



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2057

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Create a research project at the University of Florida/IFAS to study the efficacy of a program that delivers live, native microalgae directly to the soil on a continuous basis using the existing irrigation schedule. The study would verify studies in other states that show that this method helps return soils to their most fertile state by extracting native organic microorganisms directly from the farm's soil, rapidly reproducing them in mass quantities onsite and delivering them alive, back into the soil and vastly reducing water use as a result.

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	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

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)	2,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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?  Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Ideally this university research project will be successful and eventually turn into a grant program administered by the Department of Agriculture, to partner with farmers and assist in their first two years of implementing this alternative fertilizer, after which, the individual farmer's operating capital would take over the cost of the program.

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



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Yes

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

Yes, PPP funds – all of which were forgiven.  
 April 2020 - \$323,700  
 January 2021 – \$301,902  
 The funds were used to support MyLand’s staff during the COVID-19 shut down.

## 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.**

n/a

### 13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	n/a	0
Other Salary and Benefits	Soil Health Team Support & Oversight (Salaries & Benefits)	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	travel, equipment, & supplies	120,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	\$0.1M for Administrative Oversight (Salaries & Benefits)	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$892,000 CAPEX for equipment Reminder: -OPEX for servicing equipment & staff that manage operations, outposts, algae production, etc. -Facility Expense (outpost for staff) -(20%) Research appropriation for University of Florida to cover all soil & crop testing to measure the efficacy of MyLand’s service as it relates to improving crop performance for Florida growers.	1,680,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,000,000</b>



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

The goal is to improve soil health, supporting grower yields & quality and reducing the use of inputs like nitrogen and water. Reduction in nitrogen use and other fertilizers could reduce the fertilizer impact on waterways in Florida. Ultimately, these savings and improvements will yield a positive return for Florida growers, and positively impact Florida's resources. The funds will be used to support adoption of the service.

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

Deliver live, native microalgae directly to the soil on a continuous basis using the existing irrigation schedule. In other states, this helps return soil to its most fertile state by extracting native organic microorganisms directly from the farm's soil, rapidly reproducing them in mass quantities onsite and delivering them alive, back into the soil and vastly reducing water and nutrient use as a result.

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

If this technology works in Florida as it does in multiple other states, including Texas, then all citizens of the state would benefit by giving farmers all over the state the ability to produce more crops, more quickly, using less water, and much less nitrogen or phosphorous based fertilizer.

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

All citizens of the state, including the agricultural community, those who are concerned with water quality and quantity, and regulators of agriculture and natural resources.

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

The expected benefit of the project is to prove out that live, biological algae can be used as a highly effective, non-phosphorous/non-nitrogen fertilizer can improve soil health and supports farmers and the agricultural community, along with benefiting the quantity and quality of water in Florida.

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?

Money, as in most state contracts, can be clawed back for failure to meet deliverables and metric based objectives.

#### 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)



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- 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