



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3099

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Since Warner University was established in 1968, the campus has continued to grow and has now outgrown its old wastewater treatment plant. The system services nearby Bok Academy South, a church, a retirement community, a mobile home park and multiple homes. It is now exceeding its 2005-designed capacity. The campus is located in close proximity to Crooked Lake and this poses a negative environmental impact, especially during storms. A new, more efficient system is desperately needed to meet the growth of the university and the surrounding area.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  Yes

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

| Type of Funding                    | Amount           |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations                         | 0                |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 2,250,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>2,250,000</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)       | 2,250,000        | 96%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 0                | 0%          |
| Other  | 100,000          | 4%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> | <b>2,350,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  Yes

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
| 2022-23                  | 0         | 2,250,000    | 1705A                       | No     |

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.

NA

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

Yes



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

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF):

Student Portion: \$2,771,905  
 Institutional Portion: \$3,348,169  
 Strengthening Institutions: \$262,522

## 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?

June 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

July 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.

Warner University

### 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                                |   | 0                |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  |   | 0                |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>                    |   |                  |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering                      | Contract services for planning, design and building project to meet all codes, etc. | 2,250,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |   | <b>2,250,000</b> |

### 14. Program Performance

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



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Warner University is in desperate need of a new wastewater treatment facility on its campus. Warner has historically provided wastewater treatment at no cost to the local community. This community consists of over 2,500 individuals among a service area that includes Bok Academy South middle school, South Lake Wales Church of God, a 50-unit mobile home park, Genesis Point (a retirement community) and multiple single-family homes.

Due to Warner's growth and the addition of Bok Academy, the wastewater treatment facility is now far exceeding its 2005-designed capacity of 86,000 gallons per day. It averages over 200,000 gallons per day which has a negative environmental impact on our nearby Crooked Lake - the only state-registered "Outstanding Florida Water" in Polk County. This situation is beyond the community's ability to resolve independently.

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

Warner University is now at a complete standstill for growth due to this wastewater capacity issue. No new development can happen due to no new bathrooms being allowed to be added to the system. Warner is out of dorm space for students and this Fall had to have students residing in the local Hampton Inn due to being overcapacity in our residence halls. Not only dorm space, but updated academic buildings are halted as well as even adding stadium seating to the new athletic turf field on the front of campus near Hwy 27. The new wastewater treatment facility will allow us to permit for bathrooms and keep up with the growth of Warner as well as allow growth for our neighbors who utilize our system.

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

Direct services to the citizens include the ability to grow and add on facilities at our neighboring organizations like Bok Academy, South Lake Wales Church of God, Genesis Point retirement community, and nearby residential communities who use our system. It also includes the service of clean and filtered water through our updated system, leaving the nearby Crooked Lake uncontaminated. The addition of new job opportunities at Warner through the growth, expanded service jobs on campus, and the cafeteria, as well as jobs in the residence halls and athletic fields. Tourism will also be boosted in this South Lake Wales area due to the number of tournaments and games that will bring in those from other areas to play at Warner's new football/lacrosse/soccer field with a large track, making the newest of its kind in East Polk County.

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

The largest population to be served by this project would be the Warner University community consisting of students, faculty and staff. This could be expanded to include their visiting families, athletic teams, recruits and commuters. The second tier of the population served by this project would be the communities who tie into Warner's wastewater system including the students, faculty and staff of Bok Academy, (well-known Lake Wales Charter school), the members of the South Lake Wales Church of God, the constituents living in Genesis Point retirement community, as well as those living in a 50-unit mobile home park and a handful of other homes. The total of this population hovers around 2,500.

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

Consultants recommend replacing the current wastewater treatment facility with one designed to handle 300,000 gallons per day (enough to support the next 20+ years of growth) at an estimated cost of \$4.5 million. The expected benefit of this project would be that growth for this great university and its neighbors will not be stifled any longer. The acreage is available for Warner to continue adding on dorms, a state-of-the-art student center, more athletic facilities, academic buildings, and Warner is ready with supportive donors and a Board of Trustees to back this growth. This last roadblock will be out of the way for an explosion to happen at this school and this part of the county. The outcome will be measured by the master plan of Warner University being able to be continued, the wastewater will be treated appropriately through measurements with DEP, and the increase in jobs available at Warner once the campus is back growing.

**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?**

Non-payment of invoices until contract services are met as agreed upon.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**



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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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

**17. Lobbyist Contact Information**

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

**Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.**

**18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?**

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

**19. What is the population economic status?**



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- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

**20. What is the status of construction?**

Design is midway; no current permits

**21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

0

**22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

07/15/2025