



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2754

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

These funds will be utilized to supplement GCEC monies for upgrading critical infrastructure in our service territory. This project spans approximately 18 miles along Highway 71 beginning in Wewahitchka & ending in White City serving some of our members that reside closest to the coast. This upgrade will consist of a double-circuit construction that will be built in a manner that's extremely storm hardened, greatly improving the resiliency and reliability to members in that area.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	967,681
Total State Funds Requested	967,681

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)	967,681	26%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,769,940	74%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,737,621	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.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative will be utilizing its own operating funds to cover the remaining cost of construction for this project.

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.

Gulf Coast Electric received a forgivable PPP loan by way of Centennial Bank. The amount of this loan was \$1,361,205.53 and the funds received, were applied directly against incurred labor expense during the Covid-19 pandemic. Gulf Coast Electric remained committed to keeping our offices opened and operating to best serve our membership and reduce any hardship on employees. GCEC did close our office lobbies for a short two month period, only allowing drive-thru transactions during this time.

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

February 1, 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

July 1, 2025

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.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is a not for profit, member-owned utility that is governed by an elected Board of Directors. Our day-to-day operations are managed by our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. John Bartley.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	100% of these funds will be utilized to cover material and contractor expenditures for this project. This requested amount of funds are only 26% of the total estimated expenditures. The remaining will be paid for out of GCEC's general operating account.	967,681
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		967,681

14. Program Performance

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



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The additional funding will be to supplement our capital contributions. The more grant, Federal and/or State funding we are able to achieve on any of our projects help offset that total cost so that we do not have to request additional rate increases to fund these upgrades, which as we all know, have a huge negative impact on our members.

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

These funds will be used to pay expenditures incurred related to material procurement and contractor labor during the construction of this project.

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

Upon completion of this project, GCEC will have a newly constructed, extremely storm-hardened, double-circuit distribution feeder. The main benefit that this will provide to the citizens is that there will be a drastic improvement in reliability during storm events, allowing life to continue to operate as normal prior to, during and post storm event. This new feeder will also provide additional capacity availability, allowing GCEC to shift load between the two feeders, also increasing the overall service reliability our members expect.

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

This project will directly benefit approximately 1,960 members in our service territory. The indirect benefits of this project on members of the community are immeasurable.

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

The benefit of this project will be that GCEC members served by this distribution feeder will immediately notice a huge improvement in service reliability leading up to and during storm events. Gulf Coast Electric will continually monitor reliability reports to ensure that service reliability has improved once this project has reached completion

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?

The contractor that we will be using for this project is a one that we already have an executed agreement with, which is bid in a competitive RFP every 2 years. There are certain non-performance stipulations within that contract, however, in the years that we've been in contract with this company, we have had no performance issues.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. 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



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University or College

Other (please specify) 501C (12)

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