



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2445

1. Title of Project: Water Certification Job Ready Pilot Program

2. Senate Sponsor: Darryl Rouson

3. Date of Submission: 03/14/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

This program is to develop and implement a one-to-two year vocational program, as a collaboration between Pinellas County Utilities and a local educational institution. Students with a high school education, or a General Educational Development Degree (G.E.D.), will be able to obtain a Florida State certification as water/wastewater treatment plant, distribution system, and collection system operators. The program will consist of four main units: 1) general information and worker and environmental safety; 2) the characteristics, operation, and maintenance of potable water distribution systems; 3) sanitary sewer and forcemain collection systems; and 4) reclaimed water distribution systems. This course will incorporate 650 hours of classroom and select field instruction. Completion of this program will allow job-ready students immediate employment opportunities in the water resources field within the Tampa Bay area and region-wide.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Economic Opportunity

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	125,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	125,000

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)	125,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	125,000	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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2445

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	Teacher / instructor salary during the 1-to-2 year class duration.	60,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	To provide for tuition, instructional materials, laboratory costs and supplies, and necessary student examination costs.	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Development by qualified instructors of the necessary curriculum for three subject areas: drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, and collection/ distribution system operator.	40,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		125,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The purpose of this program is to train high school (or equivalent) graduates in order to obtain Florida State certification as water/wastewater treatment plant, distribution system, and collection system operators. The resulting job-ready program graduates can then seek immediate employment opportunities in the water resources field in order to fill the increased job demand within the Tampa Bay area.

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

Program students will receive quality training, developed by educators and conducted by professionals consisting of four main job functions: 1) general information and worker and environmental safety; 2) the characteristics, operation, and maintenance of potable water treatment systems; 3) wastewater treatment systems; and 4) water and wastewater distribution and collection systems. This course will incorporate both classroom and field instruction.

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

Florida citizens will benefit from having certified, professional water and wastewater system operators. This professional-level service will result in the provision of safe and uninterrupted water service to citizens and the protection of Florida's environment from spills and overflows due to poorly maintained or operated infrastructure.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2445

The target population to be directly benefited by this program are job-seekers with a high school education (or equivalent) that are seeking training for a full time career. The initial class size will be limited to 12 students.

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

This program will benefit both the students directly with regard to increased job opportunities, as well as the citizens generally, in terms of quality water and wastewater service and environmental protection. The best measure of these outcomes will be the passage rate of the program graduates on the Florida Water and Domestic Wastewater Operator Certification Exams.

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?

The suggested penalties for failure to meet the program goals are forfeiture of remaining funding request.

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.

N/A - no fixed capital outlay funding

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Megan Ross
- b. **Organization:** Pinellas County Utilities
- c. **E-mail Address:** mross@pinellascounty.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)582-2304

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Pinellas County Government
- b. **County:** Pinellas
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Megan Ross
- e. **E-mail Address:** mross@pinellascounty.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (727)582-2304

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Laura Boehmer
- b. **Firm Name:** Southern Strategy Group



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2445

c. E-mail Address: boehmer@sostrategy.com

d. Phone Number: (727)686-0924