



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1582

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

These funds will provide for the continuation of the development of an artificial intelligence (AI) tool through the formation of a statewide ecosystem services (ES) monitoring network to quantify, validate, and develop ecosystem services delivered by agricultural and natural systems in Florida. This tool will provide decision-support tools to agricultural producers and land managers, and opportunities to market “climate-smart” products. It will also positively impact water quality, water quantity, soil health, carbon sequestration, and other crucial ecosystem services across the continuum between agricultural and natural systems.

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	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	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	3,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	2,017,876	148	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?



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

Revenue: \$76M direct student aid and \$93M institutional support; Expenses: 1) \$76M direct student aid, 2) \$93M campus operations; \$8.7M for IT infrastructure & equipment for remote/distance learning; \$9.4M reimbursements for housing/study abroad; \$9.1M campus health/safety; \$8.2M other operating/research costs and student mental health/basic needs; \$57M for lost revenues in the student union, educational business activities, parking, research service centers, and museums/performing art centers.

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	Salary corresponding to one month of effort for the executive director of the project.	17,658
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	This project will use funds to support the formation of seven teams of faculty, postdocs, and students. Four teams will focus on quantifying natural assets. Two teams will focus on the development of a platform for unifying our artificial intelligence systems and protecting data privacy on our platform. The final team will focus on outreach to partners to expand our network.	1,982,342
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses will include travel for outreach to other academics and to producers in the State of Florida. Other expenses will be used for sensing systems and their associated software packages for collecting and analyzing data, computer storage space to store the data we collect, and access to the University of Florida HiPerGator supercomputer for data processing.	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

Key natural resources (e.g., recharging groundwater, providing habitat for wildlife, sequestering carbon) that benefit the general population are often maintained on farmland. UF/IFAS is developing an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that will be utilized to quantify and assess the value of these benefits.

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

Validation and further refinement of the AI tool will be done through the use of ground truth data of given environmental resources at specific time points. Simulations using system digital twins will be carried out to determine system sustainability (economic, environmental) and estimations of system operation will be tested against the predictions.

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

Protection of environmental resources and climate smart land management practices while maintaining food production.

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

Citizens of the state of Florida will benefit through preservation of natural systems, 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?

Preservation of environmental resources, water quality, quantity and recharge, correspondently helping to address the climate crisis.

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