



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2168

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Ruth Eckerd Hall is located within Pinellas County Evacuation Zone B at an elevation of approximately 10 meters above the water level of the adjacent northwest quadrant of upper Tampa Bay. The facility is also partially surrounded by a large lake immediately northwest of the property that is subject to breach of its natural shores, thus threatening the land on which the theater sits. The measures included in this facility propose to respond to past inclement weather and to take actions to promote safety and prevent further damage in the future.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	820,000
Total State Funds Requested	820,000

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)	820,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	820,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,640,000	100%

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.

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

Yes



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

REH received \$11.7M in federal relief. Funds were used for payroll, operational expenses, and facility improvements to mitigate risk from COVID-19 such as the installation of an air purification system, contactless technology, and other strategic improvements to support reopening quickly and successfully.

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

2025

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.

Ruth Eckerd Hall operates facilities owned by the City of Clearwater through long-term leasing and operating agreements. Ruth Eckerd Hall is responsible for the maintenance of the properties and all asset replacements. While the project will indirectly benefit the owner through improved hardening of the facility, the primary beneficiary of the capital investment are those using the facilities - students, employees, volunteers, and the public at large.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Expenses associated with repair of water-damaged parking lot pavement, replacement of external doors with hurricane rated fixtures, repair of lift station, sump pump and replacement of piping for flood prevention, fire pump repair and replacement of alarm control board, and repainting of external building damaged by inclement weather.	820,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		820,000

14. Program Performance



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

Ruth Eckerd Hall is a critical cultural asset to the community and one that is threatened by vulnerability to tropical weather peril. State funding would help Ruth Eckerd Hall to restore damage from past inclement weather and harden this premier entertainment facility, safeguarding patrons, residents, and its role as an engine of commercial activity in the Pinellas County community.

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

Repair water-damaged parking lot pavement, replace external doors with hurricane rated fixtures, repair lift station, sump pump and replace piping for flood prevention, fire pump repair and replacement of alarm control board, repaint external building damaged by inclement weather.

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

Ruth Eckerd Hall is located within Pinellas County Evacuation Zone B at an elevation of approximately 10 meters above the water level of the nearly adjacent northwest quadrant of upper Tampa Bay. The facility is also partially surrounded by a large lake immediately northwest of the property that is subject to breach of its natural shores, thus threatening the land on which our theater sits. The measures included in this facility propose to respond to past inclement weather and to take actions to promote safety and prevent further damage in the future.

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

458,000 patrons from local, national, and international markets who attend Ruth Eckerd Hall events are the target population of the proposed hurricane restoration and prevention project. These visitors contribute an estimated \$144 million in economic activity to the community, include state and local tax collections.

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

National and international patrons will be able to attend Ruth Eckerd Hall events more secure from the threats and vulnerabilities of tropical weather peril.

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met 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)



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- 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