



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1018

1. Project Title University of South Florida - Florida Institute of Oceanography Keys Marine Lab Facility

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 10/16/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The first phase of a major remodel, renovation and construction project to modernize the Florida Institute of Oceanography's (FIO) existing, but outdated, Keys Marine Lab (KML). KML is a full-service marine field station that offers a unique opportunity for college level education and researchers studying the only tropical marine ecosystems in the continental U.S. The funding is needed to remodel and build new storm readied facilities ready to conduct world class oceanographic research, including coral reef restoration, and to serve as a temporary residence and staging area for first responders in the immediate aftermath of extreme weather events affecting the Florida Keys.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Board of Governors

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	4,000,000	94%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	6%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	4,250,000	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. 4,000,000

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

Private philanthropic and carry forward funds can be used to support this project.



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/02/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

07/03/2027

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

Private philanthropy

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.

USF Board of Trustees.

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	Hire Construction Manager/Architect and Environmental Survey, begin construction on a 32-bed temporary residential facility on property for students and researchers to stay on-site while conducting work, scholarship and research. The facility will also be used to house first responders during and after extreme weather events affecting the Florida Keys.	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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To fund the first phase of a major remodel, renovation and new construction project to modernize FIO's existing, but outdated, KML. KML is a full-service marine field station that offers a unique opportunity for college level education and researchers studying the only tropical marine ecosystems in the continental U.S. The funding is needed to demolish certain existing structures, remodel, renovate and build storm readied facilities ready to conduct world class oceanographic research, including coral reef restoration, and to be used by first responders during and after extreme weather events affecting the Keys.

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

The funds will be used for construction related uses at the Keys Marine Lab facility. This project is designed to be phased with activities combining new construction and renovation and demolition efforts to most efficiently meet research needs that can withstand extreme weather. The project will include a 32-bed temporary living quarters on property and funding will cover category-5 storm readiness construction for this facility so that it can be used by first responders during or immediately following extreme weather events that affect the Florida Keys.

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

These funds will pay for facility demolition, remodel and new construction. and a new additional temporary living quarters and research laboratory space for use by state university system students and faculty researchers across the state as well as state marine science agencies such as the DEP and FWC, and by various first responders during and following storm events affecting Monroe County.

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

University/college students from around the state. Between 401-800 individuals are expected to be served. First responders to severe weather events affecting the Keys.

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

Remodeled space will improve and expand ability to conduct world class oceanographic scholarship and research - timely research conducted in critical marine and oceanographic areas.

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?

Statute and BOG Regulations provide specific penalties for noncompliance.

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



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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

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	Robert M Blair
b. Firm Name	Corcoran Partners
c. E-mail Address	matt@corcoranpartners.com
d. Phone Number	(813)527-0172

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