



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1825

1. **Title of Project:** Alachua County Agriculture Center

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Keith Perry

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/28/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The purchase and renovation of the private Canterbury Equestrian Center and adjacent property into the new Alachua County Agricultural Center and UF/IFAS Extension Services offices.

The County, in partnership with the City of Newberry, will purchase and renovate the existing Canterbury Equestrian site as the Alachua County Agriculture Center. The UF/IFAS Extension offices and community center will be located on the property immediately adjacent, as the tenant anchor to the City of Newberry's Ag Tech Park. The existing arena at the Agricultural Center is a 150' x 250' open-air facility with seating for 2000+. In addition to accommodating equestrian events, the arena can host consumer/trade shows, rodeos, festivals, banquets, agricultural events, barrel racing, roping, livestock auctions, pet shows, tractor pulls, circuses and concerts.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	10.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	9,000,000	90.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	10,000,000	100.0%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No



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10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The requested funds will be used to help renovate an under-cover agricultural arena, improve outdoor facilities with electrical and infrastructure for agricultural events and construct a new UF/IFAS Extension Services facility.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The new Agricultural Center will host agricultural events, equestrian events, festivals, fairs and other performances and events. The Center will also include a UF/IFAS center that will perform public educational duties.

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

In addition to accommodating equestrian events, the renovated arena can host consumer/trade shows, rodeos, festivals, banquets, agricultural events, barrel racing, roping, livestock auctions, pet shows, tractor pulls, circuses and concerts. The concourse at the center will have two pole barns and be able to accommodate huge gatherings for fairs, festivals, and concerts. The concourse will also accommodate the 4-H Livestock show and the Alachua County Fair. The new Alachua County UF/IFAS Extension offices and community center will provide scientifically based agricultural, human and natural resource knowledge in the heart of their citizen base that can be used in making informed decisions. Educational programs include: • Agricultural & Natural Resources • Family & Consumer Sciences • 4-H Youth Development • Environmental Horticulture • Commercial Horticulture • Livestock

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

The new Agricultural Center will be able to host improved events that will add to the cultural experiences in Alachua County. The increase of events will lead to an increase in tourism with both overnight stays and local visits. The UF/IFAS Extension will provide educational programs in the areas of agriculture, family & consumer science, and 4-H youth development. The UF/IFAS office has an Ag & Natural Resource Agent that provides



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educational programming and the UF/IFAS office also provides programs with the research-based information, strategies and skills needed to make behavior changes that will improve an individual's quality of life as well as improve the resources of the state.

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

The target population is the general public. UF/IFAS learning events alone totaled 24,909 in 2017. The total population served is projected to be over 110,000 annually.

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

The number of monthly and yearly Cultural events as well as the number of overnight tourism stays will increase. Through 4-H Youth Development, after school programming, 4-H Life Ready, and other programs, youth will gain valuable life skills. These skills are measured through knowledge gain, public speaking, and leadership activities. Those attending financial management classes will increase knowledge in budgeting, working with financial institutions, and future planning. Students have gained valuable skills in resume writing, filling out job applications, interviewing techniques, financial planning, and careers.

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 in the contract?

N/A

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners will be the owners of the new center. The City of Newberry will be contributing \$1,000,000 to the project. The citizens of Alachua County as well as other FL counties will benefit from the new Ag Center and UF/IFAS Ext. Services offices as evidenced by the support of various organizations in Alachua County including the Rural Concerns Advisory Board, the Economic Development Advisory Council, and the Recreation and Open Space Advisory Council.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Ron Gromoll
- b. **Organization:** Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- c. **E-mail Address:** rgromoll@alachuacounty.us
- d. **Phone Number:** (352)264-6907

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- b. **County:** Alachua
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity



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- University or College
- Other (Please specify) Local Government

d. Contact Name: Ron Gromoll
e. E-mail Address: rgromoll@alachuacounty.us
f. Phone Number: (352)264-6907

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name:** None
- b. Firm Name:** None
- c. E-mail Address:**
- d. Phone Number:**