



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2526

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Hernando County Aquatic Services and Waterways Department seeks to develop a comprehensive canal feasibility study to evaluate known areas of concern within residential navigable canals West of US 19 in Hernando County along with developing a plan to assess the potential canal dredging needs. The study will identify areas to improve overall conditions of the canal systems for water flow, water quality, and public accessibility for the commercial fishing trade, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism development.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	200,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	33%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	300,000	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.

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

Yes



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

Approximately \$36 million. The funds were used to provide personnel with personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as reimbursement for additional personnel costs, assistance to businesses affected by COVID-19, provide equipment needed for remote working.

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
 N/A

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

No

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.

Hernando County has ownership of and maintains all canals associated with this project.

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	Hernando County proposes to acquire funding to develop a comprehensive canal feasibility study and maintenance plan.	200,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		200,000

14. Program Performance

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

The study will identify areas to improve overall conditions of the canal systems for water flow, water quality, and public accessibility for the commercial fishing trade, recreational fishing and boating, and tourism development.

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



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Removal of accumulated layers of fine-grained sediments and organic material which is restricting the recruitment of seagrass, reducing the amount of forage and habitat for marine life.

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

Canal maintenance would provide several benefits to State waters such as allowing for increased boating access and recreation, increased water quality by removing organic and fine-grained sediment accumulation that may contain contaminants, spurs economic development along underutilized corridors, increases livability and property values along the waterways, and may even increase jobs depending upon location.

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

The general population of Hernando County along with the tourists that utilize the waterways will be served by this project.

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

Removal of organic detrital material will allow recruitment of seagrass within the canals, providing a food source and habitat for marine life. Surveys of vegetation and marine wildlife before and after organic detrital material removal will determine the success of the 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?

The County will reimburse State funding for failure to meet the deliverables.

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
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**



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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?

- 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?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?