



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1852

1. Project Title Little Grower's Crane Creek Restoration, Gardening and Sustainability Project

2. Senate Sponsor Debbie Mayfield

3. Date of Request 12/01/2021

4. Project/Program Description

Little Growers, Inc. is a youth-centered agriculture project that promotes food security, sustainability, and serves as a gateway to leadership development for youths in a positive, friendly, and productive atmosphere. Our programs aim to reduce food insecurity for Brevard County's most at-risk residents, while preparing young people to reverse the adverse effects of climate change & environmental racism. We are seeking to build a live STEM, Aquaponics, & Rain Garden Demonstration in the Crane Creek area led by grassroots organizers & backed with national collaborations. Our vision is for an environmentally prepared & resilient community. Program participants become prepared to face the adverse effects of climate change and gain a sense of community empowerment such that they can provide for their own vital needs. At its completion, we will teach 300+ youths yearly lessons on environmental justice and conservation and distribute 300,000+ lbs. of fresh produce for community members.

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

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	90,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	210,000
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	27%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	95,300	8%
Other	734,273	65%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,129,573	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. 90,000

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



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As a project vital to this community, we are aggressively fundraising using all sources including: 10% of funds will be raised by Board Members and Community Partners - this goal is approximately 20% secured; 15% of funding will be raised by our Executive Director who has raised approximately \$95K in funding through her personal networks; 20% of funding cost will be earned income; 30-55% - we are seeking grants and corporate sponsorships and to secure land in partnerships of 1 of 2 sites.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

No

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Funds will be used to support our Executive Director's salary. Our Executive Director salary was determined by the area's median salary for the position as well as the roles and duties of the position which includes overseeing all aspects of fundraising the total project cost, tapping into resources including volunteers, forging strategic partnerships, advocating, preparing and overseeing organization success. - \$60,000 Total	40,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds will be used to ensure the legal and financial infrastructure of the organization runs optimally. We will contract a Legal Services Consultant, Accounting Services Consultant and a Nonprofit Development Services Consultant to ensure the organization has adequate financial controls and resources for success. - \$69,000 Total	20,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Funds will be used for an Assistant Director and a Program Coordinate who will be charged with overseeing the daily responsibilities of setting up the garden as well as coordinating outreach and programming - \$77,000 Total	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will be used to secure 1 of 2 project sites as well as the build out which includes fencing, shed, barn, rain capture barrels and setup, raised garden beds, trees, soil, plants, land survey and other necessary equipment needed for site setup. - \$546,691 Total	210,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

12. Program Performance

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



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Little Growers, Inc seeks to build a localized green economy that provides green jobs and ownership opportunities to residents while restoring the environment and investing in building the health and resilience of communities most impacted by climate change. Our community gardens will restore the health of our community's local watershed, the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and begin to restore the environmental health of this low-income community. Residents of this historically black community founded by three freed slaves has experienced a host of environmental racism, due to racist zoning, and damage from corporate polluters that include a superfund site, brownfield site, and chemical plant that all sit within one mile of this community adjacent to the IRL. Funding will help us to expand our capability to carry out programming including training, education and employment to create systematic ways of testing environmental toxins on an ongoing basis while addressing food insecurities.

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

1. Expand existing gardening project to introduce Aquaponics STEM learning for school-aged children in Melbourne and Palm Bay, Florida at 2 locations which includes: 823 Brothers Ave and 2 connecting lots and 2230 Washington street NE Palm Bay Florida 32905.
2. Partner with local and national organizations to educate, advocated for and encourage policy and behavioral changes within this community and other surrounding communities.
3. Launch fresh produce distribution for seniors and shut-ins as needed for at-risk community members.

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

1. Provide after-school, summer and spring activities to engage Brevard County youths youths ages 2-18 years old.
2. Serve families with fresh grown produce to be used in home and served at mealtimes.
3. Improve food security in community by distributing fresh produce monthly for program partners to access.
4. Provide healthy eating/ cooking workshops monthly.
5. Provide Hurricane preparedness workshops annually.
6. Soil Testing for environmental hazards & toxins.

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

Little Growers Inc. community gardens program will serve children of low to moderate income families between the ages of 3-18 years old. Funding will assist us in building the capacity of Little Grower's Inc. to serve Brevard County students at eight (8) public schools including direct services to students at University Park Elementary School, Palm Bay High School, Riviera Elementary School, Palm Bay Elementary School, Riverdale County Day School, Stone Magnet Middle School, Head Start South, and Port Malabar Elementary School. We will offer all programs county-wide and distribute food and educational resources once the full restoration of Crane Creek is completed.

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

1. Open a flagship Little Grower's Center that can serve as an educational destination for schools and learning centers in Brevard County as well as a model learning space for other regional watershed projects.
2. Provide workshops to educate residents on how to report environmental hazard and other environmental injustice to the EPA including education on upcoming environmental laws.
3. Work with City of Melbourne Parks and Recreation to renovate a blighted community park currently occupied by homeless and drug addicts as well as work with City of Melbourne and City of Palm Bay for community led sustainable development to support storm water infrastructure ie. Green infrastructure, Community Gardens, Bioswales, and sidewalk gardens.

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?

Contracting agency may consider not funding future projects for the organization.

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.

No owners to recieve any fixed 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