



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1091

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The FIU Category 6 WOW helps to research and test the ability of structures, components, products, and techniques to withstand the effects of (a) 195-200 mph winds, (b) surge, wave, and flooding associated with those extreme events, and (c) hurricane-spawned tornadoes. Findings will help policy makers to enhance preparedness and disaster management and implement code plus designs.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	24,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	24,500,000

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)	24,500,000	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 2026-2027	24,500,000	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		

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.

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?

07/06/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

07/12/2027

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

Philanthropy and resources from FIU.

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.

Florida International University

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	The FIU would be located on the FIU Engineering Campus to the immediate north of the current Wall of Wind and be able to research and test the ability of structures, components, products, innovations, and techniques to withstand the effects of extreme winds combined with storm surge, wave action, and flooding.	24,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		24,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

For Florida to protect its economy and maintain its cutting-edge position in university-based hurricane research, innovation, and testing, the highly successful FIU Wall of Wind (WOW) hurricane simulator needs a complementary and more powerful testing facility capable of reaching 195-200 mph wind speeds, together with storm surge, wave, and flood testing capabilities.

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



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FIU Wall of Wind for Category 6 will research and test the ability of structures, components, products, and techniques to withstand the effects of a Category 6 hurricane or stronger including (a) 195-200 mph winds, (b) surge, wave, and flooding associated with those extreme events, and (c) hurricane-spawned tornadoes.

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

There is a critical need for full-scale research and testing facilities capable of simulating extreme conditions and devising test solutions for stronger and safer communities. The research and testing from the facility will enhance preparedness, mitigation, and recovery.

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

Any Floridian impacted by hurricanes or storm surge. This would serve the millions of citizens living in Florida.

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

Reduction of economic losses and fatalities from natural disasters including hurricanes. Post-hurricane assessment to measure reduction in fatalities and insurance claims data for estimating reduction of economic losses. The Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model (FPHLM) can also measure the loss reduction using mitigation techniques

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?

Return of funds to the State of Florida.

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#:

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)?



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- ☐ 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

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number



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