



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3243

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

By bridging the gap from pilot project research to private industry, we will partner with a public university to commercialize the Florida hemp seed industry, allowing growers in the state and throughout the country to have access to locally produced and adapted varieties and the highest quality of seed for fiber and grain type hemp.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	832,500
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	832,500

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	832,500	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 2023-2024	832,500	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.

As funding is so specifically geared toward stimulating the local state economy, State funding is sole source from which we are seeking funds.

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

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	Director of R&D organizing state wide research program, handling university relationship, and writing research reports to be submitted to universities, FDACS, Board of Governors, and the public.	95,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Ensuring benefits package for director	16,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to establish awareness of Florida grown hemp seed	15,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Legal and financial services	25,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries will be paid to the director of agriculture and director of compliance (55,000 each). They will be responsible for managing all agricultural operations and compliance within legal criteria of the hemp industry. As cultivation is a labor-intensive industry, the remaining sum our budget to support farm labors and Florida-resident college interns.	246,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Our research requires on farm, laboratory, and market testing. The budget is the sum of our needs for farm equipment and disposables, land rent, research equipment, laboratory testing, and travel around the state to various field locations. Also, this includes expenses of the director of business development's expenses to boost awareness of Florida hemp to potential customers.	249,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds will be distributed to our university partner and for research one partnership with other Florida entities.	186,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		832,500

14. Program Performance



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

Florida hemp pilot projects found that locally adapted fiber hemp can be used for local production, local processing, and seed sales to northern growers, which can bring millions of dollars into the state. Funding would allow an R2 HBCU to finalize development of the first Florida hemp variety, provide extension, and market test fiber hemp products. This work is crucial to bridge the gap from pilot project results to an active hemp market, while accelerating the HBCU towards R1 status.

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

Finalization and publicization of Florida bred varieties of fiber and grain type hemp, along with publication of growing practices. From this funding we will be able to finalize preliminary efforts to breed a variety of hemp that produces well in our state. That variety will be able to be certified for This will be done in coordination with university partners, seed agencies, and local growers that will be licensed to grow the approved hemp variety.

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

Services from this appropriation will be indirect as we are providing infrastructure for a new industry that can employ hundreds of thousands of workers in the state.

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

The agricultural sector involved in the seed industry, manufacturing, wood processing would be aided by the expansion of hemp seed production. The more than 250,000 Floridians working in this sector can be positively effected by the addition of hemp as a secure alternative to some other volatile markets Florida growers have exposure to.

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

Founding a local seed industry that sells seed for fiber production in state and throughout the country, which brings money into the state.

Success will be measure by tons of seed produced, acers of fiber grown in state, tons of seed sold to out-of-state-growers, and estimated cash flow into the state generated from seed sales outside the state. These outcomes will be measured by survey of industry participants and validated by USDA ag reports to ensure concordant, trustworthy information.

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?

Immediate refund of remaining funds upon identification of unsatisfactory progress.

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



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- ☐ 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