



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2185

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

According to the National Institutes of Health, the average time to translate medical research into viable treatments and cures is 17 years. While this staggering time lag is based on a multiplicity of variables, one way to reduce this time is to bring clinical trials and investigation directly to the population. This funding will allow USF Health to expand their rare diseases research into methods used to image frozen biological molecules without the use of structure-altering dyes or fixatives or the need for crystallization to provide a more accurate picture of the molecules which is necessary to support current and emerging research for publications and grant applications into rare diseases. USF will use this funding to recruit researchers working in rare disease research.

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	10,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	10,000,000

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)	10,000,000	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	10,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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?



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Yes

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

USF has received institutional COVID-19 assistance funding from the federal government but the funds we received cannot be used for the construction new classroom facilities as outlined in this request.

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

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	Recruitment packages necessary to bring top tier AAU and Preeminent rare diseases scholars to Florida. These funds are used to customize existing labs and related equipment to the needs of the researcher and their particular disease study designs and funded projects. These costs are not billable to specific federal grants, but are required in order to bring that desired work to USF.	10,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		10,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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This project is intended to support the emerging scholarship at USF in the area of rare diseases by enabling the university to adjust to the needs of top tier scientific projects.

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

Funds research related start up costs, such as initial lab costs, that include equipment as well as lab technical personnel. Part of bringing any research to an institution is demonstrating the capacity to undertake the particular work proposed.

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

Increasing access to rare disease treatments, by expanding clinical trials, and translating disease discovery into bedside treatments within an existing population of patients.

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

Floridians who suffer from rare diseases and genetic disorders and university students and researchers. Millions of individuals statewide could benefit from this research.

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

Reducing suffering and improving quality of life are the primary goals of this type of science. Reducing the lag time from discovery to treatment is the measure.

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?

Statute and BOG Regulations provide specific penalties for noncompliance by state universities.

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)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**



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e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number