



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1715

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

To create a landmark honoring Florida's epic contribution to liberty's defense in WWII at the site of 1 of 38 Florida-based airfields in the capital city where tourists & students visit to discover state history. The American Liberty Plaza at Tallahassee State College features walkways shaped as airbase runways, a central flags plaza & memorial educating visitors to the liberating cause of the Allies, Florida's involvement & that of our citizens through home front and war front activities. A co-located 2,000 sq/ft WWII structure will be remodeled as a welcome center and to display WWII artifacts related to the U.S. Army Air Corps in Florida. The WWII generation was dubbed "The Greatest Generation" because everyone "did their part" to protect American interests & values & fought against totalitarianism in defense of civil liberties worldwide. This project showcases Florida and Floridians engaging in home and war front efforts as an object lesson in Americanism.

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 | 163,350 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 803,650 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 967,000 |

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) | 967,000 | 68% |
| Matching Funds | | |
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 465,000 | 32% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 | 1,432,000 | 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 | | |
| | | | | |

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1715

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?

09/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

08/31/2027

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

Private fundraising and other local support.

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.

Tallahassee's Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum, Inc. and Tallahassee State College in partnership through a pre-existing M.O.U. TSC owns the 5-acre property for the museum and educational complex and DMAAFM will own improvements.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category | Description | Amount |
|--|---|----------------|
| Administrative Costs: | | |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits | A full-time project director will be hired to administer the appropriation including solicit vendor contracts, overseeing all phases of design and construction, and providing deliverable reports to the state agency. Includes salary and benefits. | 115,000 |
| Other Salary and Benefits | | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | Five percent for indirect costs such as faxing, shipping, office supplies, travel, etc. is requested | 48,350 |
| 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 | Architectural and engineering services, site preparation, permitting and construction costs. | 803,650 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 967,000 |

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1715

Creation of a destination site for tourists & students seeking entertainment & education, themed around the object lessons of historical events demonstrating Florida's commitment to Americanism ideals, including patriotism, citizenship & liberty's cause. It will become a focal point for tourists & students of all ages to learn about state & local history against the backdrop of world history & global conflict. It will help to make history come alive by serving as a tangible example of mobilization & conversion of industry to defeat global totalitarianism.

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

Design & construction of the infrastructure & thematic enhancements found in the project description to create a civic, cultural and educational enhancement of value to Florida tourists visiting the capital city & to students of all ages studying American history, Americanism, foundational principles of liberty, civic education and citizenship.

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

A walkable landmark suitable for self-guided tours. The welcome center offers necessary amenities such as bathrooms, water fountains, benches and other comforts and will display WW II artifacts of direct interest. Trained TSC student docents and museum volunteers will provide guided tours to visitors on request.

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

Teachers & students seeking field trips to historical sites and historical tourism visitors. This project aligns with Florida's emphasis on Americanism and civics literacy through education. Tallahassee State College has approximately 15,000 students alone and opened a K-12 charter school in 2023. Approximately 55,000 students attend Florida State University, Florida A&M University and Lively Technical College. Leon County K-12 enrollment is nearly 33,000 at 57 schools. Visit Tallahassee 2020 economic study showed 7% of tourists (approx. 118,000) to the Capital City visited historical amenities.

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

Placemaking, education and economic development - Celebrating the connectedness and heritage of a state or locality and what makes it unique, improves community pride, overall life satisfaction and well-being. This is an untold chapter in our state's and capital city's storybook and celebrated heritage. Visit Tallahassee 2020 economic study showed 7% of tourists (approx. 118,000) to the Capital City visited historical amenities. Visit Florida affirms the value of military history, see <https://www.visitflorida.com/things-to-do/military/>. A major growth strategy of local government is "placemaking" through cultural amenities, see <https://www.talgov.com/place/pln-placemaking>. We will work with Visit Tallahassee to be included in their collection and reporting of community economic health. We will track student volunteerism, conduct public opinion surveys, and collect engagement metrics.

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?

We anticipate a fixed fee, deliverables-based, cost-reimbursement contract through the chosen agency whereby any funds not expended for the intended purpose will be returned.

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1715

- ☐ 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1715

☐ 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.