



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1951

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Requested funds will be used to create Forces of Nature: Weathering the Extreme, a new permanent exhibit hall that explores the science, technology, and human impact of severe weather events, with a focus on Florida's unique climate. Designed as a dynamic learning environment, the exhibit will engage visitors in understanding how hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, floods, and other extreme weather phenomena shape our world and how science and engineering help us prepare, respond, and adapt.

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 | 494,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 494,000 |

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) | 494,000 | 33% |
| Matching Funds | | |
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 1,000,000 | 67% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 | 1,494,000 | 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.

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)?

Yes

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?

Orlando Science Center's maintenance reserves.

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.

Orlando Science Center is a 501 (c) 3 Non-profit.

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 | The Forces of Nature exhibit includes Fixed Capital Major Renovation costs such as General Requirements, Site Construction, Protection, Finishes, Furnishings, Sound, Electrical, New Fabrication Equipment and Exhibit Components. | 494,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 494,000 |

13. Program Performance

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

Requested funds will be used to create Forces of Nature: Weathering the Extreme, a new permanent exhibit hall that explores the science, technology, and human impact of severe weather events, with a focus on Florida's unique climate. Designed as a dynamic learning environment, the exhibit will engage visitors in understanding how hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, floods, and other extreme weather phenomena shape our world and how science and engineering help us prepare, respond, and adapt.

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



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Visitors will explore the science of severe weather through immersive simulations and hands-on challenges. Guests will engage in activities such as analyzing hurricane data using live satellite imagery and radar models, investigating the physics of lightning, and connecting Florida's climate to global weather events from earthquakes and wildfires to tsunamis that shape community preparedness.

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

Forces of Nature will engage OSC's onsite visitors, supporting classroom connections in earth sciences, environmental studies, and engineering design. Exhibit content will align with academic state standards for science, integrating weather and climate education from basic observations in early grades to complex system interactions and severe weather prediction.

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

The target population to be served by this exhibit is OSC attendees of all ages, both local visitors and tourists. OSC serves over 611,000 annual visitors.

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

Forces of Nature will:

- 1) Enrich cultural experience: Visitors will demonstrate increased curiosity and confidence in the role of science and technology in safeguarding our communities following their visit. This will be measured using a post-visit survey.
- 2) Improve quality of education: Field Trips students will demonstrate increased understanding of weather-related Florida state science standards. This

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?

OSC will furnish reports to describe the project progress during the period of performance. Any unused funds will be returned to the State of Florida.

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#:



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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.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name



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| | |
|-------------------|---|
| b. Firm Name | <input type="text" value="The Southern Group"/> |
| c. E-mail Address | <input type="text" value="anderson@thesouthernngroup.com"/> |
| d. Phone Number | <input type="text" value="(850)671-4401"/> |

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