



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1781

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Reef Relief is seeking funds to expand and enhance our Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). Funds will be used to broaden the reach of our educational programs. The Discover Coral Reefs School Program, spring and summer programs will raise awareness and educate consumers, providing educational messaging to students, adults, and tourism in Florida.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>300,000</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)	300,000	86%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	50,000	14%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>350,000</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.

**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)?

##### c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

##### d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

#### 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.

#### 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	Executive Program Director	71,891
Other Salary and Benefits	Assistant Executive Director, Director of Virtual Programs, Education Coordinator 1, Education Coordinator 2, Program Manager	134,457
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Printing educational materials, other administrative expenses	45,652
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Internship stipends and housing	24,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel, seasonal coral education program implementation, education program expenses, social media awareness campaigns.	24,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>300,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

We are requesting funding to support our Coral Reef Youth Education Program. This program places a special focus on youth education as an important, initial step in saving endangered marine ecosystems through two main components, our Discover Coral Reefs School Program (DCRSP) and our Coral Camp for Kids program.

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

Our Discover Coral Reefs School Program offers over a dozen marine science topics taught in interactive classroom presentations supplemented with question-and-answer sessions and related activities. Reef Relief also offers a unique educational opportunity through our Coral Camp for Kids and Reef Explorer Coral Camp Programs.



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

Students Pre-Kindergarten through graduate level will be empowered to make informed decisions. They will gain experiences and snorkel skills from visiting the coral reef. As well as life skills regarding decision making, critical thinking, and resource partitioning. Residents will experience better quality of life from decreased pollution. Tourism will have higher quality experience elevating the Florida economy.

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

The Discover Coral Reefs School Program, spring and summer programs, target students aged Pre-Kindergarten through graduate level. While we will target approximately 12,000 students worldwide through in person and virtual learning, there will be a special emphasis on students, adults, and tourists, specifically those located in Florida counties directly impacted by the Florida Barrier Reef.

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

Participants in the Discover Coral Reefs Middle School Program and spring and summer programs are pre and post tested. Every year, we aim to stay in line with or increase the retention rates for both programs. This is a way to not only gauge the success of our programs, but to determine the effectiveness of our teachings. We are also starting to see program alumni and students graduate and go on to pursue marine conservation fields.

**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?**

The agency will initiate an internal and monitoring plan to ensure deliverables are met the following fiscal year. If future actions are needed, the organization will seek external assistance to hold the agency accountable. Additional penalties would be determined depending on circumstance. Any funds unused will 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):**

**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:**



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**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.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**



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d. Phone Number

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