



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1932

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Broward County Crime Lab is a forensics and criminology facility that will collocate two major Forensic Science and Pathology Institutes of Broward County, the Broward County Office of Medical Examiner & Trauma Services (OMETS) and the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Crime Laboratory and Crime Scene Unit. Additionally, the joint facility will house a City of Fort Lauderdale Police Substation and community/training room. The building will provide advanced technological and scientific tools for forensic experts to meet the demands of a growing County population. The new facility supports broad scientific pursuits such as medical examination and evidence analysis that will benefit our community by answering the difficult questions that follow death and criminal activity

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,350,616
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,350,616</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,350,616	59%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	2,328,394	41%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>	<b>5,679,010</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.**
- The County is currently funding the entire project.

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



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Yes

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

CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation: \$340,744,702  
 American Rescue Plan Act FY 2022: \$189,652,117  
 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021):  
 \$53,000,000  
 \*Please see attached document with breakdown of federal relief funding as of July 15, 2021.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Pre-construction and design	3,350,616
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,350,616</b>

**12. Program Performance**

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

The Crime Lab Expansion Needs Assessment Study completed for the Broward Sheriff's Office, March 28, 2017 addressed key concerns of the existing BSO Crime Lab and identified several issues with the current facility. The BSO Crime Lab has grown into its current space by renovating into all the available adjacent spaces (four renovations since 1994). Today, staff is condensed into inefficient areas. This condition has led to:

- A loss in productivity.
- Less than optimal number of instruments.
- Reduced ventilation.
- Loss of qualified staff.
- Inadequate space and no room to grow (projections indicate staff will grow to 117 from the current 54 employees).

Additionally, the Broward County OMETS facility was built in 1973 and has outlived its useful life. The existing structure does not meet the requirements of an essential facility and can no longer accommodate the Medical Examiner's needs.

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

The Broward County Medical Examiner's Office uniquely combines the services of the Medical Examiner, forensic toxicology and trauma services. The pathology and toxicology divisions work closely with law enforcement to determine causes of death, and staff provides expert testimony at criminal and civil trials. The BSO Crime Lab provides all public law enforcement agencies in Broward County with scientific forensic analysis of physical evidence. The lab currently employs 54 people and processed 18,388 cases in FY 2021-22.

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



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The Crime Lab will be easily accessible from I-95 and the site for the new facility will be in the heart of Broward County, in a mixed-use area. The building will provide advanced technological and scientific tools for forensic experts to meet growing demands. The development of the Crime Lab will enhance many aspects of the local community:

Beautifying the neighborhood. The Crime Lab will be a highly attractive enhancement to the neighborhood's overall appearance, with the potential to influence the value of residences and surrounding structures.

Improved sense of security through law enforcement presence. The new Forensic Science Center, with a technical school next door and multiple places of worship in the surrounding community, will visibly enhance the sense of safety and security due to an increased presence of law enforcement.

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

See above.

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

The operating budget of Crime Lab services provided by the state was \$59,691,372 in FY 2020-21, while the five locally operated crime labs received only \$2,978,011 total. Of that allocation, the BSO Crime Lab received only \$509,613.72 in FY 2020-21. While a locally operated crime lab may be funded up to 75% by the state, the BSO Crime lab has received less than 6% of its \$8,526,712 operating budget from state funds and 94% from Broward County. As a result, Broward County seeks specific appropriations from the state to offset the design and construction cost of the BSO Crime Lab.

**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 County contract enforcement mechanisms will 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.**

Broward County will own and operate the facility in partnership with the Broward County Sheriff's Office.



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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