



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1683

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA) is planning a new building for its College of Business, and the LeMieux Center for Public Policy will be located in the building. The new business hall will help meet the needs of an expanding financial services industry in Palm Beach County. The LeMieux Center for Public Policy, which has been in existence for 12 years, will serve students and the public by providing a space for reasoned, thoughtful, and civil discourse on pressing public policy issues confronting Florida, the United States, and the world. Each year The Center will host nationally and internationally known speakers who provide their insights to the public policy world. Hosted by PBA, the public forums are open to both students and the public free of charge. In addition to the speaker series, The Center will also give access to pressing public policy issues via The Quill podcast and quarterly publication and social media.

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	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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)	2,000,000	3%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	5,000,000	5%
Local	0	0%
Other	85,000,000	92%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	92,000,000	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	2,000,000	58A	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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/03/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

04/01/2026

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

Palm Beach Atlantic University restricted \$5 million of the lead donor's \$25 million gift, which was designated by the donor, for an endowment to pay to maintain the facility over the years.

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.

Palm Beach Atlantic University will own, manage, and then operate the facility in downtown West Palm Beach, FL on their land. The President of the University, Dr. Debra A. Schwinn, will have final responsibility.

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	Six floor, 125,000 sq. ft. business building on S. Olive Ave on Palm Beach Atlantic University's downtown West Palm Beach Campus. The LeMieux Center for Public Policy will be located in this new building and will also utilize the auditorium and various conference rooms/meeting spaces.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The LeMieux Center for Public Policy will be located in the Rinker College of Business building and will serve students and the public by providing a space for reasoned, thoughtful, and civil discourse on pressing public policy issues confronting Florida, the United States, and the world. In existence for 12 years, The LeMieux Center for Public Policy has a speaker series and fellows program which tackle significant public policy issues. The Rinker College of Business is AACSB accredited.

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

Named for the former U.S. Senator from Florida, George LeMieux, the LeMieux Center for Public Policy provides opportunities and connections to instill civil discourse on topics of importance for Floridians. Students learn directly from esteemed policy experts and global thought leaders from a broad spectrum of disciplines. This experience offers a higher level of preparation for a future in areas such as public policy, law, business and servant leadership.

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

The LeMieux Center for Public Policy hosts nationally and internationally known speakers who provide their insights to the public policy world. Hosted by Palm Beach Atlantic University, the public forums are free of charge and open to all Floridians. In addition to the live, in-person events, PBA also records interviews with leading experts and thinkers. A library of the videos is also made available to the public.

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

Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA) students are the primary population; however, The LeMieux Center also serves local tri-county residents through events, social media, website, The Quill podcast and publication all free of charge to Floridians.

The target audience consists of PBA's student body totaling 4,271 for 2025-26, friends of PBA via communications/mailings totaling over 24,000, and the tri-county resident population who could attend any of the events free of charge or access LeMieux publications or videos totaling 6.4 million residents.

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

The expected outcome of this proposal is to deepen public discourse around pressing policy issues. The mission of the Center is to position itself as a leading center of excellence in the State. The Center also wishes to be known as a place of reason, thoughtful, and civil discourse. This is achieved through programming that includes thought leaders and the public, brought together to grapple with these issues. The Center also uses social media to amplify its impact throughout the State in an effort to be accessible to all Floridians without charge. A center is successful when all goals are achieved, enhancing its reputation as a trusted source on policy debates.

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?

Return of funds to the state for failure to meet deliverables.

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):

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



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- ☐ 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)

☐ Local Entity



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☐ 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.