community participation in implementation) will help to reduce shoreline erosion and provide optimal conditions for the settlement of coastal marshes and mangroves; provide food sources and foraging areas for a variety of important species; increase the surface area in the intertidal zone for attaching organisms which in turn increases productivity of the benthic area; provide a natural cleansing system for the bay and promote water quality improvements in the Tampa Bay estuary; and encourage stewardship through outreach and education.

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

Tampa Bay Watch will engage the community to create living shoreline projects throughout the bay, including oyster reefs, sea grass support and marsh grass plantings. Additionally, TBW will implement an oyster shell recycling program where we will work with local restaurants to collect the shells before being discarded that can be used in our living shoreline creation projects and reduce land-fill.

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

These projects generally have multiple goals and objectives including the creation and restoration of aquatic habitat, creation of foraging area and food sources for local wildlife, filtering nutrients, improving water quality, stabilizing sediments to reduce erosion and engagement of the community in environmental stewardship and hands-on restoration efforts.

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

The target population by the project is the entire Tampa Bay community. We anticipate that approximately 1,000 people will directly benefit from participating in this initiative each year with 3,000 people directly benefitting over the course of the three-year partnership. Indirectly, all of the residents of Tampa Bay area will benefit from the increase in estuarine habitat and water quality improvements provided by the projects conducted.

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

The efforts of Tampa Bay Watch to restore and protect the bay's habitat through stewardship provide effective long-term improvements to the bay and empower our community to counteract local environmental problems. Desired outcomes of successful living shorelines projects include: reduced coastal erosion, wildlife habitat creation, reduced flooding, improved water quality. In addition, a healthy Bay provides increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and supports regional tourism and commerce. This program also allows us to gain invaluable information about the long-term trends of living shoreline projects. This will be measured by the number of living shoreline projects being implemented, the number of community volunteers involved in the projects, and the monitoring data collected for the projects to that will allow for us to implement adaptive management strategies based on the findings.

##### 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?

Tampa Bay Watch (TBW) has been operating for over 30 years and has successfully completed hundreds of projects and initiatives. If the organization were unable to meet its commitments, TBW understands that funds would be reclaimed/due to the agency, and also recognizes funding for future initiatives would not be considered due to this precedent.

#### 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

### Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

#### 18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

#### 19. What is the population economic status?



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- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

**20. What is the status of construction?**

Ready

**21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

0

**22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

06/30/2027