



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1040

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Florida Southern College seeks a \$2.5M state investment, which will further leverage \$6M in partnerships with private and corporate philanthropy (totaling \$8.5M) to advance the public interest through agribusiness, citrus and horticulture educational programming in the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Polk Science Building, which houses classrooms and labs used by all STEM and health sciences students at the College, and new Greenhouses/Learning Laboratories.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,500,000	29%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	6,000,000	71%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	8,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year 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.**

Private donors and corporate partners

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1040

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 06/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/30/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

College funds

11. 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.

Florida Southern College

12. 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		
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	New Greenhouses (\$2M) and Polk Science Structural Renovations (\$500k)	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The Horticultural Sciences Learning Lab will provide new greenhouses and supplement structural renovations in Polk Science to benefit Agribusiness through the Horticulture, Land & Resource Management major, which focuses on the sustainable management of our state's natural resources and is designed to educate future leaders to advance Florida's agriculture industry. New greenhouses built on the existing footprint will provide instructional & research space for students and will be used in a statewide partnership to recruit high school students into the field.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1040

Activities and services include campus visits and tours for FFA high school students to learn more about the new major and the Horticultural Sciences Learning Lab, the addition of an admissions counselor focused on recruiting FL students interested in Agribusiness, increasing scholarship funding, engaged learning opportunities with our State's agriculture leaders, and enhancing corporate partnerships throughout Florida for internships and job opportunities. In Polk Science, we will be able to fund needed structural improvements to preserve this historic FLW building for future generations.

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

Florida residents will benefit from an investment in Agribusiness through FSC's Horticulture, Land, and Resource Management program, a multidisciplinary field of study that builds upon the College's legacy in the Citrus Sciences. This program will address the shortage and bolster the number of qualified graduates needed to fill leadership roles in Citrus, Farming, Ranching, Land, and Resource Management to help usher in a new era for Florida's Agribusiness industry.

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

The target population is Florida's current and future high school students interested in jobs and leadership roles in Agribusiness, Horticulture/Citrus, Environmental Sciences, Farming, Ranching, Land and Resource Management, Sustainability Practices, Finance and Marketing. We expect this major to continue to grow and impact at least 100+ high school and college students each year.

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 and outcome of this project is (1) increased numbers of high school students interested in Florida Agribusiness; (2) increased numbers of students enrolled in this major or related majors; (3) replacement of aged structures, which have been substantially damaged due to hurricanes, to new state-of-the-art learning labs well equipped for instruction and research; and (4) improved career outcomes for graduates, who are employed in Florida working in Agribusiness. The methodology we will use include surveys and admissions data for reporting.

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 in the contract?

If for some reason the structural updates to the Polk Science Building and the construction of the Greenhouses are not completed, we will return the funds to the State of Florida.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1040

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1040

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.