



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3009

1. Project Title University of South Florida - College of AI, Cybersecurity and Computing Facility

2. Senate Sponsor Danny Burgess

3. Date of Request 3/5/2025

4. Project/Program Description

In March 2024, USF announced its intention to establish the first college in the state focused on the rapidly evolving fields of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and computing. This new facility on the Tampa campus will principally house the USF College of AI, Cybersecurity & Computing's undergraduate, graduate & certificate programs that prepare students for high-demand careers and innovative research that leads to technological advancements in national and economic security.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Board of Governors

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	20,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	20,000,000

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)	20,000,000	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 2025-2026	20,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 20,000,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Philanthropic funding

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

3/1/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

9/1/2027

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

USF's base operational budget will need to cover plant, operations & maintenance.

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.

The Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida.

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		0
Operational Costs		
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	Architecture, design, planning, construction and engineering for the new facility to house the College of AI, Cybersecurity and Computing on the USF Tampa campus. Equipment purchases and installations within the new facility necessary to teach and conduct research in these fields.	20,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		20,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

In March 2024, USF announced its intention to establish the first college in the state focused on the rapidly evolving fields of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and computing. This new facility on the Tampa campus will principally house the USF College of AI, Cybersecurity & Computing's undergraduate, graduate & certificate programs that prepare students for high-demand careers and innovative research that leads to technological advancements in national and economic security.

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



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This new facility on the Tampa campus will house the newest USF college and present a unique opportunity to leverage the expertise on all 3 campuses of USF. This collaboration will create a truly interdisciplinary center of excellence in computing, AI, and cybersecurity education & research to position Florida and particularly Tampa Bay as a global leader in these critical and emerging fields.

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

This state-of-the-art facility will be designed to foster innovation & collaboration & will allow for the expansion of student programming in computing, AI, and cybersecurity & will create a pool of highly skilled graduates entering the workforce in high demand, high pay jobs. The facility will allow faculty to perform top-tier research in AI & cybersecurity which will enhance national security.

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

University students and the cybersecurity of Florida's critical infrastructure, economic pillars, and private sector. > 800 individuals are expected to be served.

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

Improve quality of education - The Florida Board of Governors' Programs of Strategic Emphasis outlines a critical workforce need for graduates in fields like AI, cybersecurity, and computer science. This college will expand programs in the fields at USF, presenting an opportunity to address the growing student demand in these fields and Florida's workforce needs proactively. This will be measured by the number of new highly skilled graduates and placements in high demand jobs in cybersecurity, AI and related fields. Protect the general public from harm - Lead and supportive research through convergence of diverse disciplines in engineering, sciences, arts and humanities, education, medicine, public health, business, and sustainability to solve ambitious, critical, large-scale societal problems in critical areas of cybersecurity and AI. This will be measured significantly expanding foundational and use-inspired research capacity, particularly in AI, neuromorphic computing, cybersecurit

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?

Reduced or discontinued funding. This is a PECO project and there are already substantial statutory and BOG Regulations in place to ensure compliance.

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

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



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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
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="Lauren Thae Hartmann"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="lhartmann@usf.edu"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(727)743-6228"/>

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