



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1874

1. Project Title Riveroak Technical College - Advanced Manufacturing and Production Technology Hub

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 12/11/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The Suwannee County School District, through RIVEROAK Technical College (RTC), is requesting funding to establish the Suwannee Manufacturing at Riveroak Technical Hub (SMART Hub). The goal is to provide students with transferable, sustainable workforce skills and to support local industries, particularly in manufacturing, food processing, and semiconductor building. The project will enhance the state and local infrastructure, driving economic growth in these industries. Suwannee County is also a member of the Space Florida Consortium, emphasizing its commitment to advancing technological innovation.

The SMART Hub programs will follow state technical center criteria and focus on advanced manufacturing career pathways, including: 1) Production, 2) Manufacturing Production Process Development, 3) Maintenance, Installation & Repair, 4) Quality Assurance, 5) Logistics & Inventory Control, and 6) Health, Safety & Environmental Assurance.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,100,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,100,000

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)	4,100,000	92%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	349,000	8%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	4,449,000	100%

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.



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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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

7/1/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

6/30/2027

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

Workforce Education Funding received by the Florida Department of Education through the FEFP along with additional state and federal funding through grant applications will be utilized for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project into the future.

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.

Suwannee County School District, Riveroak Technical College

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	Funding will be used for construction of a new classroom and laboratory facility for industrial career and technical education programs including Advanced Manufacturing and Production Technology at Riveroak Technical College.	4,100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,100,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Funding will be used to build a new classroom and laboratory facility for industrial career and technical education programs including Advanced Manufacturing and Production Technology at Riveroak Technical College. This will be done in an effort to meet the workforce needs of local and regional employers and entice future industry to move into the area due to the generated workforce pipeline.

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

Educational programs provided will meet the workforce needs of multiple employers, offering students a broad skill set and experience with diverse equipment. The Advanced Manufacturing program offers several career certificates designed to equip students with the essential skills to enter the manufacturing workforce.

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

Advanced Manufacturing and Production Technology will result in earned industry credentials recognized by industry. Citizens will demonstrate competencies required by employers to be hired as Skilled Maintenance Technicians.

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

The postsecondary career certificate will be offered to the public through Riveroak Technical College, the state technical college serving adults ages 16 years and older in Alachua, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties. Programs will be open to interested and eligible adults and dual enrollment high school students. Targeted recruitment activities will include individuals from non-traditional people groups i.e. women, unemployed, underemployed, speakers of other languages, and economically disadvantaged.

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

Increase postsecondary educational opportunities and increase job placement in manufacturing and production fields leading to high-wage careers. Outcomes will be measure by program completion rate, certification pass rate, and job placement rate, labor market data from FloridaCommerce, CareerSource, and Suwannee Economic Development Office.

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 to be revoked.

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



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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="Karin Hoffman"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Key Innovative Solutions"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="khoffman@keyinnovates.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(954)729-9244"/>

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