



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2172

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Florida Strawberry Festival (FSF) is designing and building a 15,000 sq ft building to promote agriculture and tourism. The FSF is an 11 day agricultural fair which served over 634,000 guests in 2024. This new building will also serve as an asset to be used during a natural disaster, potentially housing law enforcement, electrical workers or delivery of aid services to the citizens. The building is climate controlled and has restroom facilities. Additionally, generators are needed in the current buildings utilized after a storm to ensure there is no interruption of services during and after a storm.

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	2,900,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,900,000</b>

**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)	2,900,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>2,900,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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?

06/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025

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

Revenue generated from operations of the Florida Strawberry Festival.

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.

Florida Strawberry Festival, Inc.  
A 501 (c)(3) agricultural fair permitted to operate under FSS Chapter 616.

### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construct a 15,000 sq ft building to promote agriculture and tourism and serve any purpose following a hurricane. \$2,300,000 Three or four generators installed as alternate power source during hurricanes. \$600,000.	2,900,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,900,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The FSF is designing and building a 15,000 sq ft building to promote agriculture and serve as an asset to be used during a natural disaster. Additionally, generators are needed in the current buildings utilized after a storm.

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



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The primary goal of the Florida Strawberry Festival is to promote agriculture, promote the strawberry industry and support our youth in agriculture. Due to our location in the state, our 130+ acres and hurricane rated buildings, the FSF has served as a basecamp and staging area for assets during a hurricane and post-storm recovery.

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

These funds are vital for the FSF to continue to promote agriculture, tourism and the strawberry industry in Florida and throughout the United States. Additionally, the FSF's dedication to being a source of relief to the citizen's of Florida before, during and after a natural disaster are critical as storms threaten our area frequently.

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

The primary goal of the Florida Strawberry Festival is to promote agriculture, promote the strawberry industry and support our youth in agriculture. In 2024, over 634,000 guests attended the festival which has a tremendous impact on the economy in the region and the state.  
During natural disasters, such as a hurricane, the Festival serves as a basecamp for 1800+ electrical workers as well as FEMA, the Florida CFO's insurance initiatives and aid organizations to serve the citizens.

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

The newly constructed building will serve to replace a temporary tent which is utilized to promote agriculture and tourism during the 11 day Strawberry Festival. This permanent hurricane rated building would allow the Strawberry Festival a greater ability to serve the citizens during and after a hurricane.  
The requested funds to purchase generators for our facility will allow operations to continue during and after a hurricane to best serve the citizens.

**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?**

Reversion of funds.

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

**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):**

Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

**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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LFIR # 2172

**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.*