



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3171

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Request to revert and re-appropriate the funds remaining in SA 1480A of the GAA. This research project will provide modernized, science-based fertilizer (nutrient) application rates ensuring farmers can protect the environment while growing food for the nation. This research project will assess, update, and validate the recommended amount of fertilizer that should be applied to two of Florida's largest vegetable crops and citrus with the intention of expanding to additional crops as needed in the future. Simultaneously, UF/IFAS will continue developing an artificial intelligence database on nutrient recommendations that will be developed through students in agriculture and engineering disciplines working with local farmers.

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	8,763,753
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	8,763,753

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)	8,763,753	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	8,763,753	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.**
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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.

University of Florida received federal stimulus funds. Fund spent supporting students financial needs & other COVID related expenses such as PPE. UF/IFAS received funding to reimburse purchase of 4 quarantine quarters for off-campus graduate students at \$78,395.

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	5 teams made up of Research Assistant Scientists, Biological Scientists II, OPS, Student Envoys. Artificial intelligence post-doctoral associates	3,500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Soil samples, soil analysis, sequential analyses, tissue analyses, sample shipping, field supplies, Lab supplies, Field equipment, Travel,	5,263,753
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		8,763,753

14. Program Performance

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



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This research project will provide modernized, science-based fertilizer (nutrient) application rates ensuring farmers can protect the environment while growing food for the nation. This project will assess, update, and validate the recommended amount of fertilizer that should be applied to two of Florida's largest vegetable crops and expand to additional crops in future years. In the face of a citrus greening disease, fertilizer recommendations for citrus will also be evaluated and updated. Due to requirements of recently passed legislation, there is a pressing need to assess, update and validate, recommended fertilizer application rates and application practices for the agriculture industry, while balancing the needs of producers and environmental impacts

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

Utilizing the latest in technology, update nutrient recommendations for agriculture production, enabling farmers to use fertilizer more efficiently. Fewer nutrients will be lost through stormwater runoff and irrigation resulting in less nutrients escaping to our water and the environment.

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

More efficient food production and reduced impact to water quality and the environment.

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

Farmers, ranchers and producers across the state economically, over 47,000 farms in Florida that would be served by this project, impacting nearly 1.5M jobs. Greater than 800,000 people. Floridians will benefit through less impacts to our water and the environment.

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

More accurate nutrient rates will enable agriculture producers to become more efficient in fertilizer use reducing impacts to the state's environment and water quality. The success will be measured by the reduced nutrient runoff from agriculture operations.

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?

Standard penalties for the state university system

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)



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- 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