



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2998

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Funding to support the Blockchain Innovation Lab construction as part of the revitalization and activation of The Pinellas Science Center. The Lab will be a pivotal center for thought leadership in the blockchain industry working to solidify Florida's future as the Beacon for Blockchain. Building off of Miami's "Crypto Capital" status, this lab will focus national attention on Florida's West Coast for cutting edge development and innovation in blockchain and Web3.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (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 2024-2025	1,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future 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.**

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

No



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

3/1/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

3/1/2025

12. 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.

Facility is currently owned by the City of St Petersburg who plans to sell the building to the St Petersburg Foundation.

13. 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: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will support the purchase, installation, cabling and maintenance of the equipment needed for the Blockchain Innovation Lab.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funding will support the construction of the carbon neutral Lab space and support the expansion of the existing facility to provide more STEM/STEAM learning spaces.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

14. Program Performance

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

To provide an opportunity for engaging, hands-on blockchain and web 3 programs that develop curiosity and encourage learning. While partnering with local educators and programming providers, FBBA could stimulate learning through the continuum of care which will result in ultimate success of future leaders. Studies show that careers in STEAM have grown 79% since the mid-1990s. Currently, St. Petersburg has no science-focused informal learning organizations.



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

The Science Center will be a space where hands-on, discovery-based learning and STEM enrichment fuel inquisitive minds and enthusiasm for all things science. A place where all children, adults, and families can go to observe, analyze, and explore technology and the life sciences. FBBA will be providing cutting edge learning and R&D opportunities that do not exist anywhere else in the Tampa Bay area.

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

The Blockchain Innovation Lab will be a pivotal center for thought leadership in the blockchain industry working to solidify Florida's future as the Beacon for Blockchain. The Lab will provide unique and future-focus educational opportunities in cutting edge development and innovation in blockchain and Web3.

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

Children, adults, and the families of Pinellas will be welcome to participate in the programs, events, exhibits, and classes held at the Science Center. The FBBA Blockchain Innovation Lab will provide specific opportunities for learners of all ages to gain exposure to STEM/STEAM learning and career paths will be especially extended to minority, low income, and disenfranchised youth in Pinellas County.

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

Pinellas has a higher percentage of low-income workers than the national average. Building wealth through higher paying jobs is the path to a better future for the county and the region. Exposing learners of all ages to STEM fields at the center is an important first step on a pathway to a variety of career paths that pay well and increase the overall prosperity of the community. Careers in STEM and STEAM have grown 79% since the mid-1990s. These education opportunities will lead students directly into a STEM pipeline of needed labor in the Pinellas market. Students who move into STEM careers out of high school and college make more money than their non-STEM counterparts. Workers with STEM training and skills are in very high demand now and that demand is only expected to increase in the future.

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 the contract?

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. 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)



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Local Entity

University or College

Other (please specify) 501(c) (6)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number