



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1058

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

4. Project/Program Description

The new fairgrounds project will be constructed in multiple phases. Phase 1 is currently underway. Phase 2 of the project will continue construction of infrastructure as well exhibit hall, meeting space, Maintenance, administration office, and entertainment area.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,250,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,250,000

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)	3,250,000	6%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	43,900,000	78%
Other	9,000,000	16%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	56,150,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	3,000,000	1546b	No

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.
- No other funding avenues have been identified.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction



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a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

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

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

05/01/2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

01/31/2026

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

Fair will be self sufficient.

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.

Greater Jacksonville Agriculture Fair Association.

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	Phase 2 of the project will continue construction of infrastructure as well exhibit hall, meeting space, Maintenance, administration office, and entertainment area.	3,250,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,250,000

13. Program Performance

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

The new fairgrounds project will be constructed in multiple phases. Phase 1 is currently underway. Phase 2 of the project will continue construction of infrastructure as well exhibit hall, meeting space, Maintenance, administration office, and entertainment area.

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



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The fair has a \$10,000,000 economic impact on the region. The funds will be utilized to enhance and expand the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair as a hub for agricultural & horticultural education, community engagement, and economic growth. Through dedicated agriculture & horticultural education programs, we will provide hands-on learning experiences that connect youth and the broader community to the importance of farming, sustainability, and food production. Interactive trade shows and exhibits will offer businesses, farmers, and innovators a platform to showcase advancements in agriculture, agribusiness, and related industries. Additionally, the Fairgrounds will serve as a versatile space for community gatherings and events, fostering local connections and strengthening Northeast Florida's cultural and economic landscape. With the region's continued growth, the expansion will also include additional parking infrastructure to accommodate increased visitors and event attendance.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services to citizens through agricultural, horticultural and STEM-based education programs, interactive trade shows, hands-on exhibits and a farmer's market within an area where there are few grocery stores that connect the community to farming, sustainability, and agribusiness. The fairgrounds will serve as a gathering space for community events, offering expanded parking infrastructure to accommodate the region's growth. Livestock shows and demonstrations will engage youth and families, preserving Florida's agricultural heritage while fostering education and economic development. These services will enhance community engagement, support local businesses, and provide valuable learning opportunities for all citizens.

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

The Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair and its year-round initiatives proudly serve everyone—from families and students to farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, music lovers and lifelong learners. Our diverse programming, including agricultural & horticultural education, art and music initiatives, community events, trade shows, exhibits, and educational competitions, welcomes people of all backgrounds, ages, and interests. Whether it's a child experiencing their first livestock show, a local artist showcasing their work, a farmer connecting with the community, or a business engaging with new customers, there is something for everyone. In addition to our annual Fair, which welcomes approximately 200,000 visitors, we plan to host at least 300 public events throughout the year, including exhibitions, farmers' markets, trade shows, concerts, festivals, community activations and more.

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

The Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair and its year-round programming will provide significant economic, educational, and cultural benefits to Northeast Florida. By expanding our capacity to host at least 300 public events annually—including exhibitions, trade shows, concerts, festivals, and educational competitions—in addition to our 11-day Fair, which welcomes approximately 200,000 visitors, this project will enhance community engagement, support local businesses, and provide enriching experiences for millions of people each year.

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?

Standard contract penalties will suffice.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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?



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

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

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



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University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

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.