



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2235

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funds will be used to build an Aquaponics Greenhouse at McArthur High School in Broward as a STEM teaching lab, horticulture center and work based learning opportunity. Greenhouses are extremely useful in experiential learning. With a primary focus on a STEM curriculum, the lab will also offer the ability to teach nutrition, culinary and business operations. Aquaponics and sustainable farming are industries that are growing by 8% per year, and students will learn skills transferable to an expanding industry. Agribusiness and Aquaculture courses in which CTE certifications from the CAPE funding list can be earned. Food production will supplement the school and the community with freshly grown Farm to Table produce. STEM classes will enhance the experiential learning for the students. The Greenhouse also serves as an avenue to support business and culinary programming.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	100,000
Total State Funds Requested	100,000

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)	100,000	40%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	90,000	36%
Other	60,000	24%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	250,000	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? No

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?

08/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

11/01/2025

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

Broward County Public Schools general operation funds.

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.

Owner of the facility will be Broward County Public Schools, same as requester.

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	Construction of a state of the art aquaponics greenhouse including design, planning, and construction.	100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		100,000

13. Program Performance

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

The specific goal of the funds is to build an Aquaponics Greenhouse at McArthur High School in Broward as a STEM teaching lab, horticulture center and work based learning opportunity. Greenhouses are extremely useful in experiential learning. With a primary focus on a STEM curriculum, the lab will also offer the ability to teach nutrition, culinary and business operations. Aquaponics and sustainable farming are industries that are growing by 8% per year and students will learn skills transferable to an expanding industry.

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



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The funds provided will go to the construction of a state of the art aquaponics greenhouse including design, planning, and construction. This will provide for Agribusiness and Aquaculture courses in which CTE certifications from the CAPE funding list can be earned. Food production will supplement the school and the community with freshly grown Farm to Table produce. STEM classes will enhance the experiential learning for the students. The Greenhouse also serves as an avenue to support business and culinary programming.

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

The direct services provided to citizens include food Production, education and business/workforce development.

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

The project is expected to serve more that 800 economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, and high school students in the target population.

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

The project is expected to improve agricultural production, promotion, and education. The learning lab will supply the school with fresh local produce to be incorporated into their school nutrition program, earning funding to offset future operational costs. Success will be measured by net income earned on annual basis in support of the program. The project is expected to improve student's quality of education, students will earn CAPE certifications in Agribusiness and Aquaculture. Outcomes will be measured by the # of students who complete, and weighted funding earned.

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?

Reduction of state funding not to exceed 5% based on estimated construction deadlines.

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) School District

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



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d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.