



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1433

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

In response to emerging community needs in Northeast and North Central Florida- nutritious, diet-specific charitable meals and additional workforce development opportunities-Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) is building a commercial training kitchen. The kitchen will teach our neighbors re-entering the workforce critical culinary skills, while transforming food bank ingredients into healthy, medically-tailored meals for people experiencing food insecurity. Upon completion of the program, students will feed to local industrial kitchen job opportunities, earning a living wage to provide economic stability for their families.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	600,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>600,000</b>

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)	600,000	38%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,000,000	62%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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?

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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## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 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?

05/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025

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

FNEFL's Grants, Philanthropy, and Nutrition teams are designated to seek funding annually for the kitchen and the workforce development program. Additionally, the kitchen will enroll as a Food as Medicine site for reimbursement, generating it's own income, anticipated in FY2026.

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.

For the next two years, the facility and land is owned by Feeding Northeast Florida Support Corp. in order to benefit from the New Market Tax Credit. After four years' time, the facility will move to the ownership of the Regional Food Bank of Northeast Florida, Inc.

### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The current 60' X 50' white room requires construction to build a commercial kitchen. Funds will be focused to build electrical, foundational, and plumbing infrastructure, as well as designing the components of a high-production kitchen space and training center that aligns with food safety standards.	600,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>600,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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A commercial kitchen within the food bank will add healthy ready-to-eat meals to our list of services, while establishing the foundation for Food as Medicine support to +500 hunger-relief partners to address diet related health challenges. The workforce development program will lessen the gap between open culinary jobs and qualified candidates by training community members on specialized equipment, preparing them for key careers that earn a living wage. The kitchen is yet another approach to using food as a catalyst to uplift our communities.

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

- 1-Plan and design kitchen layout and submit for permitting- IN PROCESS
- 2- Secure a contractor to spearhead construction- IN PROCESS
- 3-Renovate white space with electrical, plumbing, ventilation
- 4-With private funding, purchase kitchen equipment
- 5-Launch the kitchen immediately after construction is concluded, anticipated for Q3 2025.

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

A commercial kitchen will re-imagine bulk donated food that was destined for waste and purchased food into nutritionally balanced meals that are ready to heat and eat. After piloting initial services, meals will be medically-tailored and delivered to our neighbors (primarily seniors) who require diet-specific meal preparation assistance and charitable food. Partnering with Goodwill, the workforce development program will train community members re-entering the workforce with the culinary skills to secure back end jobs in commercial kitchens to earn a living wage.

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

Target populations include seniors facing low income, people with diet-related illnesses, economically disadvantaged families relying on charitable food, people who are developmentally and/or physically disabled and face mobility challenges, and people facing barriers to employment. With a fully operational commercial kitchen, we expect to create 3,500-4,000 meals per day to support approximately 8,000-10,000 individuals unduplicated. The workforce program will engage cohorts of students annually, with numbers to be determined.

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

Physical/Mental Health: 3,500-4,000 nutritious meals per day to people experiencing food insecurity  
 Enhance economic self-sufficiency: back-end culinary job training  
 Improve agricultural promotion: Rescue ~1.4M lbs. food/yr. to create healthy meals as a new service.  
 Utilizing a summative evaluation design, FNEFL evaluates data from Oracle NetSuite business management platform to assess outcomes, successes, and a cost-benefit analysis, making adjustments as needed.

**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?**

Should the food bank fail to construct the commercial kitchen, the funds will be returned.

**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?**

- Yes, Applied



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- 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
- University or College



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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.*