



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2738

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

Continue state funding for the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network (FPREN). FPREN is composed of the 13 public radio stations in Florida. It is headquartered at WUFT-FM/TV at the University of Florida in Gainesville. It represents the only true radio network in the state and it works closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management during times of crisis and emergencies. FPREN provides a valuable service to the state. It conducts operations on regular service needs, but also on unique and substantial events that are unpredictable. FPREN's impact has grown substantially in recent years, with more and more people engaging the service's digital offerings, social media feeds, and the mobile app "Florida Storms." FPREN currently receives \$166,270 in state funding. We are currently requesting an additional \$125,000.

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	291,270
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	291,270

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)	291,270	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	291,270	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	166,270	0	GA119	No

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.**

FPREN has general support from WUFT. Public radio stations pay membership dues to FPREN.

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



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No

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	See below.	0
Other Salary and Benefits	See below.	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	See below.	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	See below.	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	FPREN receives state funding in support of its mission to provide public safety content to every public media entity in Florida. It conducts routine operations but also provides unique services for unpredictable weather events. As such, FPREN is given wide discretion by DOE for how the funds can be spent. Most of the appropriation goes to salaries and benefits. Additional funding would support increased services which directly impact Floridians when they need it most.	291,270
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	See above.	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	See above.	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	N/A	0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		291,270

12. Program Performance

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

Public safety communications are an ongoing investment. Keeping up with technology and shifting consumer demands requires an organization to be constantly updating equipment, workflows and services. The increased funding allows FPREN to maintain its leadership role in public safety communications and its steadfast partnership with the state on such projects as the statewide "Know Your Zone" initiative.

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

FPREN through its reporting on air and social media and through its mobile app – Florida Storms – provides the state a reliable and trustworthy partner to communicate 24/7 in times of an emergency or crisis. It also provides each public media organization in Florida with a live website tool that provides their local market with the latest information from the FPREN Storm Center.

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

The Florida Storms app is a must-have app for Floridians as it provides up-to-the-minute weather information and news, and highly local information such as evacuation routes and open nearby shelters. It was built and enhancements have been made routinely to ensure it's utilizing state of the art technology to update users. The popularity of the app, now used by tens of thousands of Floridians each month, is a powerful statement to the reach of FPREN far beyond public media audiences.

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



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Floridians can access FPREN through its local public radio station broadcast signal or website. They also can receive reports through Facebook and Twitter. FPREN's social media initiatives allow Floridians to directly engage the FPREN staff and in real time ask pertinent questions or seek more detailed information about the news.

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

Public radio stations reach 99 percent of the population including much of rural and isolated Florida. Oftentimes, they are one of the few if not only radio station on the air during a hurricane. The intended audience is any Floridian concerned about their safety during a hurricane, tropical storm or other severe weather events, or state emergencies.

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?

Reduction in funding.

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.

N/A



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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) Public Media (Public Radio)

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