



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2125

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funds are being requested for the Florida Agriculture and Technology Workforce Expansion Program. The specific goal is to provide hands on STEM education and certify youth for urban agricultural jobs of the future. This is to address the critical workforce challenge and skills gap in emerging industries, particularly urban agriculture and energy, within Florida.

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	985,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	985,000

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)	985,000	51%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	825,000	42%
Other	142,000	7%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,952,000	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.

We are supported by local, federal, and corporate grants. Also donations and sponsorships as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Organization.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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	Project Head will serve as project leader of this program. Traveling to sites and meeting with partners to assure the goals are met and properly reported on.	65,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel Stipend (Hotel, Rental Vehicles, Meal Stipends)	3,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Single Audit Required by FDACS and Contracted Project Accountant to handle FDACS grant compliance	10,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Two core staff to organize project, author curriculum, and manage deliverables of project for FDACS.	130,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Farming and technical education equipment required for project modules and lessons.	506,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	1099 Contractors to help with builds, lessons, and other outsourced services to keep costs low.	271,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		985,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The requested funds will be used to develop and implement a comprehensive workforce training program that bridges the gap between traditional agriculture and emerging agricultural technologies in Florida. The program aims to upskill current agricultural workers and train new entrants in advanced farming technologies, precision agriculture techniques, and sustainable farming practices. Through strategic partnerships with educational institutions, agricultural businesses, and technology providers, the initiative will create a pipeline of skilled workers capable of operating modern agricultural equipment, implementing data-driven farming practices, and utilizing cutting-edge agricultural technologies. This investment will help modernize Florida's agricultural sector, improve farm productivity, enhance sustainability practices, and create new career opportunities for residents in both rural and urban communities who are interested in the intersection of agriculture and technology.

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

The Florida Agriculture and Technology Workforce Program will deliver a comprehensive suite of educational and training services focused on integrating modern technology into agricultural practices. The program will provide hands-on technical training courses in precision agriculture, drone operation for crop monitoring, data analytics for farm management, and advanced equipment operation, while offering certification programs in agricultural technology specialties. Direct services will include personalized mentorship from experienced agribusiness professionals, practical field experience through partner farms, access to state-of-the-art agricultural equipment and technology, and job placement assistance through industry partnerships. Additionally, participants will receive specialized workshops in sustainable farming practices, agricultural energy applications, smart irrigation systems, and automated farming equipment operation. The program will also establish mobile training units

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

The Florida Agriculture and Technology Workforce Program aims to bridge the gap between traditional agriculture and emerging agricultural technologies by delivering a comprehensive suite of educational and training services. These services will focus on integrating modern technology into agricultural practices and include hands-on technical training courses in areas like precision agriculture, drone operation for crop monitoring, data analytics for farm management, and advanced equipment operation. Participants will also have the opportunity to earn certifications in agricultural technology specialties. Direct services offered will encompass personalized mentorship from experienced agribusiness professionals, practical field experience through partner farms, access to state-of-the-art agricultural equipment and technology, and job placement assistance through industry partnerships. Furthermore, the program will provide specialized workshops covering agrivoltaics farming.

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

The target population served by this project is Florida citizens between the ages of 13 and 50. The project expects to serve 800 individuals, with 500 of those individuals receiving certificates upon completion of the program.

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

The Florida Agriculture and Technology Workforce Program anticipates a range of positive outcomes, all contributing to the modernization and sustainability of Florida's agricultural sector. These expected benefits include a significantly upskilled workforce, where current agricultural workers gain proficiency in advanced farming technologies, precision agriculture, and sustainable practices, thereby increasing their value and adaptability. The program also aims to create new career pathways by training individuals for emerging roles at the intersection of agriculture and technology, addressing the growing demand for skilled professionals. Furthermore, it is projected that farms participating in the program will experience increased productivity and efficiency through the implementation of data-driven farming practices and the adoption of cutting-edge technologies. Measuring these outcomes will likely involve a multi-faceted approach, including tracking, surveys, and other methods.

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?

While the standard penalties outlined in the contract provide a strong framework for accountability, the contracting agency may consider additional measures tailored to the specific circumstances of noncompliance. These could include actions designed to encourage timely resolution, foster collaboration, and ensure future adherence to deliverables and performance measures. The goal is to address issues constructively while maintaining the integrity and objectives of the agreement.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No



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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:

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



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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

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.