



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2999

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Established in 1959, the Science Center of Pinellas County was the premier science learning location in the U.S. for decades, serving as many as 22,000 children per year. Reactivating it will enable new generations of Pinellas children and families to immerse themselves in STEM learning while building community connections and enjoying family-friendly programming.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>

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)	2,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	1,500,000	3200	No

9. Is future 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.

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

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



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### 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?

1/1/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

10/1/2024

**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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will cover expenses associated with the renovation project such as surveys, inspections, permitting and assessment reports.	250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funding will cover a portion of the expenses of design and plan development and project management of the renovations required to reactivate the facility. Total cost of design and plan development has been estimated at \$900,000 and total cost of project management has been estimated at \$330,000.	250,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funding will be used for structural exterior repairs, replacing HVAC system to meet new building codes, updating plumbing, fire suppression and emergency systems, upgrading facility to meet ADA compliance levels, and replacing all windows and doors with hurricane rated fixtures that meet new building codes, grading the land, landscaping the property and repaving the parking lot.	2,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>

**14. Program Performance**

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



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To provide an opportunity for engaging, hands-on science programs that develop curiosity and encourage learning. While partnering with local educators, astronomers, public libraries, schools, and the neighborhood college. St. Petersburg Foundation 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. The already existing location has a Title 1 middle school along its property line and, with an existing relationship with Pinellas County Schools, would like to use the existing property to engage the middle and high school students.

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

The additional requested funds will be used to reactivate the Science Center and to get the building located at 7701 22nd Ave N, Saint Petersburg ready for learning opportunities. Private support and grant funding as well as community partnerships will be pursued for additional funding.

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

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 the life sciences. A coalition of service providers will provide a matrix of programming, events, and classes in STEM/STEAM that will enhance the standard learning in Pinellas County schools and prepare children and young adults for careers in STEM/STEAM jobs.

**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. Programming will also provide specific opportunities for day camps and summer camps open to residents and to tourists looking to enroll children in fun and educational activities while visiting Pinellas County. Opportunities for 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 youth 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



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#### 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

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number