



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2082

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Our program provides agricultural infrastructure and teacher support to educators through Florida to help students better understand how their food is produced and where it comes from and to improve STEM and STEAM scores.

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	700,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	700,000

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)	700,000	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	700,000	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	330,000	100	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.

private

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	Team leadership and development/organizational leadership and Site collaboration and evaluation.	75,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Administrative support personnel	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Associated travel expenses to conferences and events, including gas and hotel/office equipment and supplies including postage	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	development and implementation programs in multiple formats including but not limited to workshops, events, and video programs.	165,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Associated travel expenses to conferences and events including gas and hotel/materials and supplies for educational events, including postage and infrastructure	175,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Partnerships with entities including but not limited to Mote Marine Aquarium and Aquasol, Int, to provide educational support and content development for students, teacher professional development programs, and creation of perpetuity programs for agricultural education via infrastructure development and online platforms.	230,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		700,000

13. Program Performance

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

We will provide infrastructure to support programs that integrate agricultural education and enhance STEM and STEAM objectives, ultimately driving higher test scores. These initiatives aim to introduce students to sustainable farming while fostering hands-on learning and a deeper connection to agriculture.

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



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school gardens, hydroponic systems, aquaponic systems, and in-person educational activities.

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

Provide in-school learning opportunities for kids throughout the state.

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

Target audiences include preschool students, grade school students, high school students, university/college students, veterans, economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth, developmentally disabled, physically disabled. We expect to serve over 10,000 students and 1500 veterans among the aforementioned groups.

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

This project aims to improve physical and mental health, agricultural education, academic performance, and environmental sustainability. Engaging students in caring for the environment promotes outdoor activity, reducing sedentary behavior while fostering healthier lifestyles. Mental well-being is supported through outdoor time, reducing depression, increasing a sense of purpose, and sparking interest in agriculture-related careers. Pre- and post-program surveys, student journaling, and participation tracking will measure changes in health, dietary habits, and career interests. Academic improvements will be assessed through FAST reading and math scores for key grade levels. Additionally, teaching aquaponics promotes environmental stewardship by conserving water, reducing chemical use, and supporting balanced ecosystems, measured through knowledge assessments and tracking tagged fish in local estuaries.

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?

Our Education Coordinator will collaborate closely with school facility teams and administrators to provide support for the proposed system. If, after installation, the system does not meet the needs of the school or its teachers, it can be relocated to another school where it may be better suited.

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:



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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

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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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.