



Legislation Text

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Informal Science Education Grant Application (B)

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) has invited the City of Gainesville to submit a proposal for the Institute's 2001 Pre-college Science Education Initiative, for Science Museum and Related Informal Science Education Institutions competition.

Currently, staff meet the criteria outlined in the program announcement, including supplying resources to science education that compliment and supplement the resources of many school systems and families with children in inner-city or rural areas. A successful grant will allow staff to refine and expand programs with a view to increasing participation and stabilizing funding. The Division will use the grant to nurture and sustain enthusiasm for science, particularly among young people, strengthen the science literacy of teachers, children, and their families, and to foster collaboration among informal science education and community institutions, including the Alachua County Library District and the School Board of Alachua County. Staff has experience in delivering high-quality science education programs to children, youth, teachers, and families, and has existing relationships with schools. These factors are among the characteristic of institutions that have been funded in the recent past. The grant requires that mechanisms for assessing program effectiveness be established. Our current program staff has these mechanisms in place.

If awarded, program staff will develop and deliver the programs under the supervision of the City's Nature Programs Coordinator headquartered at Morningside Nature Center.

The HHMI plans to award four-year grants in the amount of \$12 million. Individual grants will range from \$200,000 to \$500,000. No match is required for these grants.

The City Commission: 1) approve the grant application to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute; and 2) authorize the City Manager to execute the application, contract and other grant-related documents, if awarded, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.