



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1098

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This multi-trophic project aims to repair hurricane damage and address the ongoing challenges of sea level rise, shoreline erosion, flooding, and wind/water damage. These issues threaten lives, infrastructure, and the habitat at Pigeon Key, a National Historic District in Marathon, FL which serves as a popular marine education center welcoming thousands of students, visitors, and residents annually.

To protect this vital site, innovative wave attenuation devices will be installed to reduce wave energy by 90%, helping to naturally rebuild sand around the island and eliminate the need for expensive beach renourishment. The project will also include the installation of tree windbreaks to reduce wind erosion, seagrass recruitment to slow waves through increased drag, and a living shoreline with mangrove planters to guard against flooding and further erosion.

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	1,200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,200,000

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)	1,200,000	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	1,200,000	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		
2025-26	0	600,000	1748	No

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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This project is a multi-phase project totaling approximately \$6M. Other funding is also being requested via local, state, and federal grants and appropriations. The stakeholders are also seeking additional funding from non-profit environmental groups and have secured some funding in the form of a capping grant from the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida in an amount yet to be determined.

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?

10/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

05/31/2027

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	Oversight of project, grant, contracted grant manager, billing, engineer providing third party validation of work performed, communications with stakeholders, and public outreach.	120,000
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	Manufacturing of Wave Attenuation Devices	1,080,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,200,000

13. Program Performance

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



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To protect this vital site, innovative wave attenuation devices will be installed to reduce wave energy by 90%, helping to naturally rebuild sand around the island and eliminate the need for expensive beach renourishment. The project will also include the installation of tree windbreaks to reduce wind erosion, seagrass recruitment to slow waves through increased drag, and a living shoreline with mangrove planters to guard against flooding and further erosion. Additionally, coral fragments will be placed on the wave attenuation devices to support and enhance the surrounding ecosystem.

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

Activities will include manufacturing Wave Attenuation Devices that will be used to stop wave energy and erosion.

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

This project will:

1. Enhance and protect the operations and infrastructure of the Key as an educational center for thousands of visitors and students
2. Protect lives, infrastructure, and habitat from severe weather events
3. Reduce the risk of storm and wind damage, and flooding of the Key's buildings
4. Improve essential fish habitat which will provide enhanced fishing opportunities
5. Improve ecotourism and the local economy. The project will attract more visitors who will support the businesses of the City of Marathon and Monroe County.

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

The target population includes the residents and visitors of the City of Marathon and Monroe County. Population counts fluctuate due to the seasonal nature of the Keys with the population growing during peak season and decreasing during the off season. Marathon serves as one of the largest communities in the Keys and is often considered the "Heart of the Keys" due to its central location.

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

Project will:

1. Restore and protect this vital marine education center for thousands of students and visitors
2. Attenuate 90% of wave energy, ending shoreline erosion
3. Rebuild/renourish and expand the shoreline naturally through sand accretion shoreward of the Wave Attenuation Devices eliminating the need for future costly beach renourishment projects
5. Recruit and protect seagrasses from wave energy allowing for enhanced habitat for fish and other wildlife and improved nutrient cycling fostering improved water quality
6. Enhance coral populations by plugging Wave Attenuation Devices with coral fragments that can grow on the hybrid reefs
7. Restore lost upland vegetation by replacing and protecting mangroves and other native plants
8. Enhance wind resistance by planting palm tree wind breaks throughout the Key

Wave, bathymetric, and benthic studies will be conducted at periodic intervals to record and demonstrate project success.

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?

Non-payment of project invoices

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

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

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)



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- ☐ 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):

Hurricane Irma and subsequent severe weather events

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)?

- ☐ 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):

CPTA grant through DEO for \$50,000 for Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan for Pigeon Key.

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- ☐ Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- ☐ Resilient Florida Grant Program
- ☐ Wastewater Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant



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- ☒ Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants) CPTA grant through DEO for \$50,000 for Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan for Pigeon Key.

☐ N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

☐ Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)

☐ Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)

☐ Rural Area of Economic Concern

☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)

☒ N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

Not started. Will begin upon the completion of engineering and permitting.

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

05/31/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Kelly Last Name McKinnon

b. Organization Pigeon Key Foundation, Inc.

c. E-mail Address kelly@pigeonkey.net

d. Phone Number (305)743-5999

Ext.

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Pigeon Key Foundation, Inc.

b. Municipality and County Monroe

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)



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d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

24. 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.