



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1971

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Sarasota, Pasco, and Marion County Sheriff's Office, or police departments in their jurisdiction, will contract with Florida-based private forensic labs who have a minimum of 5 years accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and FBI testing standards for high-volume cases, including specialized DNA testing for fired shell casings, firearms, and property crime evidence. Funds may also be used for expedited testing of evidence when appropriate.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,500,000	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)?

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
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	Grant funds will be used to contract with private DNA laboratories who have a at least 5 years accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and FBI testing standards to cover expenses related to the expedited testing of DNA samples, or for testing techniques not readily available at a local lab.	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The funds will allow three sheriffs' offices (Sarasota, Pasco, and Marion County) to operate a grant program in their offices, or police departments in their jurisdiction, to contract with ISO/IEC 17025:2017-accredited private DNA laboratories for testing of DNA samples in an expedited or specialized manner. The goal is to show a meaningful reduction in crime by ensuring law enforcement has the resources to properly and quickly test evidence in cases using a technology or technique that is not readily available at a state or local laboratory.

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



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Funds will be used by Sarasota, Pasco, and Marion County sheriffs' offices or police departments in their jurisdiction to contract with accredited private DNA labs to analyze and test evidence when the case in question requires expedited testing or testing using a technology or technique not readily available at a local or state laboratory. Activities include partnering with ISO/IEC 17025:2017-accredited private DNA laboratories with a minimum of 5 years accreditation to conduct expedited or specialized testing.

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

The requested funding will enhance case resolution rates and enable law enforcement to effectively process cases that require specialized evidence testing. This will lead to more accurate investigations, improved public safety, and increased justice for victims and their families. Expedited DNA testing will remove repeat offenders from the community, provide a safer community, and reduce crime.

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

The target population includes residents, business owners, and visitors within the Pasco, Marion, and Sarasota county who are affected by crimes. The project is expected to serve all residents directly through enhanced public safety and crime reduction efforts.

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

The expected benefit is a measurable reduction in crime through expedited evidence processing. Improved DNA testing capacity will increase case clearance rates, deter repeat offenders, and enhance overall community safety. The private labs contracted will provide the Police Department and FDLE a report no later than one year after receipt of funding, including the amount of funding received, the number of cases tested, and the type of DNA testing performed.

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?

If the program is discontinued, not completed, or fails to meet agreed-upon deliverables or performance measures, the contracting agency may require the return of unexpended or improperly used funds. Additionally, the agency may withhold future disbursements, impose corrective action requirements, or terminate the agreement in accordance with state contracting standards.

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



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="Natalie Kato"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Natalie Kato P.A."/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="nataliekatoesq@gmail.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(763)221-3151"/>

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