



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1771

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Water School within Florida Gulf Coast University (FFGCU) will conduct a comprehensive and predictive data assessment of the environmental health of Lake Okeechobee based on natural and anthropogenic influences on the biota to produce a current state of the Lake with gaps identified around the Lake's condition, gather information to address gaps, and create a suite of potential water level and in lake management strategies that may be implemented and explored for lake improvements.

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	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?** No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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.**

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

Yes



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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)?

No

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Application of the standard 10% de minimis cost rate to FGCU as well as indirect costs for contractual services.	429,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Estimated number of FGCU staff includes ten faculty, six post-docs, two professional technicians, six graduate students, and five undergraduate students.	1,429,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Estimated equipment, travel, student support, materials and supplies, computers, peripherals, and publication costs.	412,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services and consultants to support the development of an analytical platform to compile, assess, and analyze data to support the assessment of factors impacting the environmental health of Lake Okeechobee and provide data supported insights to drive identification of strategies for improvements.	2,730,000
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?



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Assessment will result in an enhanced understanding of the Lake Okeechobee's environmental health and related human and natural drivers thereof. This assessment will inform future decisions regarding Lake Okeechobee management with an eye towards protecting and improving the environment.

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

Develop an analytical tool that will help facilitate the goal to provide an updated comprehensive and predictive data assessment of the environmental health of Lake Okeechobee based on natural and anthropogenic influences on the biota to produce results that include a current state of the Lake with gaps identified around the Lake's condition, gather additional information to address gaps, and create a suite of potential strategies that may be implemented and explored for lake improvements.

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

Citizens statewide will benefit from increased water quality throughout the State.

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

All residents of Florida impacted by poor water quality conditions.

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

Use of tool will result in appreciable water quality gains through recommended improvements to improve lake quality.

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?

Withholding payments and assessing potential financial or liquidated damages.

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)



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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