



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3226

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Chamber is committed to advancing existing businesses and attracting new economic opportunities and constructively influencing public policy to support entrepreneurship. We value the culture and diversity, while embracing economic prosperity and innovation as key components to build value for our members and partners in new and innovative ways. The PRCCCF also incorporates programing to help entrepreneurs cultivate leadership skills. In the coming months, we will launch a minority/women business enterprise series, where members will complete MWBE applications during the program – taught by an expert from a certifying agency. The idea is for the PRCCCF to become a resource center and serve as a liaison for companies interested in investing in Florida while providing economic growth opportunities for ALL Central Florida small and medium businesses. Some of the educational programing and opportunities we provide include Lunch & Learn sessions, Leadership Academy, & Small Business expo

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	187,500
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	187,500

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	187,500	83%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	37,500	17%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	225,000	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.

As a 501c6 organization, we survive on membership payments by our chamber members and fundraiser events.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3226

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

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	Currently all PRCCCF Executive Board and Board of Directors positions are voluntary and we do not have an Executive Director. These funds will help us hire an Executive Director to help us carry out the chamber's annual operating plan including proposed goals, targets and strategies; identify tactics and initiatives to carry out the plan; monitor the plan and make amendments as necessary; provide leadership and direction to the Board to complete an annual evaluation process of the organization.	45,000
Other Salary and Benefits	The chamber also needs an executive assistant to assist the Executive Board and Executive Director with administrative tasks such as following up with current members, sending follow up emails and correspondence to members, partners, and chamber activities sponsors. Assisting during meetings and chamber activities in event set-up, logistics, and coordination.	24,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The chamber currently uses borrowed equipment from its members based on the nature of the activity and availability. Many times our volunteers use their own equipment and cover their own travel expenses this will assist us to provide our volunteers with the supplies and equipment to carry out their administrative duties. Such equipment includes laptops, tablets, printer/scanner, POS system, as well as office supplies such as copy paper, ink, and digital tool memberships.	26,250



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3226

Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	As part of our bylaws and best practices the chamber conducts yearly retreats for our board members and leaders where consultants are brought in to provide education and training. We also need legal advice when entering MOUs with other organizations and entities. As part of our commitment to transparency and integrity a yearly audit of our financial records is conducted through a third party company not involved in chamber activities.	26,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Currently all PRCCCF Executive Board and Board of Directors positions are voluntary as well as our group leaders and ambassadors. This will allow us to provide stipends, and other tangible benefits for our leader volunteers who carry out the operations. Being able to provide these type of benefits will encourage staff and volunteer's development and education, and will help us maintain a climate which attracts, keeps, and motivates a diverse staff of top quality people.	15,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	As mentioned before the chamber currently uses borrowed equipment from its members based on the nature of the activity and availability. Our boards and leaders not only donate their valuable time but also their computers and AV equipment to help us carry out activities and overall chamber operations. This funds will be use for AV equipment such as projectors and screens as well as supplies. Aside from being able to cover some travel expenses like mileage reimbursement for leaders and volunteers.	26,250
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	This funds will allow our Board of Directors concentrate on the macro activities of identifying growth and business development opportunities, by covering costs related to organizing, directing , and coordinating of events and activities. Also covering marketing costs, currently such costs take away from being able to provide additional resources and services for our small businesses and entrepreneurs. We will be able to distribute materials to our members and handle all the logistics.	25,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		187,500

14. Program Performance

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

Chambers are recognized as organizations designed to provide commerce opportunities to its members via networking activities, but the PRCCCF also incorporates programing to help entrepreneurs cultivate leadership skills and provide training for our members expand and scale their business operations. Our goal is to be able to provide additional services and resources to our small and medium size business community free of cost. Small businesses often do not have the neither the time nor the financial means to hire professional service providers to assist them in areas such a legal advice, marketing, procurement services, and guiding them through the government requirements at all levels. The goal is for the PRCCCF to become the resource center for Central Florida small and medium size businesses by being able to provide these services a low or no cost, thus creating more economic growth for the region as a whole.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3226

Monthly Lunch & Learn Sessions, activities that have featured procurement officers from various local agencies; includes a minority/veteran/women business enterprise series, where members will complete MVWBE applications during the program taught by an expert from a certifying agency. This hands-on type of activity is the caliber of practical educational programming the Chamber offers during these sessions. The annual Business Expo & Conference includes workshops from regional workforce development agency on free available resources for entrepreneurs; as well as a presentation from a municipal economic development office on business technical support services offered in the region as sponsored by local Central Florida governments. Our Leadership Academy is a powerhouse of leadership cultivation, this one-day event opens the opportunities for members to showcase their products and services, in addition to a significant number of "Stephen Covey style" leadership trainings.

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

Some of the direct services that will be provided by this appropriation project includes but are not limited to, assistance registering new businesses with the state and the IRS, as well as help obtaining the required permits, licenses, and industry specific insurance and bonds. We will provide hands on assistance obtaining MWBE as well as VMBE certifications with state and local governments. Other services will include accounting consulting, marketing consulting, preparing and submitting RFPs, assistance identifying funding sources like the SBA and local banks; and assistance with exporting and importing goods and services. The PR Chamber of Commerce also serves non-profits and faith organizations for these entities we will provide the same services, but also referral services to prospective donors and sponsors, and training about how to prepare to received grants and how to provide accurate reporting to government entities and corporate donors.

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

Our target population is the regions' Hispanic and minority small and medium size business community. Florida is home to 2.8 million small businesses, 31 percent of those businesses are owned by Hispanics. As the Hispanic population continues to increase, so will the need and demand of the services and resources the chamber provides. Although the Chamber works to empower Puerto Rican businesses within the Central Florida economy, it values and appreciates inclusion and diversity, as show by the approximately 150 company memberships, whose owners are not of Puerto Rican lineage. We expect to served anywhere between 800 to 1,200 individuals given the demand for these services, and the demand for the services to be provided in Spanish as we have experienced the past four years.

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

The expected outcome of this project is to increase the number of new small businesses in the state, to increase the number of prepare small minority businesses with the capabilities and capacity to partake in the procurement process for large corporations and government entities in the state. Providing these services will help small and medium size businesses to grow and hire more employees. The expected benefit for the region and the state is an increase in economic development, and increase in employment, and an increase of local tax money to provide municipalities with the resources to expand services for the community. Another expected outcome is to attract new business opportunities and investment from foreign companies. These outcomes can be easily measured by accounting for the number minority certifications attained, the number of business participating in the procurement process, number of new business created, increase in new employees, and the number of businesses served.

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?

Standard contract penalties.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information



The Florida Senate

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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) 501(c)(6)

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