



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3542

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

This project is a continuation of DEP grant LPA0282 that was funded for fiscal year 23_24 of 100 acres of Statewide SAV planting. The current project will be completed on time and has letters of commitment and contracts with FWC for SAV planting through 2026.

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	5,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	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	5,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	5,000,000	2740	No

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?**

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

June 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

june 2026

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	750,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Aquaculture facility lease and maintenance	600,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Permitting, SAV plants, Exclusion Cages, Signage, Education, Installation, maintenance, observations and adjustments	3,650,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

Utilize current fresh and saltwater Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Nurseries and implement regional specific plantings along with creation of SAV habitat restoration grow plots in critical areas of need (NW Florida Panhandle, Springs, Caloosahatchee River Basin, and the Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay and The Florida Keys). Projected 75 acres of plants grown and planted annually within critical areas of need. The program includes public-private partnerships, Universities, and 501c3.



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

SAV will be cultivated and planted in permitted restoration areas, all planting reports will be submitted as well as other documentation.

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

The project has been funded and the need for continued expansive SAV planting and water quality projects is a priority for the Governor along with citizens and tourists of the State of Florida. The communities are behind restoration of valuable ecosystems for tourism and essential fish habitat. Ecosphere Restoration Institute has commitment letters for over 30 acres of permitted planting areas from FWC and Martin County alone.

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

Tourists and citizens of the State of Florida. This project has impacts every citizen and tourist either living in or visiting our State. Including the nutrient cycling worth of seagrasses as well as recreational fisheries, DEP has estimated that each acre of seagrass in Florida has an economic value of approximately \$20,255 per year, which translates into a statewide economic benefit of \$44.6 billion annually.

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

There has been over 2 years of documented studies, past projects, and funded projects showing success of restoration of essential fish habitat statewide on a large scale. All acreage and plantings will be accounted for in each quarterly report. Monitoring will be done per permit requirements and reported as documented.

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 Nursery and SAV will be inspected and certified by FDACS staff, any plants that fail certification or inspection will not be used for planting and not available as a pay item. Each planting report and locations will be submitted with pay items as well.

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



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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?

- 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?