



Community College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program

What is the Community College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program?

The Community College Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program was established to assist institutions in the Florida College System (FCS) in building high priority instructional and community-related capital facilities. The program provides each institution with the opportunity to have private donations for the construction of these facilities matched by state appropriations.¹

To participate in the program, the direct-support organization (DSO) that serves the FCS institution must raise one-half of the total cost of a facilities construction project from private donations. The donations must be deposited in a separate capital facilities matching account and may not include federal or state government funds. Subject to the General Appropriations Act (GAA), the private donations are to be matched by a state appropriation equal to the amount raised for the facilities construction project.²

How are facilities construction projects approved for funding?

To be eligible for the grant program, each facilities construction project must be recommended by the educational plant survey, included in the FCS institution's five-year capital improvement plan, and approved by the State Board of Education or Legislature. The state board must transmit to the Governor and Legislature by October 15th of each year a list of the projects that meet the eligibility requirements and a budget request that includes the recommended schedule necessary to complete each project.³

A project may not be removed from the approved three-year Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) priority list because of its successful participation in the grant program until the project is approved by the Legislature and provided for in the GAA. When the project is completed and removed from the PECO priority list, all other projects for the FCS institution move up on that list.⁴

When may a FCS institution initiate a project?

A project may not be initiated unless all private funds for the planning, construction, and equipping of the facility have been received and deposited in the DSO's capital facilities matching account. This requirement, however, does not preclude the FCS institution or DSO from expending available funds from private sources to develop a prospectus, including

¹ Section 1011.32(1) and (2), F.S.

² Section 1011.32(2), (4), and (6), F.S.

³ Section 1011.32(8) and (9), F.S.

⁴ Section 1011.32(10), F.S.

preliminary architectural schematics or models, for use in its efforts to raise private funds for a facility and for site preparation, planning, and construction.⁵

State matching funds may be appropriated in one or more fiscal years for the planning, construction, and equipping of an eligible facility. FCS institutions must notify all donors of private funds when there is a substantial delay in the availability of state matching funds for this program.⁶

How much funding has the state provided for the grant program?

State matching funds were not appropriated for the program for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 FYs. The last state appropriation was for the 2008-09 FY in the amount of \$8,810,309.⁷ The state has appropriated a total of \$190,049,201 in matching funds⁸ for the program since its establishment in 1997.⁹

Where may I obtain additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Division of Florida Colleges
(850) 245-0407

Florida Department of Education

Office of Educational Facilities
(850) 245-0494

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee
(850) 488-7451
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

⁵ Section 1011.32(5), F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Specific Appropriation 24A, s. 2, ch. 2008-152, L.O.F.

⁸ Email, Florida Department of Education (June 18, 2010).

⁹ Section 1, ch. 97-210, L.O.F., *codified at* s. 240.383, F.S. (1997), *subsequently renumbered as* s. 1011.32, F.S.

