



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1391

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative (FCI) is a unique program led by the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, which was awarded designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This program aims to understand and address why firefighters are at increased risk of developing and dying of cancer relative to the populations that they serve. FCI supports novel translational research, wide scale education and prevention initiatives, and collaboration with Firefighters to develop and implement practices that can reduce noxious exposures associated with disease.

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	3,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,500,000</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)	3,500,000	69%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	500,000	10%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	381,864	7%
Local	0	0%
Other	733,136	14%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>5,115,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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	3,500,000	2246A	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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In the absence of state funding, FCI would suffer significantly. Because of the Florida Legislature's generous investment, FCI is at the forefront of the national effort to address the excess cancer risk in firefighters and our goal is to continue to lead in this way. We are, however, always seeking alternative funding sources to support our work, including federal and foundation grants.

## 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	Faculty, research team members and project management team	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Research equipment, supplies, and travel	2,500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Research outreach, recruitment, and education	500,000
<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>3,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified the Working group of occupational exposure as a firefighter as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), on the basis of sufficient evidence for cancer in humans. With this classification, FCI will continue to expand firefighters' access to cancer screening through our mobile clinic, which provides screenings on-site at fire stations locally; expand access to clinical screenings in remote and rural areas of the state of Florida; provide support services to survivors, and enroll firefighters in FCI studies; expand access to education on best practices for cancer risk reduction including on-line access to curriculum and developing guidelines for subgroups; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk.

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

Expand research on characterizing firefighter cancer, including volunteer and wildland firefighters as well as expand access to cancer screening and earlier detection of disease through two mobile clinics; expand access for all fire service personnel across the state to education on best practices for cancer risk reduction and prevention strategies, including virtual curriculum and education modules for firefighters and firefighter cancer survivors; and tailored guidelines for subgroups; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk and field test new technology and methods that measure exposure in the field through wearable and mobile devices; evaluate the impact of best practices on cancer risk reduction; and provide continued research on cancer in the fire service, and collaborate with NIOSH at the Federal level in building the National Firefighter Cancer Registry.

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

Funds are invested in increasing participation in cancer screening and prevention for cancers overrepresented among active and retired firefighters, including access to these services through a unique mobile clinical infrastructure. Additionally, funds will support the expansion of clinical services to wildland firefighters and firefighters in remote and rural areas. FCI will develop a resource center at a satellite location to interact and navigate firefighters to services at Sylvester and provide support services to cancer survivors and their families. Funds will allow for continued evidence-based education of Florida firefighters, fire subgroups and local healthcare providers on the cancer risks from occupational exposures as well as best practices for risk reduction derived from our scientific progress to date. Funds will also provide for scientific inquiry and evaluation of cancer in the fire service and ways to track and evaluate exposures.

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

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative serves the Florida fire service, both career and volunteer firefighters including fire subgroups (investigators, wildland, trainers and urban search and rescue (USAR)). FCI has engaged over 13,000 in research projects, over 1,000 firefighters have been screened by the FCI clinical team. We anticipate increasing this number by 1,000 in the coming year as well as continuing in our efforts nationally, as FCI leads the national conversation on cancer in the fire service.

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

FCI aims to increase the life expectancy of firefighters and their families by better understanding cancer risks related to occupational exposures. FCI research findings will result in developing new safety standards and best practices to reduce firefighters' increased risk of developing and dying of cancer. Outcomes will be measured in various ways, including number of firefighters engaged; number of firefighters screened for cancer; successful new technologies to monitor exposure; number of tumor specimens submitted to the tumor bank to identify biomarkers and therapeutics; continued analysis of the dataset linking the Florida Cancer Data System with State firefighter data. We plan to increase uptake of best practices, including cancer screenings, as well as increase the amount of federal dollars brought to Florida for this initiative.

**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?**

Subject to the penalties put forth by the Florida Department Financial Services.

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)



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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):**

**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**



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- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ 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.*