



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2307

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

GEMS initiative equips young people in economically challenged areas with the skills and resources to enhance food security, break cycles of poverty, and contribute to their communities through leadership, education, and service. By fostering self-reliance and civic engagement, we empower the next generation to create lasting economic opportunities for themselves and their communities.

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	317,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>317,000</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)	317,000	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>317,000</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.

Additional dollars to support our efforts can continue to be raised through grants, corporate donations, and individual donations.

**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
<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	We will contract and collaborate with local organizations in Leon County, Orange County, and Hillsborough County to develop detail project plans, timelines, and objectives tailored to each city. These organizations will recruit project participants, perform objectives, and support all other project initiatives.	317,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>317,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

GEMS will offer youth the opportunity to learn and engage in their community in ways that empower them to impact change, contributing to a cascading influence on food literacy. Improved access to healthy food options through self-sustaining methods attributes to the restoration of food security, combatting the persistent systemic barriers related to hunger. GEMS will learn how to facilitate workshops for their peers and ultimately with community leaders.

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



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Promote nutrition awareness and healthy eating habits through educational sessions. Provide workshops that teach participants skills in advocacy, public speaking, and communication. Offer sessions on nutrition & community gardens and their benefits for good health. Empower leadership development & active listening which deepens an understanding of community issues to foster meaningful change.

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

Interactive Nutrition Education Sessions  
 Advocacy & Public Speaking Workshops  
 Community Garden Education Sessions  
 Leadership Development Series  
 Active Listening & Communication Workshops  
 "Know Your Community Resources" Workshop

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

Youth ages 11-19  
 200-400 youth & families

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

1. Enhanced cardiovascular health and physical fitness that will encourage healthy life style. Methodology- Wearable accelerometers to measure changes in participants physical activity levels
2. Improvement in participants overall mental well-being. Methodology- WHO-5 pre-test & post-test self reporting instrument
3. Participants will learn to adopt healthier eating habits, including eating more fruits and vegetables, reducing consumption of sugary and processed foods, and maintaining regular meal patterns & vegetables, leading to improved overall nutrition and health. Participants who engage in community gardening will consume more fruits and vegetables. Methodology- Pre & Post survey of level of comfort with information Pre/Post Program Test, #lbs of Food.
4. Boosts economic empowerment among youth. Methodology- Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy Scale (ESE Scale).
5. Improve hunger challenges through food drives, community gardens, and other initiatives. Methodology- Attendance

**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 non-compliance. 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?**

**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



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- 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
- University or College
- Other (please specify)



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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.*