



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1716

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

4. Project/Program Description

Ruth Eckerd Hall serves as a critical partner in public safety, functioning as an emergency command and housing center, hosting disaster preparedness initiatives and supporting law enforcement, and emergency response training. State funding will harden the facility against hurricanes and security threats, ensuring it can continue serving both the community and first responders.

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	485,238
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>485,238</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)	485,238	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	485,238	50%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>970,476</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		
2025-26		769,000	2924A	Yes

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.

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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#### 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?

Ticket sales and private donations.

#### 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.

Ruth Eckerd Hall operates facilities owned by the City of Clearwater through long-term leasing and operating agreements. Ruth Eckerd Hall is responsible for the maintenance of the properties and all asset replacements. The primary beneficiaries of the capital investment are patrons, staff and first responders.

#### 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	HVAC replacements and additions, including new water source heat pumps throughout the facility and removal and disposal of existing units; fire alarm system replacement, including the fire alarm control panel, initiating devices, notification appliances, and network infrastructure; removal and replacement of aluminum storefront systems with hurricane/impact-rated glass.	485,238
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>485,238</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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



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Ruth Eckerd Hall is a critical public-safety partner, serving as an emergency command and housing center, hosting disaster-preparedness initiatives, and supporting law-enforcement and emergency-response training. The requested funds will replace and upgrade the outdated fire-alarm and HVAC systems and install hurricane-rated glass to protect the public and keep the building safe, code-compliant, and fully operational year-round for both public events and emergency use when crises occur.

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

Funds will harden Ruth Eckerd Hall so it can function reliably as an emergency command & housing center by upgrading HVAC for operation during outages, replacing the outdated fire-alarm system to be code-compliant, and installing hurricane-rated glass to protect occupants and infrastructure and ensure the building remains usable for law-enforcement and emergency-management trainings.

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

Citizens will benefit from a safe, compliant, and storm-resilient facility during emergencies, including disaster-preparation activities by public-safety agencies. Upgrades also ensure fire safety code-compliance and a secure facility for over 300 performances serving 458,000 patrons.

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

The facility will be secured against future flooding and hurricane force wind damage and potential security threats for use by first responders, community partners and 458,000 patrons from local, national, and international markets who attend Ruth Eckerd Hall events annually and contribute an estimated \$144 million in economic activity to the community, including state and local tax collections.

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

A safe, code-compliant, storm-resilient facility that can remain open for both cultural use and emergency command/housing. Outcomes will be measured by the number of emergency activations supported, number of trainings hosted, and annual patron and economic impact realized.

**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?**

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met would be returned to the state.

**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 Milton and Helene

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

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☒ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply



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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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.



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#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	<input type="text" value="Jacqueline A. Corcoran"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Corcoran Partners"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="jackie@corcoranpartners.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(813)527-0172"/>

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