



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1353

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida State University (FSU) proposes an expansion and renovation of the Middleton Center for the Dedman College of Hospitality, and other FSU activities at the FSU property adjacent to the FSU College of Engineering. The project will support and grow FSU Dedman College of Hospitality programs and other hospitality-education related functions. The requested funding would be used to plan and design the remodel of the Middleton Center as well as initiating planning and design for a new building on this site that would house educational and administrative space for the FSU Dedman College of Hospitality, as well as additional facilities for FSU programming. The proposed project will support academic excellence, innovative teaching methods, and foster community benefiting FSU faculty and students, as well as the broader Tallahassee and Florida communities.

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	40,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	40,000,000

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)	40,000,000	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	40,000,000	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	5,000,000	17	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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2028

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

Available recurring funds will be used to fund the normal operations of the facility, such as utilities, building services, etc. Maintenance will be funded from reserves as required by law, carry forward funding when appropriate, and deferred maintenance appropriations when provided.

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 State University is a public state 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 funds will be expended through planning, remodeling, and expanding the Middleton Center while adding a new building for Dedman College of Hospitality and FSU programs. It includes reorganizing interiors, designing a tower/atrium for administrative and educational use, and enhancing ancillary facilities. The initial phase focuses on detailed design plans, optimizing space, and funding initial renovations using green building.	40,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		40,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The funds will be used to plan and design the expansion and renovation of the Middleton Center, providing enhanced educational, administrative, and meeting spaces for the Dedman College of Hospitality. The goal is to support academic excellence, foster innovation and collaboration, and create spaces that prepare students for 21st-century careers while benefiting the broader Tallahassee and Florida communities.

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

The funds will be used for planning and designing the expansion and renovation of the Middleton Center. Specific activities include upgrading classrooms and labs to support hands-on hospitality training and experiential learning. New administrative and educational spaces will be created for the Dedman College of Hospitality, including specialized areas for hospitality technology and interprofessional curricula. Renovations will also include the enhancement of meeting and event spaces for academic, athletic, and community functions. Additionally, the project will incorporate green building strategies to ensure sustainability.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services by enhancing educational opportunities for students at FSU. The renovated Middleton Center will offer upgraded classrooms and training facilities for the Dedman College of Hospitality, supporting the growth of academic programs. The renovated Middleton Center will provide infrastructure to support expansion of new and existing educational programs in hospitality and will foster interprofessional education to train club management and other hospitality professions. The revamped space will allow FSU to prepare generations of hospitality professionals, many of whom will work in Florida and directly benefit the Florida economy involved in the large and growing hospitality and recreational industry.

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

The target population served by this project is FSU students, specifically those enrolled in the Dedman College of Hospitality and related programs. The expansion and renovation will accommodate the current 618 students, with the capacity to support future growth. The project is expected to serve an increased number of students through expanded undergraduate and graduate programs, including the Global Club Management and Leadership major.

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

The remodeling of the current Middleton Center will be a fundamental step in the further development of the academic and athletic programs of FSU, growing the numbers of graduates that directly contribute to the Florida economy through their leadership and participation in the large and important hospitality and recreation sectors. These expanded facilities will also serve to promote tourism in Tallahassee. The new and extensively remodeled facilities will provide long-lasting impact on economic development, accelerate innovation, expand educational opportunities, create community leaders of the future, and provide an important axis serving Tallahassee community need. The level of benefit will be measured through enrollment growth in the Dedman College of Hospitality, tracking increases beyond the current 618 students. Graduation rates and job placement data will assess the programs impact, with a focus on hospitality industry employment.

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?

Revert state appropriations and withhold future funding for this initiative.

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

a. First Name	<input type="text" value="Lina"/>	Last Name	<input type="text" value="Rojas"/>
b. Organization	<input type="text" value="Florida State University"/>		
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="lina.rojas@fsu.edu"/>		
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(305)301-8407"/>	Ext.	<input type="text"/>

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization	<input type="text" value="Florida State University"/>
b. Municipality and County	<input type="text" value="Leon"/>
c. Organization Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> For Profit Entity	
<input 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.