



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1476

1. Project Title Brevard County - Indian River Lagoon, Septic Upgrades to Advanced Treatment Units Phase 3 (50 sites)

2. Senate Sponsor Debbie Mayfield

3. Date of Request 02/13/2023

4. Project/Program Description

This project will upgrade at least 50 conventional septic systems which pose the highest threat to Indian River Lagoon water quality in terms of nutrient and pathogen loading. Grants will be offered to homeowners who agree to upgrade to National Sanitation Foundation 245 certified aerobic treatment units that reduce at least 65% of the Total Nitrogen entering groundwater or upgrade to Inground Nitrogen Reducing Bioreactor (INRB) drainfields that also provide at least 65% Total Nitrogen load reduction. Sites that pose the highest threat to Indian River Lagoon water quality will be eligible for up to \$18,000 in upgrade costs. In addition, upgrades of non-priority sites will be incentivized on a prorated basis of \$1,200 per pound of reduced nitrogen loading to the lagoon, based on ArcNLET septic loading model results calibrated with local groundwater concentration data.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	450,000
Total State Funds Requested	450,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	450,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	450,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	900,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1476

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

Yes

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

ARPA: 1st tranche of \$58.5M went to Infrastructure, Revenue Replacement & Vaccine Incentive. 2nd tranche of \$58.5M went to qualified expenditures including Infrastructure, Negative Economic Impacts, Public Health & Revenue Replacement. CARES Act: \$105M for Public Safety Needs & Economic Support; \$20.4M for Transit, Housing, Fire Rescue, Valkaria Airport, & Sheriff's Community Programs; \$32.6M for Emergency Rental Assistance; \$6.6M for HUD Programs, \$4.2M for Housing Programs; \$3M for Transit.

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

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e. permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

Upon execution

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

3/1/2025

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.

The citizens of Brevard County who apply for grant funding will become owners of the facility (private septic systems) receiving capital outlay funding from this appropriation. The entity (Brevard County) will retain no ownership of any capital improvements performed on these private properties.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1476

Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Planning, permitting & inspection costs. Abandonment of deactivated systems. Installation of advanced (aerobic) treatment units or INRB drainfields, pumps, electrical connections, site restoration, and other miscellaneous costs associated with retrofitting existing septic systems.	450,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		450,000

14. Program Performance

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

The ultimate goal of this project is to improve water quality of the Indian River Lagoon by reducing the amount of nitrogen pollution from household wastewater that enters groundwater through septic drainfields. By reducing this nutrient pollution, groundwater which makes its way to the Indian River Lagoon will not fuel new algae blooms or exacerbate ongoing blooms. Bloom conditions reduce water clarity and decrease dissolved oxygen, contributing to seagrass loss and fish kills.

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

Septic contractors will replace existing conventional septic systems with advanced septic systems that meet NSF 245 wastewater standards for nitrogen reduction. Septic upgrades and site restoration will take place on private properties with the consent of owners who volunteer to participate in the program. Eligibility letters will be mailed to notify the owners of ~3,000 highest priority sites that they are eligible to participate in the program. The first 50 to respond will be offered funding. (According to Department of Health records, over 53,000 septic systems have been permitted within the watershed of the Indian River Lagoon in Brevard County.)

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

Brevard County will provide funds for qualified septic contractors to upgrade conventional septic system to advanced treatment septic systems on private property. Funds will cover the costs associated with abandonment of deactivated septic systems and planning, permitting, and installation of the new system. Individual funding amounts will be based on each particular septic parcel's modeled nitrogen loading to groundwater, with a maximum grant amount of \$18,000 per septic system.

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

At least 50 owners of conventional septic systems in Brevard County will be served. The highest priority sites of the 53,178 septic systems within the Indian River Lagoon watershed in Brevard County are older waterfront properties where sewer service is not available, septic systems installed in close proximity to surface waters, and in sandy high-conductance soils with shallow depth to groundwater. Targeted priorities include high-density, 1950s to 1960s mobile home parks and recreational vehicle lots. These sites would not be allowed to install conventional septic today, but state rules allow them to maintain and repair their existing systems.

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

The expected benefit of this project is a reduction of up to 1,150 pounds of nitrogen. The success of the program may be measured by the number of participants, the estimated reduction in nitrogen loading, and performance data from measuring the groundwater at a subsample of participating sites. In some cases, shoreline seepage rates and adjacent surface water samples will be compared to modeled load reduction estimates.

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?

Past performance should be taken into account by bill sponsors. Brevard County continues to meet its deliverables, however there could be a penalty of non-payment until contractual obligations are met.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1476

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**

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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Local Funding Initiative Request

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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?

Planning and permitting begin once Brevard County property owner applies for grant funding

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%, 120 properties participated in 2020-2022, successfully testing this program

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

3/1/2025