



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2146

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Riverfront Education Center will serve as a visitor & education center with exhibits for the residents & visitors of Miami-Dade County. The closest environmental education center is Biscayne Nature Center, which is 14-miles south on Key Biscayne. The closest others are 40-miles south at Biscayne & Everglades National Parks. The site will host community events, summer camps with scholarships for lower income students & lectures by scientists from FWC, DEP & state universities.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	700,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	700,000

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)	700,000	58%
Matching Funds		
Federal	500,000	42%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,200,000	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.

\$199,000 in PPP over PPP 1 & 2 (two years); We also received \$15,000 in EIDL. We used the funding to pay our staff.

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		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	The funding will help support the construction of the education center.	700,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		700,000

14. Program Performance

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

The Riverfront Education Center will serve as a visitor & education center with exhibits for the residents & visitors of Miami-Dade County. The closest environmental education center is Biscayne Nature Center, which is 14-miles south on Key Biscayne. The closest others are 40-miles south at Biscayne & Everglades National Parks. The site will host community events, summer camps with scholarships for lower income students & lectures by scientists from FWC, DEP & state universities.



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

Our Riverfront Education Center will serve as a place for the community to view manatees in the wild, learn about the Everglades, bird migrations, impacts to wildlife, as well as about the natural resources and diverse habitats of Florida. Residents will watch nature videos, view exhibits, engage in games, scientific lectures and more.

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

School groups will be able to learn about the habitat and the importance of protecting it. Future generations of Floridians will be able to appreciate nature and be inspired to be active in conservation.

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

Elderly persons, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, physically disabled, preschool students, grade school students, high school students, university/college students.

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

Visitors will have improved physical health by walking the natural river walk to view manatees that is adjacent the terrace outside the education center. Include programming relating to the benefits of being in nature. This venue will enhance Miami-Dade County's growing reputation as a major tourist attraction in the field of the environment. Track where visitors come from and why they chose to visit through surveys. Students in different grade levels will be able to learn about the environment in their own community. Track number of students visiting and the programming they receive. Visitors will learn about the diverse habitats and species of Florida as well as ways to enhance and preserve Florida's natural resources. Track programming for visitors. Residents of Miami-Dade County that have an interest in the environment may choose to gain employment (full-time, part-time, volunteer, intern) with Pelican Harbor and improve their knowledge/professional skills. Track new employees.

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?

If deliverables are not met (i.e. construction of a native wildlife hospital and environmental education center) the FDEP will issue or reclaim the funds.

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)

Local Entity



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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