



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2084

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

To be able to meet the increasing demand for programs and activities, TLNC is working to build an ADA accessible, environmentally sustainable education complex. This complex will house an interpretive natural history museum, additional indoor classrooms, an outdoor covered and screened teaching space, a small meeting room, and outdoor accessible bathrooms. In addition, parking for 100 cars with a safe loading and unloading area for school buses is included in the plan. As it is anticipated that Florida will be fully open this year, the time to build is now.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,100,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	33%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	3,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21		500,000	2272	Yes

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.

Two paycheck protection program loans were received in the amount of approximately \$39,240. In addition, CARES Act funding was received from the Florida Humanities Council in the amount of \$5,000. These funds were used for payroll costs, utilities, and contractor costs as allowed by these programs.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The Executive Director will manage the overall project and interface with contractors, agencies, engineers, funders, etc. for approximately 10% of the time.	20,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Other staff, such as maintenance and habitat, to interface with designing and construction efforts.	10,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	A grants/fundraising contractor has assisted TLNC in raising funds to support this project and will continue to do so.	10,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	A project manager will be hired to manage construction, site prep, etc., of the building and expansion.	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Furniture and exhibit design.	250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Architect and civil and construction engineers are required to develop building design, site plans, permit requirements, parking and roadway design. Surveyor is required for all aspects of construction.	560,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Building construction and outside facilities and equipment.	1,100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

Provide nature-based education for the region, visitors, and students. To expand programs and increase audience, TLNC needs to build additional classrooms (indoor and outdoor), replace the aging natural history museum trailer, improve the road and parking system, provide outdoor ADA accessible bathrooms, and add a meeting room. Construction will also allow for a nature play area for smaller children and provide additional space to offer overlapping programs.

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

Construct indoor and outdoor teaching areas, new natural history museum, outdoor accessible restrooms, small community meeting space, and additional exhibit and education storage with administrative offices. It would include relocating the maintenance work area and developing a low-impact parking area.

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

Serving as the only nature center in Lake County, TLNC will be able to expand education programs and events and add new programs. Having an updated and improved interpretive natural history museum will benefit visitors' learning. Concurrent programs will be possible and business retreats, professional development training, and ecotherapy programs can be expanded.

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



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In 2019, 10,568 students, adults, and families participated in TLNC's environmental education programs and over 13,544 visitors walked the trails, visiting the museum and exhibits. The outreach programs worked with 3,385 people. With all programs, activities, and outreach, TLNC interacted with and educated approximately 27,500 people. In 2020, 19,681 people visited the site with education numbers being reduced because of COVID-19 but outreach maintaining at 3,359. Although interactions were different, TLNC still educated and provided services to 24,555 people in 2020.

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

Programs are evaluated using quantitative and qualitative methods, visitation is tracked, participant numbers recorded, and online reviews are used.

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?

TLNC would expect typical penalties to apply.

13. 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.

The facility is owned by the Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc., a Florida based, nonprofit corporation.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number