



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1553

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Provide funding to Miami-Dade County's RER-EEL program to purchase conservation lands from identified willing sellers. Acquiring endangered lands now locks in 2025-2027 prices to ensure parcels identified for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and regional restoration purposes will be available Florida agencies. Recent administrative delays to CERP projects in Miami-Dade County, such as BBSEER and the Southern Study, have created an urgency for land acquisition to successfully complete CERP and other regional restoration projects when these projects commence. Purchasing these lands at today's prices will have a positive cost-benefit for taxpayers when MDC and Florida's SFWMD needs these lands in the future.

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	100,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	100,000,000

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)	100,000,000	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	100,000,000	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.**



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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?

06/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

07/02/2025

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.

Miami Dade County.

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	Land Purchase	100,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		100,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

Allow Miami-Dade County's EEL program to purchase lands necessary for CERP and other regional restoration projects from previously identified willing sellers.

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

Funds will support appraisals, negotiations and a funding pool to acquire properties on the acquisition list.



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

Conservation lands help to mitigate wind and flooding damage by presenting natural barriers to high winds and storm surge, and provide naturally occurring drainage and storage for stormwater. Conservation lands are also a component of FEMA's Community Rating System, and preserving and expanding them will sustain the discount Miami-Dade received on federal flood insurance.

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

Residents in close proximity to acquired lands will directly benefit from ongoing mitigation of flooding and high winds during severe weather events. The total population served depends on the location and timing of the purchases.

All County residents benefit as conservation lands are one of the criteria included in FEMA's Community Rating System. Miami-Dade County recently received a reduction in flood insurance premiums due to county efforts to improve the CRS score.

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

This project will enece local resilience while supporting the long-term goals of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoratiion Program. Metrics will include new acres under management.

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?

Retraction of funds could be a potential penalty if metrics are not achieved.

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 infastructure)

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#:



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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



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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.