



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1645

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The objective of this project is to install sediment tubes in moderate and severe propeller (prop) scars in the St. Andrews Bay Aquatic Preserve. Sediment tubes consist of biodegradable cotton filled with local sediments compatible with the surrounding substrate. They are placed inside scarred portions of seagrass meadows to raise the damaged areas up to ambient grade. Sediment tubes offer stabilization against potentially destructive forces such as waves, boat wakes, frequent storms, and currents. By stabilizing the scarred areas from these forces, seagrass from adjacent, non-damaged beds can naturally recruit into damaged areas. Research by the FWC has proven that sediment tube application in prop scars speeds recovery of seagrass regrowth in treated sites. Nursery cultivated seagrass planting units will also be used to complement the natural recovery afforded by sediment tube application in scarred beds.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

| Type of Funding | Amount |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Operations | 999,496 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 0 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 999,496 |

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) | 999,496 | 100% |
| Matching Funds | | |
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 | 999,496 | 100% |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

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



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Yes

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

CCA Florida received Covid-19 federal assistance in the amount of \$248,041.42 in 2020, and \$231,601.81 in 2021. The funds were used for employee retention services and payroll.

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category | Description | Amount |
|--|--|----------------|
| Administrative Costs: | | |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits | Administration, Contracting, and Public Outreach | 137,322 |
| Other Salary and Benefits | NA | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | NA | 0 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | NA | 0 |
| Operational Costs: Other | | |
| Salary and Benefits | NA | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | NA | 0 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | Nursery Grown Seagrass Production, Permitting, Installation, Protection, Maintenance, Testing, Annual Monitoring and Reporting | 862,174 |
| Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation: | | |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering | NA | 0 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 999,496 |

14. Program Performance

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



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This proposed project will build on previous efforts to restore vessel-damaged seagrass beds within the preserve. Using the proven technique of sediment tube application to accelerate recovery, moderate to severe propeller scars will be identified and treated. Nursery cultivated seagrass planting units will be installed to enhance seagrass beds. This project perfectly aligns with the goals of the Northwest Florida Water Management District's (NFWFMD) SWIM plan, FDEP's Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, and the Deepwater Horizon Seagrass Recovery Project

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

The project funds will be used to permit and implement a sediment tube installation and seagrass restoration project. The benefits of the project will be communicated through public outreach campaigns.

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

Seagrass meadows are critical for improving water quality and clarity. They stabilize sediments in the water body and filter nutrients from stormwater and wastewater runoff. By doing so, healthy seagrass beds reduce the frequency and intensity of HABs. Better water quality in the preserve will increase recreational opportunities which, in turn, will stimulate the local economy. Citizens will benefit directly and indirectly from the ecosystem services provided by restored and enhanced seagrass meadows in the St. Andrews Bay.

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

This project will enhance the quality of St. Andrews Bay, which will benefit all of Florida's residents and an estimated 7.4 million tourists who visit Florida each year.

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

The expected outcome of this project is to permanently restore vessel-damaged seagrass meadows in St. Andrews Bay by utilizing scientifically validated techniques. Maintenance, along with annual monitoring and reporting, will take place for three years to measure the success of this project.

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?

If deliverables are not achieved, then funds should be withheld for nonperformance.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
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



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☐ 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