



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 2548

1. **Project Title** Gulf World Marine Institute - Marine Animal Rehabilitation and Necropsy Facility

2. **Senate Sponsor** George Gainer

3. **Date of Request** 01/28/2020

4. **Project/Program Description**

Gulf World Marine Institute, Inc. (GWMI) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that is permitted by National Marine Fisheries Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to perform stranding response work. GWMI rescues, rehabilitates, and releases stranded, sick, or injured marine mammals and sea turtles along the Florida Panhandle coast. This project has two goals: (1) to replace our 30 year old facility in order to enhance and expand existing response and rehabilitation capabilities, as well as add a much needed necropsy building and (2) to create space for new public information and research programs for stranded marine animals in the Bay County and northern Gulf of Mexico area.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

State Agency contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	700,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1000000	59.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	60,000	4 %
Other	616,705	37 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	1,676,705	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Other Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Gulf World Marine Institute will implement a research study that will establish a baseline of bottlenose dolphin behavioral habits and habitat conditions in our region. This improved understanding of our local populations will allow us to recognize changes in their behavior that could result from a deterioration in habitat quality or an influence by human activity. The equipment, supplies and fuel for this research will be funded.	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	It is our intent to contract services for boat use and crew for this project. Our employees will be on board and responsible for research operations and data compilation. These services would also be used to address stranded animals that are only accessible with a boat.	75,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Other operational costs will include startup costs encountered that are not covered in the construction contract.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	For other consulting and contracted services not allocated in the construction budget.	50,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	GWMI will replace the current 30 year old operations facility, which is a 1,100 sq ft irreparable space, with a 5,500 sq ft facility. This will include one building for sample processing, veterinary procedures, public and school education programs, research and administrative activities, and an additional building to serve as a sorely needed separate necropsy lab.	700,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000



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11. Program Performance

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

(1) Replace our current 30 year old building by constructing a new 4,400 sq ft facility and adding a separate 1,100 sq ft necropsy lab. (2) Create space to disseminate new public and school information and provide additional space for research programs related to the stranded marine animals in Bay County and the northern Gulf of Mexico. These goals will provide new capabilities to accomplish our missions of stranded marine animal rescue, rehabilitation and release, and education. Our conservation research will be shared with networks partners, including research facilities, NMFS and FWC.

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

The new facilities will be designed, constructed and equipped with the necessary tools for our work. We will also implement a new research program that will allow us to gather important and beneficial dolphin behavioral and habitat information that will be provided to appropriate governmental and research agencies.

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

Gulf World Marine Institute will fulfill our authorized responsibilities through the response, rehabilitation, and release of stranded marine mammals and sea turtles, and through the dissemination of information via educational programs for our public schools and the general public with regards to conservation. Finally, this project will allow us to expand our response capacity. All of the data from our programs will be shared with the conservation research community as a whole.

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

The target audiences of this project include researchers interested in our data collected from local marine animal populations; we will be able to provide space for visiting researchers that was not previously available. Local public school groups and other organizations interested in learning more about our work will be able to visit the new facility. This is an important outreach opportunity that has been requested in the past, but has not been available. Finally, we will target the audience of conservation-minded people, especially those interested in the protection and preservation of endangered species.

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

The implementation of this project will result in the increase of GWMI's capacities to fulfill our responsibilities towards the missions of stranded marine animal rescue, public education and conservation research. We will actively document the number of individuals impacted by each event, including stranding responses, releases, and scheduled educational events, and compare those values over time. The project will be deemed successful with increasing numbers of people that we have influenced. Every piece of invaluable data we collect improves our knowledge and ability to protect these animals in their natural environment. Additionally, GWMI is reviewed annually by FWC and NMFS, and their continued feedback will document our effectiveness and success as a 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 in the contract?

Provide no additional funding.



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12. **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.**

Gulf World Marine Institute, Inc.

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.