



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2031

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The Agricultural Ecosystem and Trail Expansion project will enhance nature-based education, recreation, and accessibility for over 2,500 individuals annually through overnight and day camps, family camps, retreats, and workshops. This project includes constructing a nature center to host field trips and workshops on nature and Florida's ecosystems, renovating the barn and expanding pastures to improve agricultural and equine programming, and adding 1,000 ft of ADA-compliant trails to connect key facilities. Partnerships with organizations like Save Our Lakes (SOLO), the Sierra Club, and local schools will enhance programming, providing educational and recreational opportunities for diverse groups. These enhancements will benefit communities across Florida by supporting conservation, increasing educational access, and driving economic growth through rentals, tourism, and job creation.

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	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	800,000

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)	800,000	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	800,000	100%

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?

11/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

11/01/2026

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

Private fundraising and operational support from the YMCA of Florida's First Coast

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.

YMCA of Florida's First Coast a non-profit 501c3 organization.

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	Planning and construction of nature center, pasture, and trail system.	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will support the Ag Ecosystem and Trail Expansion project at YMCA Camp Immokalee, providing education, recreation, and conservation opportunities to over 2,500 individuals annually. Specific goals include engaging over 350 participants annually in field trips and workshops focused on Florida's ecosystems, improving outdoor access for individuals with mobility challenges through 1,000 ft of ADA-compliant trails, and expanding support agricultural programming, including equine therapy, animal care, and hands-on activities serving over 300 veterans, youth, and families. The project aligns with Florida's priorities by fostering environmental stewardship, expanding outdoor access, and contributing to local economic growth through increased rentals and tourism.



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

The funds will support the construction of a nature center, renovation of the barn and pastures, and addition of 1,000 ft of ADA-compliant trails. These improvements will enable enhanced programming, including field trips, environmental workshops, equine therapy, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Partnerships with the Sierra Club and National Guard will expand retreats and therapeutic activities for veterans and families, while improving facilities will allow for new opportunities for team-building and leadership programs. Expanded facilities will also host group rentals, retreats, and community events, increasing participation and supporting local businesses and tourism.

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

The Ag Ecosystem and Trail Expansion project will provide direct services to over 2,500 individuals annually. These services include environmental education programs for 350 participants, supported by partnerships with Save Our Lakes (SOLO) to deliver workshops focused on Florida's ecosystems, including Lake Brooklyn and the Black Creek Project. ADA-compliant trails will provide accessible outdoor recreation for individuals of all abilities, and agricultural and equine programming will offer therapeutic and recreational activities to over 300 veterans, youth, and families annually. Citizens will benefit from hands-on learning, outdoor recreation, and community programming that fosters connection to nature while supporting local tourism.

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

This project will serve over 2,500 individuals annually, including Title I students, veterans, families, and individuals with mobility challenges. Environmental education programs will engage over 350 participants annually through field trips and workshops, with partnerships with local schools like the Community Partnership School at Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High ensuring outreach to underserved students. Agricultural and equine programming will provide therapeutic activities to over 300 participants annually, including veterans, youth, and families, while ADA-compliant trails will offer outdoor recreation opportunities for individuals of all abilities. Improved facilities will ensure broader access to community programming and support Floridians across the state.

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 increase access to nature-based education, recreation, and therapeutic programming for over 2,500 individuals annually. Expected outcomes include engaging 350 participants in environmental education programs, providing therapeutic equine services to 300 participants, and creating 1,000 ft of ADA-compliant trails for outdoor recreation. Facility upgrades will drive a 10% annual increase in rentals and tourism, contributing to local economic growth. Outcomes will be measured through program attendance logs, trail usage surveys, facility rental and revenue reports, and stakeholder feedback from schools and

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?

In addition to standard penalties, the contracting agency may consider withholding funds until deliverables are met, reducing overall funding proportional to unmet outcomes, or requiring a corrective action plan with defined timelines. To ensure accountability, future contract eligibility could also be restricted until compliance is achieved.

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?



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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.