



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1517

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Hurricane Helene revealed critical vulnerabilities in St. Marks' aging wastewater infrastructure when six lift stations flooded and lost power. The City seeks funding for design and engineering to replace these stations with flood-resistant structures and emergency generators as part of a larger upgrade. St. Marks is preparing an SRF loan application and will leverage the APR funds with the SRF loan to secure resources for completing the full project. Overall, the improvements will address age and condition-related deficiencies, as well as prevent sanitary sewer overflows during future storm events, protecting public health, drinking water quality, and surface water quality (St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers). Investing in these measures can mitigate the costs associated with sewage cleanup and environmental restoration, leading to long-term economic savings.

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	420,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>420,000</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)	420,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>420,000</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		

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?

9/30/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

October 31, 2028

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

The funding for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project will be sourced from monthly customer utility payments.

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.

The City of St. Marks will receive the fixed capital outlay. The City also owns 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	Planning and Design	420,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>420,000</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 plan and design for replacements for six aging lift stations with flood-resistant structures, upgraded electrical systems, and emergency generators. These improvements will prevent storm surge infiltration, ensure continuous operation during severe weather, and enhance wastewater system resilience as part of a larger WWTP upgrade project. St. Marks is preparing an SRF loan application and will leverage the APR funds with the SRF loan to secure resources for completing the full project. Overall, the improvements will address age and condition-related deficiencies, as well as prevent sanitary sewer overflows during future storm events, protecting public health, drinking water quality, and surface water quality (St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers).

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

Activities include designing and engineering six flood-resistant lift stations with upgraded electrical systems and emergency generators. Services provided will ensure continuous wastewater operations during severe weather, prevent storm surge infiltration, reduce sanitary sewer overflow risks, and improve system reliability for residents.

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

Funding will ensure uninterrupted wastewater service during severe weather by replacing six aging lift stations with flood-resistant designs, upgraded electrical systems, and emergency generators. These improvements protect public health, prevent sewer overflows, and maintain reliable sanitation for residents.

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

The St. Marks Wastewater Treatment Plant provides service to the entire municipality (approximately 275 residents), and 40 commercial accounts.

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

The project mitigates sanitary sewer overflows during severe weather, reducing exposure to harmful pathogens and preventing untreated wastewater from entering the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers and surrounding wetlands. This protects public health, aquatic ecosystems, and water quality. Outcomes will be measured by tracking overflow incidents before and after completion, and monitoring water quality reports for contamination levels.

**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?**

If appropriated, St. Marks will ensure that all deliverables and performance measures set forth in the funding agreement are met. These measures will include engaging a compliance/project maintenance team to work with City staff to oversee administration and compliance of the appropriated funds.

**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):**

Hurricane Helene

**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):**

FDEP CWSRF-SAHM (but was was not included in the 11/12/25 Priority Ranking List)

**Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.**

**17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?**

☐ Water Quality Improvement Grant Program

☐ Resilient Florida Grant Program

☒ Wastewater Revolving Loan

☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan

☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant

☒ Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants) FDEP CWSRF-SAHM (but was was not included in the 11/12/25 Priority Ranking List)

☐ N/A

**18. What is the population economic status?**

☒ Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)

☒ Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)

☒ Rural Area of Economic Concern

☒ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)

☐ N/A



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**19. What is the status of construction?**

Not ready

**20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

0%

**21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

10/31/2028

**22. Requester Contact Information**

a. First Name  Last Name   
b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number  Ext.

**23. 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   
e. E-mail Address   
f. Phone Number  Ext.

**24. Lobbyist Contact Information**

a. Name   
b. Firm Name   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number



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