



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3227

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Convert the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants to the Institute of Freshwater Management to enhance research, education, and extension opportunities to keep Florida waters safe and clean for continued economic development and environmental sustainability by 1) creating a unique asset that drives innovation, 2) attracting significant funding to the state, 3) providing a credible state resource, and 4) preparing students for careers. There is no other resource like this in the US.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	10,000,000

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)	10,000,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	5,000,000	33%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	15,000,000	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? Yes

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?

No



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

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	\$2MM to 2.5MM annual appropriation to be allocated across faculty to support research and fund graduate students specifically related to the applied management of freshwater invasive plants, harmful algae blooms, and in-lake restoration of nutrient pollution. In addition, \$300,000 to \$500,000 annual appropriation for enhanced extension activities and materials.	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	The original Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants is almost 50 years old and currently at capacity. A new building for the Institute of Freshwater Management constructed on the adjoining IFAS property will modernize infrastructure and create additional capabilities to attract faculty, students and research money.	8,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		10,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Improve agricultural production/promotion, education; Improve quality of education; Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality; Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)

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

Access to clean water is essential for agricultural production and management of nutrients leaving farms is becoming a greater focus; Increase student enrollment in a critical area of need that will provide human resources to institutions and companies working on freshwater management; improve academic offering at land-grant University by increasing courses taught in applied management; attract funding for research; Harmful algal blooms form toxins that can kill wildlife, including manatees and bald eagles. Invasive species, like hydrilla, are the largest threat to biodiversity. Methods and expertise for management of degraded water quality to protect critical habitat and endangered species to preserve Florida's biodiversity.

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

Increased economic development; Fewer beach closures, harmful algal bloom outbreaks, and improved water quality measurements documented by LakeWatch program. Local communities will be less impacted as water management strategies are developed leading to the revitalization of locally impacted economies. Development of better technology and expertise resulting in fewer shutdowns and increased tourism. Improved drinking water quality; improved surface water quality; improved stormwater and wastewater management practices.

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

The Institute of Freshwater Management would locally serve the student population of UF/IFAS but the outcomes of the research and managment of affected areas will benefit the state as a whole.

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

Improved economic development. Degraded freshwater resources and those taken over by invasive species can shut-down a local economy. Without sustainable freshwater resources, economic development will be delayed. Losses are generally in tourism, public health, recreation, and property values. Better holistic management of harmful algal blooms that can form toxins that are being linked to many human diseases. Extension activity is needed to alert the general public of these risks as well as educate on the benefits of management. Results can be measured and compared with previous information across a wide array of environmental factors.

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?

Reduction in annual appropriation commensurate with performance.

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