



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1243

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Construction of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture that will be located at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) in Hillsborough County. The facility will be a central research, extension, and development hub focused on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics to overcome production limitations identified by the agricultural and natural resource industries. This hub will provide a central core that will link with UF/IFAS faculty that are part of the AI initiative across the state to serve the agriculture industry and address environmental issues such as water use and water quality.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,965,880
Total State Funds Requested	1,965,880

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,965,880	8%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,500,000	6%
Other	21,500,000	86%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	24,965,880	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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.**
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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.

REVENUE: \$76M DIRECT STUDENT AID & \$93M INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT; EXPENSES: 1) \$76M-DIRECT STUDENT AID; 2) \$93M-CAMPUS OPERATIONS: \$8.7M FOR IT INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT FOR REMOTE/DISTANCE LEARNING; \$9.4M REIMBURSEMENTS FOR HOUSING/STUDY ABROAD; \$9.1M CAMPUS HEALTH/SAFETY; \$8.2M OTHER OPERATING/RESEARCH COSTS: STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH/BASIC NEEDS; \$57.6M FOR LOST REVENUES IN THE STUDENT UNION, EDUCATIONAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, PARKING, RESEARCH SERVICE CENTERS, MUSEUMS/PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

Dec 2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

2025

12. List 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.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

13. 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		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	8,900 Sq Ft of office, research shop, and meeting space	1,965,880
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,965,880

14. Program Performance

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



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The center will focus on the design, construction, evaluation, and demonstration of novel AI-based technologies for agriculture with an emphasis on moving technology from concept to prototype. The goal is the construction of a facility suitable to achieve the purpose described above.

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

This facility will provide a training ground for graduate students and Post-Doctoral Associates and will be the only institution in the state of Florida that functions as a central hub devoted to practical applications of AI that benefit the state of Florida.

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

This facility will provide a training ground for graduate students and Post-Doctoral Associates and will be the only institution in the state of Florida that functions as a central hub devoted to practical applications of AI that benefit the state of Florida.

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

Undergraduate and graduent students and potentially, up to the 47,000 farms in Florida with an employment of 1.5 M jobs.

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

This hub will provide a central core that will link with UF/IFAS faculty who participate in the AI initiative across the state to serve the agriculture industry and address environmental issues such as water use and water quality. The success of the center will be determined by the level of use and the new science and technology developed there.

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 University Penalties

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. 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



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University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number