



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1236

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Veteran-Led Space Innovation Program empowers Florida veterans to lead the development and commercialization of cutting-edge space technologies. Through technical training, mentorship, and access to shared equipment and laboratory resources, participants turn innovative concepts into viable products and services. The program fosters collaboration with university tech transfer offices and aerospace industry partners statewide, accelerating technology transfer, creating high-tech jobs, and strengthening Florida's leadership in the space and defense sectors.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	92%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	15,000	6%
Other	5,000	2%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	270,000	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)?

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	The Director will lead the planning, implementation, and oversight of the Veteran-Led Space Innovation Initiative. This role is responsible for managing program operations, building partnerships with space industry leaders and university tech transfer offices across Florida, and ensuring successful commercialization of veteran-led technologies.	70,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel	4,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	The Program Coordinator will support the planning and execution of all program activities, ensuring smooth operations and effective communication among participants, partners, and stakeholders. Responsibilities include coordinating training sessions and events, managing logistics and travel arrangements, maintaining project records, and assisting with reporting and outreach.	45,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Computing, Software, AV equipment. Industry Partnership Visit, Training Materials, Office supplies, Event Supplies, Marketing, In-State Travel, Training Methodology	90,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Business Consultant, Subject Matter Experts & Facilitators	41,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The funds will empower veteran-led technology companies to develop and commercialize space-related innovations through technical training and collaboration with industry and university tech transfer offices statewide, accelerating commercialization and strengthening Florida's leadership in aerospace and defense innovation.

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

The program will provide veteran-led companies with technical training, mentorship, and hands-on support to develop and commercialize space-related technologies. Activities include prototype development, access to specialized equipment and labs, and collaboration with university tech transfer offices and industry partners statewide. Additional services include business coaching, investor readiness training, networking events, and public demonstrations to connect veterans with the space ecosystem and accelerate technology commercialization in Florida.

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

The program will provide citizens with direct access to innovative space technologies developed by veteran-led companies, including wearable health monitors, telemedicine devices, and rehabilitation tools. Citizens will benefit from public demonstrations, STEM workshops, and community engagement events that showcase these technologies. Additional services include educational outreach, training sessions, and opportunities to participate in pilot programs, enabling citizens to experience, test, and benefit from cutting-edge space innovations.

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

The primary target population is veterans across Florida who are interested in entrepreneurship and technology development, particularly in space and defense sectors. Secondary beneficiaries include Florida citizens who will gain access to space-enabled healthcare innovations and STEM outreach programs. The program also engages industry partners, university tech transfer offices, and research institutions, fostering statewide collaboration that supports veteran entrepreneurs while advancing Florida's space technology ecosystem.

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

The level of benefit will be measured using quantitative and qualitative metrics focused on space technology and health applications. Metrics include the number of veteran-led prototypes developed, technologies licensed, and companies launched.

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?

Failure to complete all deliverables in accordance with the requirements will result in DEO's assessment and potential of financial consequences. If appropriate, should the Parties agree to a corrective action plan, the plan shall specify additional financial consequences to be applied after the effective date of the corrective action plan. This provision for financial consequences shall in no manner affect Commerce's right to terminate the Agreement.

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



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- ☐ 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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☐ 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.