



University Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program

What is the University Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program?

The Alec P. Courtelis University Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program was established to assist institutions in the State University System (SUS) in building high priority instructional and research-related capital facilities. The program provides each institution with the opportunity to have private contributions for the construction of these facilities matched by state appropriations.¹

To participate in the program, a university must raise a contribution equal to one-half of the total cost of a facilities construction project from private nongovernmental sources. Subject to the General Appropriations Act (GAA), the contribution will 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 included in the SUS institution's five-year capital improvement plan and approved by the Board of Governors (BOG) or Legislature. The BOG is required to transmit to the 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 SUS institution move up on that list.⁴

When may a SUS 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 a separate SUS institution account designated for this purpose. This requirement, however, does not prohibit an institution from expending funds from private sources to develop a prospectus, including preliminary architectural schematics or models, for use in its efforts to raise private funds for a facility and site preparation, planning, and construction.⁵

¹ Section 1013.79, F.S.

² Section 1013.79(2) and (6), F.S.

³ Section 1013.79(8) and (9), F.S.

⁴ Section 1013.79(10), F.S.

⁵ Section 1013.79(5), F.S.

State matching funds may be appropriated in one or more fiscal years for the planning, construction, and equipping of an eligible facility. Each SUS institution 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 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 \$4,889,691.⁷ The state has appropriated a total of \$337,892,413 in matching funds⁸ for the program since its establishment in 1988.⁹

Where may I obtain additional information?

Board of Governors

State University System of Florida
(850) 245-0466

Florida House of Representatives

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

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Specific Appropriation 28A, s. 2, ch. 2008-152, L.O.F.

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

⁹ Section 2, ch. 88-241, L.O.F., *codified at* s. 240.2601, F.S. (1988), *subsequently renumbered as* s. 1013.79, F.S.

