



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1837

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Our request for appropriations will directly address unemployment and low employment in the STEM field among undeserved communities in Hillsborough County, Orange County, and Miami-Dade County. Funding will be used to train and directly employ members of those communities in urban agriculture, aquaculture, bio-remediation, and high-tech habitat restoration, water quality improvement practices, and Smart cities/energy technologies. We will issue certificates, job coaching, and resume help for all grads.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	815,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	150,000
Total State Funds Requested	965,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	965,000	39%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	770,000	31%
Other	750,000	30%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	2,485,000	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

This project is currently funded in-part for 2022 by the Volo Foundation, Wells Fargo, SPROUTS Grocery Store, OUC, Duke Energy, and The Energy Foundation.

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.

\$55,062 in each PPP Funding round. 100% of funding was used to retain staff in the state of Florida during the COVID-19 Pandemic. 100% forgiveness of PPP1 & PPP2 achieved.

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	Three Staff Salary as full time employee 40 Hours per week (\$30,000) for Administrative oversight of projects. This includes accounting, metrics and key performance tracking, budgetary administration, and costs for analysis. Additional \$60,000 for oversight, training, and metrics collection, and reporting.	150,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Operational manager as project foreman and project Staff including community members hired within project sites for employment. All positions will be paid a minimum of \$17 an hour as a living wage.	150,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Farming supplies, aquaculture tanks, solar panels for training modules, vehicle charging demo, materials for certificate programs and video training. Certificates and curriculum.	665,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		965,000

12. Program Performance

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

All funds will be used to train, educate, and ready youth (13-35yrs) in Florida for STEM Employment. Focus areas will include aquaculture, ecosystem monitoring, urban agriculture, SMART Cities and wetland remediation. Funds will establish project sites in Orange County, Hillsborough County, and Miami-Dade County. We will build physical training sites and dynamic, movable modules that can come to high schools, colleges, community centers, sports fields, and neighborhoods to reach youth. We will also intentionally create access to STEM Jobs for those affected (employment) by COVID-19.

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

Certificate programs upon graduation will be issued after completion of numerous educational modules. These modules will educate youth between the ages of 13 - 35 on skills within STEM fields. All participants will receive hands-on training and mentoring from experts and successful entrepreneurs in those fields. There is currently no program of this kind anywhere in the state of Florida. We must keep STEM jobs in Florida and reach young people in key counties at risk for loss of talent. We currently have a pool of 100 employers statewide who will interview graduates upon completion of our program.

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



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Education, direct employment, and employment training services are the primary benefits to the population served. However, there will be a multitude of leadership, mentoring, team building, and competence & exploration training. We will also provide resume help, job interview training, head-shots for LinkedIn profiles, and access to our network of partnered employers and alum network. Those who have been assigned community service in the juvenile justice or court systems will be welcomed into the program with great enthusiasm.

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

Youth between 13-35. Particularly high school, young adult, college students, and those who have been assigned community service in the juvenile justice or court systems. We aim to educate 1000 youth and graduate 300 through the program to receive certificates.

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

The expected benefit of this project is to help Florida youth achieve employment in the STEM field. Trainings will occur for aquaculture, ecosystem monitoring, urban agriculture, SMART Cities and wetland remediation. Project outcomes will be tracked using a comprehensive matrix of key performance indicators broken down into three primary clusters: economic outcomes, environmental outcomes, and social outcomes. We have 231 unique indicators across 17 goals to track project outcomes and report on the project's impact with great accuracy and insight.

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 are adequate.

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.

All partnerships with community organizations, fellow nonprofits, or schools are non-monetary. All partnerships will be outlined with MOUs and Contracts to clearly outline relationships. All funding will be utilized for approved purposes. We are a nonprofit organization.



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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