



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1894

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This purpose of this project is the expansion of the statewide mesonet to enhance and improve upon the current Florida Division of Emergency Management (fDEM) capabilities. A mesonet is a network of automated weather and environmental monitoring stations designed to observe mesoscale meteorological events. The scope of this project is to provide additional solar powered weather stations across the state, focusing on areas that lack current observations. The stations will collect atmospheric data and camera images every minute and upload the vital information to an emergency management dashboard/platform via cellular communications, allowing them to report during severe weather events.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	970,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	970,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	970,000	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 2021-2022	970,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	970,000	2626	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

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?



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

PPP Loan of \$62,500 was received for payroll expenses.

11. 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	Purchase of additional WeatherSTEM Units including weather stations, modems, solar panels, batteries, cameras, and mounts. Services to include installation, online platform, data storage, cellular data plan, and maintenance on the systems. Maintenance contract to be agreed upon by DEM.	970,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		970,000

12. Program Performance

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

The purpose of this project is to provide the Division of Emergency Management with hyper-local, real-time weather data in strategic locations. The funds requested will expand the network to cover additional locations. This data provides critical information to assist DEM in coordinating the deployment of resources to impacted areas during times of severe weather including hurricanes. With the combination of weather data coupled with images available every minute, emergency management officials and first responders have the data and images at specific locations before areas can be accessed. The mesonet provides DEM additional information to plan and respond more efficiently.

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

The weather stations within the DEM Mesonet are outfitted with high-resolution cameras and installed in strategic locations across the state. Each station is solar powered and contains a solar powered battery back-up, uploads the data and camera images through cellular connection every minute, and is rated to withstand the up to 185 mph winds. These proactive steps ensure that the systems can report when the crucial infrastructure is damaged during a severe weather event. The decision support tool is routinely and consistently upgraded using input from DEM to create a dashboard view to interact with the data.

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

The citizens near DEM Mesonet locations benefit from receiving targeted responses after severe weather events. The data can be used to help federal partners, including the National Weather Service, issue severe weather watches and warnings based on the hyper-local data provided from the weather stations.

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

The target population is the citizens near the deployed DEM Mesonet stations and those citizens in impacted areas during severe weather events



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

The expected outcome of expanding an emergency management focused mesonet across the state is to provide DEM data to inform officials on local weather conditions in those locations, especially during severe weather events. The vital data will support the decision-making process when state resources are required to respond to a natural disaster. The data collected from the mesonet stations can also be used for severe weather training exercises and research efforts. The success of the program can be illustrated through a review of the installation and operation of the mesonet and how DEM benefited from the additional data reported during future weather events.

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?

Failure to provide equipment installation will result in forfeiture of remaining project costs.

13. 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.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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) State Agency

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number