



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2878

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

**4. Project/Program Description**

We aim to ease the suffering of children in foster care, the loneliness of senior citizens and the economically disadvantage. Our Community Garden Initiative is a comprehensive effort to establish edible and sustainable community gardens in several communities in Miami-Dade and surrounding Counties. A community garden is a carefully planned, perennial landscape that simulates the structure and function of a natural forest ecosystem while providing an abundant, diverse, and year-round supply of edible plants, produce and herbs. This project aims to transform underutilized parcels of land into thriving food gardens that will serve as an invaluable resource for our community. The components include: Site transformation, educational programs, community engagement, nutritional support, and environmental sustainability. The results include enhanced community nutrition, environmental stewardship, educational opportunities, community cohesion and economic resilience.

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	750,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>750,000</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)	750,000	75%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	25%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>1,000,000</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?  No
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.
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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.

## 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.

3 True North Classical Academy Charter School campuses in Miami Dade, owned by Michael Bileca.  
 2 Children's Harbor Foster Care campuses for foster siblings and aged out teenagers, owned by Erik Chafin.  
 1 Avalina Assisted Living Facility for seniors and high-functioning adults with Autism, owned by YMP Real Estate, Moshe and Yaffa Popack. Neighborhood Farms USA is in partnership with all 3 organizations/facilities.

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Site selection and selection, CAD garden design and planning, land preparation, planting and maintenance, Installation of community gardens with irrigation and maintenance support.	750,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>750,000</b>

14. Program Performance

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



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The specific goal of installing a food forest is to create a sustainable and resilient community resource that addresses various societal challenges. Through the establishment of food forests, we aim to achieve the following objectives: improved food security, community nutrition, educational opportunities, economic empowerment, and promotion of sustainable practices.

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

Community engagement, educational outreach, harvest and distribution, nutritional support, advocacy and outreach, collaboration with local organizations, and evaluation and improvement.

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

Education of nutritional sustainability, healthy food security, community engagement, reduced or free food costs.

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

Elderly, persons with poor mental and physical health, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, grade school students, high-school students, and developmentally disabled. 2000-3000 thousand individuals are expected to be served.

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

Improve physical health, improve mental health, enrich cultural experience, improve agricultural education and production, improve quality of nutritional education, increase or improve economic activity, enhance individual's economic self-sufficiency. We will measure the outcome with a combination of financial data, skill development assessments, and feedback from individuals, students, teachers, administration and seniors.

**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?**

Return the funds.

**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



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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**