



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1340

1. Project Title Celebration Pointe Sports Center Venue Versatility and Event Capacity Upgrade

2. Senate Sponsor Stan McClain

3. Date of Request 11/20/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The Alachua County Sports Center Venue Versatility and Event Capacity Upgrade is a \$500,000 capital investment designed to maximize the economic return of this fully County-owned and operated public asset. Funding will secure a portable collegiate level flooring system, an integrated sound system, and portable bleacher seating. These targeted upgrades are essential for expanding the facility's utility beyond track events, immediately allowing the County to attract collegiate and professional level court-based events. This infrastructure enhancement sustains momentum from major events like World Masters Indoor Track event in 2025, and is critical for helping the facility better compete with out-of-state rivals, generating a significant increase in sports tourism, event bookings, and hotel night stays for the region.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Commerce

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
Total State Funds Requested	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)	500,000	51%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	477,000	49%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	977,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	2,320,000	2236A	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

10/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

01/08/2027

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

Revenues generated from operations of the Alachua County Sports and Events Center.

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.

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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	Funds will be expended on the procurement and installation of capital assets necessary to maximize the event hosting versatility and functional capacity of the Alachua County Sports Events Center. Specific expenditures include: a portable, high-performance collegiate level court floor system (\$100,000) to enable the hosting of collegiate and professional level court-based events; a new integrated, professional-grade sound reinforcement system (\$150,000) for enhanced spectator and athlete experie	500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The specific purpose is to transform the County-operated Sports Events Center into a versatile, multi-sport championship facility, maximizing its economic utility and tourist draw. The funds will achieve this by procuring a portable wood floor, integrated sound system, and bleacher seating, immediately enabling the facility to attract collegiate level and court sports. Hosting these cornerstone multi-sport events will significantly increase sports tourism traffic, maximizing hotel occupancy, and driving tangible economic benefits throughout Alachua County and the surrounding region.

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

County staff will provide professional management services and marketing of the facility. The team will coordinate the scheduling and rental of the facility for collegiate and professional level events made possible by the new court-based assets. These services fully integrate the Sports Events Center into the wider tourism and hospitality offerings of Alachua County.

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

The appropriation will support services related to year-round sports tourism and event hosting in a facility capable of providing multiple court sports alongside track and field. The facility also serves as an ideal venue for local events, trade shows, conventions, and concerts. This ensures a world-class, multi-functional venue, built to Class A institutional quality, remains available for local youth practices, adult leagues, and community programming during off-peak times.

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

The target population is two-fold: out-of-county sports tourists (athletes, coaches, and spectators) attending high-profile weekend events, and local residents utilizing the facility for weekday practices and community events. Based on established economic modeling, the fully functional, versatile facility is expected to see an annual attendance of approximately 752,000 visits, with out-of-county visitors accounting for at least 54% of annual attendance, resulting in over 116,000 new annual hotel room nights.

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 is a significant and measurable increase in sports tourism revenue, achieved by allowing the Sports Events Center (SEC) to better compete with out-of-state rivals in markets like Birmingham, Alabama, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The \$500,000 investment in a portable collegiate level court system, sound system, and bleachers is critical to achieving competitive parity, enabling the SEC to successfully attract collegiate and professional level court-based events that it cannot currently host. The primary mechanism to judge success will be the impact on the hotel, tourism, and overall occupancy of the facility. This project is estimated to help generate over \$77 million per year in total economic impact and add 1,150 jobs to the surrounding community. Success will be measured by the review of quarterly and annual financial statements, facility occupancy rates, and annual hotel room night generation.

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?

The County commits to reporting on performance measures established in the contract, including event booking rates and generated hotel room nights. The State of Florida will review quarterly and annual financial statements which tie directly to the economic health of the facility and community benefits. Should performance metrics fall short, the County will commit to providing a rectification plan to the funding agency, detailing operational changes to meet the projected economic impact outcomes.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? ☐ No

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

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)



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☐ 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

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