



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1241

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This program expands Florida's maritime education pipeline by delivering interactive, STEAM-based learning experiences to K-12 students. Through hands-on activities such as ship building and ship exploration, the program introduces students, particularly those who are non-college bound to a wide range of marine-related careers. It incorporates soft skills training, digital engagement, and educator outreach to prepare youth for both land-based and at-sea opportunities. The initiative fosters industry partnerships and environmental stewardship, aiming to increase student proficiency in STEAM subjects, career awareness, and employability across Florida's maritime and marine science 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                          | 750,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>750,000</b> |

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)       | 750,000        | 90%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                |             |
| Federal                                              | 0              | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0              | 0%          |
| Local                                                | 0              | 0%          |
| Other                                                | 85,000         | 10%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b> | <b>835,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
| 2025-26                  | 0         | 750,000      | 106                         | 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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## 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?

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         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Administrative Costs:</b>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0              |
| Other Salary and Benefits                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0              |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0              |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0              |
| <b>Operational Costs</b>                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Salary and Benefits                                                    | Director of Maritime Workforce Strategy<br>Director, Strategic Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 166,450        |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Curriculum Expansion and continuation including refreshed and new Digital Class Teaching Kit updated video services including post-secondary level programming refreshed digital magazine, technical education advisor. Continuation and refreshed Educational Content & Training Platform for Program Participants including the development of post-secondary training platform. Staff tools for program delivery | 451,850        |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Maritime Industry Specialist<br>Project Management<br>Training Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 131,700        |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>750,000</b> |

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to continue expanding maritime career education in Florida through interactive STEAM-based learning for Grades K–12, offering hands-on opportunities that introduce students to a variety of marine-based jobs. The initiative will begin developing post-secondary pathways through strategic partnerships to extend maritime instruction and workforce readiness expanding to create a seamless educational pipeline that supports lifelong career development in the maritime and marine science sectors.

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

Students will explore a variety of fun lessons and activities focused marine career exploration, marine ecosystem protection. Through STEAM and SEL materials, they'll learn about ships, build their own boat, and discover the importance of protecting our planet's waters and ecosystem health, all while demonstrating how STEAM translates into real world job opportunities.

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

The funding provides Florida students with hands-on learning focused on maritime job exploration. Through engaging STEAM and SEL activities, students will explore ships, build boats, and connect classroom concepts to real-world maritime careers. These experiences promote teamwork, problem-solving, and environmental stewardship, equipping students with valuable life and workforce skills. In addition to serving K–12 students, the program will begin building bridges to higher education by working with Florida colleges to align curriculum and create post-secondary career pathways creating a maritime workforce pipeline that supports economic growth, industry innovation, and long-term career readiness.

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

The program serves Florida students in Grades K–12, with a focus on non-college bound youth. and engaging post-secondary students through emerging partnerships with Florida colleges. In the 2024-2025 school year, the initiative reached over 2.5 million teachers, students, and families statewide through classroom instruction, digital platforms, and educator networks. Tens of thousands of students are expected to be directly served annually, with continued growth as curriculum and partnerships expand.

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

The expected outcome of this project is a stronger maritime education pipeline in Florida, preparing students for future careers in the maritime, marine science, and related STEAM industries. Specific benefits include: Increased student engagement and proficiency in STEAM subjects through real-world maritime applications. Enhanced awareness of maritime and ocean-related career opportunities among K–12 students. Development of employability and soft skills, such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Strengthened partnerships between schools, industry professionals, and maritime organizations, fostering long-term educational and career pathways. Ultimately, the project aims to build a future-ready workforce equipped with both the knowledge and skills to contribute to Florida's growing blue economy. Methodology for Measuring Outcome: The success of the Ocean Rangers Program can be measured through a combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics.

**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?**

Notification with allowance to cure.

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):**



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**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):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

|                          |                                                         |                  |                                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>a. First Name</b>     | <input type="text" value="Sandra"/>                     | <b>Last Name</b> | <input type="text" value="Yawn"/> |
| <b>b. Organization</b>   | <input type="text" value="Captain Sandy's Charities"/>  |                  |                                   |
| <b>c. E-mail Address</b> | <input type="text" value="sandy@captainsandyyawn.com"/> |                  |                                   |
| <b>d. Phone Number</b>   | <input type="text" value="(954)253-5252"/>              | <b>Ext.</b>      | <input type="text"/>              |

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

|                                                          |                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>a. Organization</b>                                   | <input type="text" value="Captain Sandy's Charities"/> |
| <b>b. Municipality and County</b>                        | <input type="text" value="Statewide"/>                 |
| <b>c. Organization Type</b>                              |                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Profit Entity               |                                                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non Profit 501(c)(3) |                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non Profit 501(c)(4)            |                                                        |



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☐ 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

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