



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1636

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

4. Project/Program Description

The CF Innovation Center, located in South Florida, is a state-of-the-art facility designed to bridge the digital divide in under-served communities by providing access to advanced technology and college and career readiness education. Serving as a hub for the Crockett Explorers and Crockett Scholars youth programs, as well as a community resource for schools across Broward County, the Center offers hands-on computer science workshops, coding classes, STEM seminars, and eSports clinics and contests. These programs equip at-risk youth with essential skills in digital and information technology, fostering career exploration in high-demand fields. The Center also provides job training programs for parents/families who are enhancing skills for career advancement and economic mobility. By combining technology with creativity, the Center empowers the next generation for success in an evolving job market as it re-imagines technical education in the state of Florida.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	34%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	435,000	29%
Other	550,000	37%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,485,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25		500,000	105	Yes

9. Is future-year 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

12. 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	All staff working in the Innovation Center will participate in ongoing professional development training to ensure they are equipped with the latest educational strategies, technology tools, and best practices to better serve our youth and their families.	10,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	A full-time Coordinator will manage the curricular and instructional needs of the youth and family programs, as well as, supervise staff assigned to the Innovation Center. The Coordinator will be compensated with an annual salary and 100% medical insurance coverage.	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The bulk of supplies or equipment that will be purchased include, but are not limited to, 3D printers, augmented reality/ virtual reality (AR/VR) goggles, laptops, consoles, program uniforms, and software licenses. Additional expenses include transportation and accommodation costs for field trips across Florida, supporting experiential learning opportunities that expand access to college and career readiness for youth and their parents.	380,250
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The Center will employ up to five (5) part-time instructors who are subject matter experts in college readiness, STEM education, digital technology, and workforce preparation to provide the majority of the instructional services in the youth and family programs. Additionally, a marketing and accounting firm shall be contracted to assist the organization with branding, advertising and fiscal monitoring services, respectively.	59,750



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:

Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The purpose of the Innovation Center is to bridge the digital divide between at-risk youth and the ever changing technology sector.

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

These programs equip at-risk youth with essential skills in digital and information technology, fostering career exploration in high-demand fields. The Center also provides job training programs for parents/families who are enhancing skills for career advancement and economic mobility.

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

Direct services to the population described include technology training, youth mentoring, job placement support, STEM workshop trainings, and other curriculum.

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

The target population is at-risk youth in the area. The anticipated number of individuals served on an annual basis ranges from 400-800.

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

Increase in employment rates and wage growth among participants after completing the program to be tracked by surveys and other employment data following their graduation; increase in household income and reduction in reliance on public assistance among participating families to be tracked by surveys following their graduation; reduction in juvenile crime rates and improvement in school attendance and academic achievement among participants to be measured by local law enforcement and school data, as well as surveys following and during their participation in the program.

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 in the contract?

Withholding of funds from State.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1636

- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

18. 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



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1636

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.