



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1190

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This Center will provide the structure and support for scientists to focus on the design, construction, evaluation, and demonstration of novel AI-based technologies for agriculture with an emphasis on rapidly moving technology from concept to prototype.

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	4,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	4,500,000

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)	4,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	4,500,000	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		
2024-25	0	19,000,000	18	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.

None

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

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.

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	Computer scientists, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, artificial intelligence (AI) specialists, graduate students and support staff.	4,500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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)		4,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

Support applied research that leads to market-readiness; forge private-public partnerships with technology firms and start-ups; provide advanced education and vocational training and curriculum to create a highly skilled workforce.

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

Work on the design, construction, evaluation, and demonstration of novel AI-based technologies for agriculture with an emphasis on moving technology from concept to prototype. Provide a training ground for graduate students and Post-Doctoral Associates on practical applications of AI technology.

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



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Increase opportunities for commercialization of AgTech; Support applied research that leads to market-readiness; and develop a highly skilled and experienced workforce to serve the needs of the industry and bolster the economy with employees qualified for higher paying jobs.

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

Potential entrepreneurs, industry, agriculture producers, and UF students.

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

The outcome will be measured by student employment, research outcomes, interest in public private partnership and attraction for technology firms to locate in Florida.

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 University penalties.

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#:

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



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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

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.