



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2065

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Community-based pilot program for the implementation and use of mobile and blockchain technology to connect Black Farmers of Florida with citizens and minority-owned food-related businesses in a USDA-designated food desert. The pilot will measure and analyze outcomes on healthy eating behaviors in minority populations, as well as the impact on unequal market access for minority farmers to sell their goods.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	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 2021-2022	1,000,000	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? No

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?

Yes



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

PPP Round #1: \$41,184.12 used for payroll: 100% forgiveness granted (Pilot Bank)
 PPP Round #2: \$32,896.62 used for payroll: Forgiveness pending (Pilot Bank)
 SBA EIDL: \$12,600 : Operations and payroll

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	Contract, USF Center for the Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities, for collection of quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interviews, focus groups, and photo-voice) data at baseline, mid-study, and end-of study. Evaluation of the utilization of the app, customer satisfaction, consumer food choices and dietary changes.	125,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Education and farming incentive, Black Farmers and Agriculturists Florida Chapter. Stipend to purchase food surplus, Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church Food Bank.	280,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Technology development and deployment including one year of technology maintenance during the pilot period. Includes a project manager, technical architects, security architects and full-stack developers.	595,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

Development of blockchain-based mobile app that directly connects minority farmers to minority consumers, and a minority-owned grocery store, farmers market, restaurant, and food bank in the pilot area. The app will also provide food supply chain track and trace capability along with a qualitative and quantitative study of participants that measures improvement in physical health, enrichment of cultural experience, improvement of agricultural production/promotion/education, improvement of economic activity, and enhancement of economic self sufficiency,

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

Development and deployment of necessary technology to provide a mobile app to all pilot participants that directly connects minority farmers to minority consumers, and a minority-owned grocery store, farmers market, restaurant, and food bank in the pilot area. The app will also provide food supply chain track and trace capability along with necessary education and qualitative and quantitative study through University of South Florida's Center for the Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities.

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



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A mobile application that directly connects minority farmers to minority consumers, and a minority-owned grocery store, farmers market, restaurant, and food bank in the pilot area. Education and study regarding consumer food choices and dietary changes by USF Center for the Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities, for collection of quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interviews, focus groups, and photo-voice) data. Incentives for Black Farmers to continue food production vs. non-food production.

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

Minimum of 400 participants in Tract 12103020500 in Pinellas County, Florida which meets the established criteria for a USDA designated food desert and minority farmers in the State of Florida

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

A research design by USF Center for the Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities that includes the collection of quantitative (survey) and qualitative (interviews, focus groups, and photo-voice) data at baseline, mid-study, and end-of study. This will include the evaluation of the utilization of the app, customer satisfaction, consumer food choices and dietary changes as well as improvements of economic activity for Florida-based minority farmers.

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 penalties apply

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.

BlockSpaces, Inc, (Entity)
Florida Chapter of Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Assoc.;
USF Center for the Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities;
Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church Food Bank

There is no relationship between the entity and any of the facility's that will receive capital outlay funding



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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)

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