



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3058

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funding will be used for a pilot demonstration project using heavy lift drones to deploy oyster and clam seed into existing oyster habitat and seagrass meadows with more coverage and density than traditional methods previously used to jump start rejuvenation of depleted areas. The goal is to deploy over 45 million 1-2 mm oyster and clam seeds.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

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)	2,500,000	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 2024-2025	2,500,000	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.

Partnerships with 501(c)3's; possible local/federal matches and grants.

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

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



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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)?

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	Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning.	375,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Field staff for drone deployment locations.	400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Permitting, construction planning and oversight, monitoring, drone lease and equipment maintenance, oyster and clam seed, additional supplies, internships, monitoring, permitting and data collection.	1,725,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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)		2,500,000

14. Program Performance

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

To increase water quality in the Indian River Lagoon, filter feeders consisting of oyster and clam seeds will be deployed using a heavy lift drone. The oyster and clam seeds will be documented by GIS mapping, and data collection showing rate per area deployed and survival.

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



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Oyster and clam seeds will be purchased from certified aquaculture facilities. The areas to be used for the pilot project will be coordinated with experts ranging from university staff, state agencies, and non-profit organizations.

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

By deploying millions of oysters and clam seeds, the increase in water quality will directly benefit tourism and a healthy ecosystem.

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

This project will benefit visitors to the Indian River Lagoon and those that live and work within the Indian River Lagoon. More than 250,000 people will benefit from this project annually.

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

The outcome is to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon to allow for seagrass growth. The clams and oysters will be monitored for success and mortality rate using methodology approved in permitting.

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?

All seed stock will be procured from FDACS certified Aquaculture facilities and inspected by staff prior to deployment. detailed maps and plans will also be approved.

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

e. E-mail Address



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f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number