



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1784

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The agriculture program expansion project is to provide a more robust learning experience for students in the state of Florida. The addition of a faculty member and resources to increase the learning environment on Warner University's campus will help with the growing demands for food and fiber in Florida. The additional resources include animal science simulators, computers, plant science sensors, lab equipment, hydroponic units and mechanic tools. All of these pieces of equipment can be utilized as a teaching resource for the Agricultural studies and Agricultural business degrees. The overall expansion project would significantly impact the higher education landscape in the agriculture degree programs in the state of Florida.

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	265,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	265,000

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)	265,000	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	265,000	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.

Warner University continuously pursues philanthropic support for program expansion in addition to its own resources.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1784

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)?

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	Plant Science Faculty Position	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Ag Communication Lab Total- \$29,500 Livestock Equipment- Total \$15,500 Livestock Simulators - Total \$46,000 Plant Science Equipment- Total \$22,000 Lab Equipment- Total \$24,000 Hydroponic Units (2)- Total \$11,000 Ag Mechanics Shop Equipment- Total \$17,000	165,000
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)		265,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1784

To address the changing demands of the agriculture industry, Warner University has devised a program to better equip those entering the field with the appropriate training to build successful and sustainable businesses. Integrating technology, modern techniques, and business strategies will strengthen the future of Florida's farmers. Funding will be used for the purchase of equipment and the recruitment of an additional faculty member.

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

Warner University will train students in techniques and strategies that will equip them to be manage successful agricultural businesses. Graded Coursework and practicums will be recorded to measure the outcomes of this program. With new equipment, more robust courses can be offered and improved upon to provide a better learning experience for the students. The addition of modernized equipment would also provide more hands-on learning within the already developed curriculum. The animal production and plant production coursework will be improved by having models, lab materials, and practical equipment for the purpose of learning.

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

As students become better prepared to own and operate agriculture businesses, the Florida agriculture industry will become more sustainable and resilient which is an important factor for Florida's economy. The need for food and fiber to continue to be grown in the state of Florida to help feed a growing population is vital to Florida's strength as a state.

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

Students entering or currently interested the agriculture industry. The target population would be the students that are graduating high school or a 2-year state college program that is seeking a Bachelors in agricultural studies or agricultural business. The total number of individuals that are being served would include all incoming students and current students. Annually that would be approximately 75 students.

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

Students entering the field of agriculture will be equipped with the appropriate training to build successful and sustainable businesses. Integrating technology, modern techniques, and business strategies will strengthen the future of Florida's farmers. By teaching best practices to the future agribusiness entrepreneurs, their businesses will be more productive and profitable, which could also stabilize food prices for our state. Coursework, grades, and number of graduates will be recorded.

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?

Penalties will be determined by the Department of Education.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1784

- 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
- Other (please specify)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1784

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.