



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3306

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This facility would be the hub for innovation and training in AI and robotic technologies focused solely on solving the problems of farmers and managers.

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	19,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	19,000,000

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)	19,000,000	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	19,000,000	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.

None

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

Yes

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



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Revenue: \$76M direct student aid and \$93M institutional support; Expenses: 1) \$76M direct student aid, 2) \$93M campus operations; \$8.7M for IT infrastructure & equipment for remote/distance learning; \$9.4M reimbursements for housing/study abroad; \$9.1M campus health/safety; \$8.2M other operating/research costs and student mental health/basic needs; \$57M for lost revenues in the student union, educational business activities, parking, research service centers, and museums/performing art centers.

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?

October 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

October 2026

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.

UF/IFAS

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		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	34,100 sq ft of office, research shop, and meeting space	19,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		19,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

Work on the design, construction, evaluation, and demonstration of novel AI-based technologies for agriculture with an emphasis on moving technology from concept to prototype. Provide a training ground for graduate students and Post-Doctoral Associates on practical applications of AI technology.



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

Education, training, and hands on experience for students, research to design, construct, evaluate, and demonstrate novel AI-based technologies.

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

Provide skilled, high-level workforce in the area of Artificial Intelligence, enhance production agriculture with new technologies, and attract businesses to Florida.

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

Undergraduate and graduate students. The expected individuals to be served in this project continues to increase on a yearly basis. Also, potentially, up to 47,000 farms in Florida with an employment of 1.5 million jobs.

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

This hub will provide a central core that will link with UF/IFAS faculty who participate in the AI initiative across the state to serve the agriculture industry and address environmental issues such as water use and water quality. The success of the center will be determined by the level of use and the new science and technology developed.

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?

Standard University Penalties.

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)

d. First Name **Last Name**



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e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number