



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1174

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Ocean Heroes program provides professional development to students K-12 in the "Blue Economy." The program promotes critical thinking, problem solving, other essential education goals using ocean-based themes and specifically focuses on the way educators can apply this knowledge to critical subject areas and career paths, ecotourism, fisheries, maritime careers, technology, conservation and environment.

A major focus on the program is placed in highlighting extraordinary "Ocean Heroes" conservation role models, respective jobs, and career paths for students in STREAM (Science, Technology, Resiliency, Engineering, Arts & Math), Ecotourism, Fisheries, Hospitality and the Marine Industries. An additional key goal of each program is to bring public attention to critically important environmental issues, while engaging, education, and inspiring children and their families to help protect and ensure the sustained well-being of marine animals and their respective habitats.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,000,000	100%

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.



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

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

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
 N/A

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	Ocean Heroes develops creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and other essential educational goals using ocean-based themes and specifically focuses on ways educators can apply this knowledge to critical subject areas and career paths in eco-tourism, commercial fisheries, maritime careers, technology, innovation, conservation, environmental management, law-making, governance, coding and computer programming.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance



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

The "Ocean Heroes" program provides professional development and customized resources for communities for workforce development in the "Blue Economy" while inspiring these Ocean Ambassadors to become our "Leaders of Tomorrow". A key goal for the program is to bring public attention to critically important environmental issues, while engaging, educating, and inspiring communities to help protect and ensure the sustained well-being of marine animals and their respective habitats.

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

State-of-the-Art technology, computer sciences, coding to support citizen science, discovery and advocacy. Through the integration of new database technologies data sets of fish species and respective population studies are helping to develop practical ways to manage and protect them. This helps to provide a unique insight among our communities on how technology and science play a critical role in the advancement of research and conservation. Ocean Heroes citizen science initiatives are creating ways for communities and families to engage in conservations efforts, while also providing insights on career opportunities within the Blue Economy.

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

Celebration of the Sea has successfully aggregated a consortium of partners from non-profits, research organizations, educational institutions, recreation companies and retailers to champion a common mission and message to protect our oceans by advocating for the next leaders of the blue economy. Communities and families can engage in our citizen science programs within their local communities to continue their enrichment and participation in ocean conservation.

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

Celebration of the Sea's Ocean Heroes Program targets the next generation of leaders for the blue economy – K thru 12th grade. The Foundation continues to offer and provide career pathway opportunities to youth in college and trade school, as well as job placement opportunities through the foundation supporters and partnerships.

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

As part of the Ocean Heroes Program, Celebration of the Sea Foundation works closely with schools and educators to ensure that the curriculum provided is meeting the needs of their students and classrooms. Each of the enrolled educators will have semi-annual check ins with program staff of Ocean Heroes to learn what is working and what needs adjustment. Additionally, check ins also allow for our team to observe engagement and education advancement – both quantitative and qualitatively. Celebration of the Sea tracks and measures the internship enrollment, and outcomes of who within the programs go on to pursue careers in the blue economy.

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 Celebration of the Sea Foundation does not meet the deliverables set forth in the agreement, no additional funding will be awarded until all performance measures are fulfilled. Additionally, if an extension is required; no additional funding will be sought for a period of time equal to twice the extension duration.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number