



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2551

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The funds will be used by First Coast Tech College to develop certification programs, expand training facilities and procure Specialized Enhancement of Row Crop Production and Landscape/Turf Management Programs at First Coast Technical College. For the Row Crop Production program, the college will acquire and provide training for drone technology to be used in agricultural applications. Additional warehouse space will be constructed to accommodate new equipment, for instructional activities, and for procuring equipment essential for training. FCTC will deliver cutting-edge training programs that meet the demands of modern agricultural and turf management industries, preparing students for impactful careers while supporting the region's workforce needs.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	150,000
Total State Funds Requested	650,000

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)	650,000	28%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,700,000	72%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,350,000	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?

8/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

01/01/2026

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

St. Johns County School District will provide funding.

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.

St. Johns County School district is the owner of the facility.

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	Acquire Drone Technology for Row Crop Production Program. Procure Specialized Equipment for training including triplex and walk-behind mowers, fairway units, and bunker rakes for Landscape and Turf Management Program.	300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Landscape and Turf Management Program: Develop licensure program to incorporate certifications specific to golf course maintenance, irrigation systems, and pest control. Row Crop Production Program: Provide specialized training to equip instructors and students with the skills to utilize drones in agricultural research and commercial applications.	200,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construct additional warehouse space to accommodate new equipment and instructional activities.	150,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		650,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Enhancement of Crop Row Production and Landscape/Turf Management Programs at First Coast Technical College.

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

First Coast Tech College will develop certification programs, expand training facilities and procure Specialized Equipment for the Landscape and Turf Management program. For the Row Crop Production program, the college will acquire and provide training for drone technology to be used in agricultural applications.

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

Construction of additional warehouse space to accommodate new equipment & instructional activities & procure equipment essential for training. FCTC will deliver cutting-edge training programs that meet the demands of modern agricultural and turf management industries, preparing students for impactful careers while supporting the region's workforce needs.

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

51-100 University students are expected to be served by the project.

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

FCTC's project will improve agricultural production, promotion, and education through the modernization and expansion of their Row Crop Production curriculum. The project will equip instructors and students with the skills to utilize drones in agricultural research and commercial applications. This will be measured by tracking the increased enrollment in Row Crop Production program.
 The project will Improve quality of education through FCTC's expansion of its Landscape and Turf Management course frameworks by including Golf Course Maintenance, Irrigation, and Pest Control. This will be measured by tracking the increased enrollment in Landscape and Turf Management program.
 The project will Create specific immediate job opportunities by preparing students for careers in high-demand fields. The method for measurement is the decrease in job openings in related fields as determined by local workforce board.

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 in state funding not to exceed 7.5% of total state contribution.

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



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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)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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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.