



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2902

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

4. Project/Program Description

This project will build on previous efforts to restore vessel-damaged seagrass beds within the preserve. Using the proven technique of sediment tube application to accelerate recovery, roughly 1.3 acres of moderate to severe propeller scars will be identified and treated. Sediment tubes consist of biodegradable cotton filled with local sediments compatible with the surrounding substrate. They are placed inside scarred portions of seagrass meadows to raise the damaged areas up to ambient grade. Sediment tubes offer stabilization against potentially destructive forces such as waves, boat wakes, frequent storms, and currents. By stabilizing the scarred areas from these forces, seagrass from adjacent, non-damaged beds can naturally recruit into damaged areas. Supplemental seagrass plantings will complement the natural recovery afforded by sediment tube application in areas with larger scars. Testing, annual monitoring, and reporting for three years will ensure project objectives are met.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	999,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	999,000

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)	999,000	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	999,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	999,496	HSE Form#1294	No

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.



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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.

CCA Florida received Covid-19 federal assistance in the amount of \$248,042 in 2020, and \$231,601.81 in 2021. The funds were used for employee retention services and payroll.

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	Administration, Contracting, and Public Outreach	136,863
Other Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	NA	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	NA	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	NA	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Nursery Grown Seagrass Production, Permitting, Installation, Protection, Maintenance, Testing, Annual Monitoring and Reporting	862,137
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		999,000

14. Program Performance

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



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This proposed project will build on previous efforts to restore vessel-damaged seagrass beds within the preserve. Using the proven technique of sediment tube application to accelerate recovery, 1.3 acres of moderate to severe propeller scars will be identified and treated. Nursery-cultivated seagrass planting units will be installed to enhance seagrass beds. This project perfectly aligns with the goals of the Northwest Florida Water Management District's (NFWFMD) SWIM plan, FDEP's Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, and the Deepwater Horizon Seagrass Recovery Project.

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

The project funds will be used to permit and implement a sediment tube installation and seagrass restoration project. The benefits of the project will be communicated through public outreach campaigns. Sediment tube application in prop scars will allow for natural recruitment of seagrass from adjacent, non-damaged beds into vessel-damaged areas. Seagrass meadows filter and sequester nutrients that would otherwise contribute to harmful algal blooms (HABs) including red tide. By stabilizing sediments in the Bay, seagrass meadows improve water clarity. Seagrass also provides food for manatees. Treated scars and planted seagrass units will be monitored for a period of 3 years. Percent coverage will be measured using the Braun-Blanquet (B&B) survey method. B&B is a rapid, visual assessment technique widely accepted for assessing vegetative coverage).

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

Seagrass meadows are critical for improving water quality and clarity. They stabilize sediments in the water body and filter nutrients from stormwater and wastewater runoff. By doing so, healthy seagrass beds reduce the frequency and intensity of HABs. Better water quality in the preserve will increase recreational opportunities which, in turn, will stimulate the local economy. St. Andrews Bay is a popular recreation destination for locals and tourists. Sportfishing, scalloping, boating, snorkeling, and other water-based recreational activities will be enhanced with improvements in water quality resulting from enhanced seagrass meadows in the preserve. Numerous studies document improvements in mental health with increased time spent in nature. Citizens will benefit directly and indirectly from the ecosystem services provided by restored and enhanced seagrass meadows in St. Andrews Bay.

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

This project will enhance the quality of St. Andrews Bay, which will benefit all of Florida's residents and an estimated 7.4 million tourists who visit Florida each year. St. Andrews has been considered a "destination" for charter boats, restaurants and shops since the mid-1900s. In 1989, St. Andrews was designated as a community redevelopment area; in 1997 St. Andrews joined the inaugural waterfronts Florida Program to revitalize the area into a sustainable waterfront community. By building resilience in the bay, its cultural experiences will be safeguarded. The project will improve water quality, enhance recreational/commercial fishing, and improve the tourism industry. Improved water quality means more fish and scallops will be available for the recreational sector, increasing local economic activity at bait and tackle shops, restaurants, hotels, etc...

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

The expected outcome of this project is to permanently restore vessel-damaged seagrass meadows in St. Andrews Bay by utilizing scientifically validated techniques. Seagrass provides critical nursery habitat for many invertebrates and fish in St. Andrews Bay. Scallops feed on seagrass; juveniles rely on seagrass for the protection it provides. Many popular sportfish are found in St. Andrews Bay because of the seagrass including spotted seatrout, redfish, flounder, Spanish mackerel, and cobia. Sea turtles also feed on seagrass and rely on it for nutrition. Maintenance, along with annual monitoring and reporting, will take place for three years to measure the success of this 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?

If deliverables are not achieved, then funds should be withheld for nonperformance.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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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

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number