



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1651

1. Project Title Deerfield Beach Marine Center - Raising Public Awareness of the Ocean Economy

2. Senate Sponsor Jason Pizzo

3. Date of Request 11/15/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

State funds will provide for production and installation of interactive educational environments at a new 10,000 sq. ft. Marine Science Center that supports the evolution of the Ocean Economy, encouraging the sustainable use of ocean resources to protect marine diversity, generating economic growth, fostering new technologies and promoting responsible ecotourism. 10 paid jobs at the Marine Science Center will be filled by high school Lead Interns interested in pursuing high demand careers in environmental fields. Lead Interns will activate programs and use the Center as a platform to empower citizens to advocate for a sustainable future.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Commerce

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	650,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>750,000</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)	750,000	7%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	3,360,900	32%
Local	4,518,771	42%
Other	2,036,181	19%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>10,665,852</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1651

## 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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/01/2026

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

Revenues will be generated by the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) from admission and programs fees, corporate and foundation donors as well as \$250,000 annually from the City of Deerfield Beach during each of the first five years of operation.

### 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.

MODS will receive and manage all fixed capital outlay funding for interior production and installation. The City of Deerfield Beach (CDB) is responsible for exterior building construction. An operating agreement between MODS and CDB was approved by the City Commission on July 8, 2025.

### 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	Salary plus FICA for 10 EcoExplorer Lead Interns engaged in workforce development each month at the Deerfield Beach Marine Science Center, developing and activating programs for public engagement.	48,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Educational materials and supplies for programs that augment and interpret the learning goals of the Marine Science Center for a minimum of 26,000 annual guests.	51,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Production and installation of five distinct built environments supporting concepts of the Ocean Economy including a Florida Ecosystems Theater featuring interaction with an AI-powered interactive experience and a solutions showcase of citizen conservation initiatives.	650,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>750,000</b>



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1651

#### 13. Program Performance

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

State funds will provide for production and installation of interactive environments at the Marine Science Center that raise public awareness regarding the sustainable use of marine resources, promote the work of ocean-based industries and university research, establish a family venue for ecotourism, strengthens workforce readiness for youth to pursue high demand careers and supports the overarching goal of Florida's Office of Ocean Economy at Florida Atlantic University to ensure the economic prosperity of coastal areas that contribute to the State's GDP.

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

MODS will produce and install 5,000 sq. ft. of immersive, interactive marine environments that reflect a diversity of Florida habitats and wildlife; the importance of protecting the Intracoastal Waterway - a living example of the Ocean Economy - where commerce, recreation and conservation intersect; installation of the Florida Ecosystems Theater and an AI-powered interactive experience to elevate exploration of Florida's ecosystems for guests; and establishment of paid workforce positions leading to careers in the environment for high school students.

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

The project, supported by a grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District, raises public awareness to support and grow the ocean- and coastal-based industries that drive jobs, investment and innovation across our state, as well as the need to conserve and protect healthy ecosystems for future generations. The project also provides paid employment at a competitive wage for high school students interested in pursuing high demand careers in the environmental field, including access to FAU professors and Broward College scholarships.

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

The funds requested will impact a minimum of 26,000 visitors annually to the Marine Science Center, reflecting MODS' audience which is drawn from all 50 U.S. states, 47 Florida counties (70% of the state), 27 foreign countries, as well as students and teachers from Broward and Palm Beach school districts. The target population for workforce internship positions are high school students - 84% of whom reside in ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households.

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

State funds will educate a minimum of 26,000 citizens annually from at least 70% of Florida counties, increasing their awareness and understanding of the Ocean Economy, its importance to Florida's prosperity and the need to balance the relationship between human activity and environmental health. Funds will also provide workforce and life skills readiness, paid employment, uniforms, educational materials and transportation for 10 high school Lead Interns who will educate the public through activation of programs at the Marine Science Center.

##### 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?

Funding will be withheld for failing to: (1) Complete the production and installation of all built environments by December 1, 2026 (2) Open the Marine Science Center to the public by December 31, 2026 (3) Provide a platform for workforce readiness and public engagement through program development and activation for 10 high school Lead Interns with unmet needs and (4) Impact a minimum of 26,000 Florida citizens and tourists annually.

#### 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):



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1651

**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)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1651

☐ 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.*