



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1454

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Gulf County proposes to construct infrastructure for a new airport. The development of air transportation will kickstart the economic revitalization desperately needed in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in the County and region. A 2019 Pre-Feasibility Study indicated that airport development in Gulf County is feasible. The development of an airport in Gulf County compliments the road and rail infrastructure that services the region. Construction and daily operations of a new airport will have a positive economic impact on the community through direct and indirect jobs created, as well as increased taxes.

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	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,000,000</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)	1,000,000	17%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	4,475,000	75%
Local	500,000	8%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>5,975,000</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		
2024-25	0	1,000,000	2069A	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.

There is no other source of funding available since Gulf County is a small, fiscally constrained county.



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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?

06/30/2027

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

Gulf County will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance of the airport.

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.

Gulf County will own the facility.

### 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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will be used to assist in the completion of the entrance road for a new airport in Gulf County.	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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Gulf County will implement construction methods that emphasize quality, durability, efficiency, sustainability, and this project will also be designed to incorporate principles of resilience and mitigation against the impact of future disasters. This project is designed to help mitigate the increasing threat of coastal flooding due to weather events by providing additional evacuation opportunities for residents from future severe tropical weather events. It will also serve as a staging area for post-disaster recovery operations, including air-lifts of critical supplies and arrival of first responders. With the anticipation and understanding of future coastal flooding hazards, new transportation and airport infrastructure will increase evacuation opportunities for residents of Gulf County and will enhance emergency response capabilities in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

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

This project will create an airport that will allow for tremendous opportunities in community and economic development. This project can also serve as a hub for evacuation of residents from future severe tropical weather events, and it will serve as a staging area for post-disaster recovery operations, including air-lifts of critical supplies and arrival of first responders. The project will provide the general public with the benefit of accessible aviation, which is especially rare in this region of Florida.

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

A functioning airport that Gulf County does not currently have.

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

Approximately 16,947 residents of Gulf County as well as visitors that travel to Gulf County.

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

New transportation and airport infrastructure will increase evacuation opportunities for residents of Gulf County and will enhance emergency response capabilities in the aftermath of a natural disaster. It will also serve as a staging area for post-disaster recovery operations, including air-lifts of critical supplies and arrival of first responders as well as provide an alternative travel opportunity for residents and visitors to the area. By recording the number of flights to and from Gulf County would determine the impact.

**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?**

Failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would impact future funding request.

**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):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No



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☐ 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

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name



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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.*