



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2576

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The purpose of the requested funds will be used to: renovate and repair the current building, addressing past flooding and drainage issues to ensure safety, functionality, and long-term resilience. Additionally, the funds will support expanding the facility to provide more space for services that benefit residents and businesses. This enhanced space will serve as a central hub for partnerships with local businesses and government agencies, driving economic growth by helping farmers diversify their income streams, fostering the development of new food businesses, and creating job opportunities. These improvements will strengthen the community's economic resilience and support its long-term growth.

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	4,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,500,000

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)	4,500,000	66%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	2,295,143	34%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	6,795,143	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.



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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?

12/31/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/01/2026

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

Currently, the Flagler County Extension Office is funded by Flagler County and the University of Florida. Personnel expenditures vary in split and number of staff funded by each entity. The building and grounds are solely maintained by Flagler County General Fund. Program expenditures provided by the University of Florida.

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.

Flagler County State of Florida will receive the benefit of this project since the land and buildings belong to the State Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. Flagler County has an agreement for use of this land and will run the project with permission from the Board. Funding will be received by Flagler County to complete the project.

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	Renovation of the current building inside and outside, site work, and construction of an approximate 5,000 square foot space that will be added to the current structure. Total cost to complete the project is \$4,500,000 with \$2,295,143 in land and current building value along with operations and maintenance as match. There will also be in-kind services provided.	4,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,500,000



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13. Program Performance

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

The first goal is to renovate the current building inside and outside to repair areas from past flooding and drainage issues. The second goal is to add square footage to provide more services to residents and businesses within the community. The funding will create a hub for partnerships with local businesses and government agencies, it will provide the tools to boost the local economy through helping local farmers diversify income streams and support new food businesses for job creation.

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

The purpose of the requested funds will be used to: renovate and repair the current building, addressing past flooding and drainage issues to ensure safety, functionality, and long-term resilience. Additionally, the funds will support expanding the facility to provide more space for services that benefit residents and businesses. This enhanced space will serve as a central hub for partnerships with local businesses and government agencies, driving economic growth by helping farmers diversify their income streams, fostering the development of new food businesses, and creating job opportunities. These improvements will strengthen the community's economic resilience and support its long-term growth.

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

The project will renovate and expand the UF IFAS Extension Flagler County office to enhance its capacity to deliver a wide range of services focused on agriculture, entrepreneurship, and community development. Renovations will address long-standing drainage issues and repair storm-related damage, ensuring a safe and functional facility. The expanded space will serve as a hub for hands-on workshops, training programs, and demonstrations, providing local farmers/producers with innovative tools and techniques to diversify income streams and improve sustainability. Additionally, it will support local entrepreneurs and businesses by fostering collaboration, offering resources, and promoting economic growth, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

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

The requested funding will enable the UF IFAS Extension Flagler County Office, located on state-owned land at the fairgrounds, to provide expanded direct services to citizens, fostering innovation, education, and entrepreneurship. The project will include the addition of an incubator kitchen to support local entrepreneurs in starting food-related businesses under the Cottage Food Law, offering resources and training to help them launch and grow their ventures. An innovation hub will serve as a training site opportunity for agricultural automation providing farmers with advanced tools and techniques to improve crop production and farm efficiency. The hub will also promote farmer health initiatives to reduce the physical strain of farming and offer workshops on mental health and stress management tailored for the farming community. The target population is all Flagler County residents (more than 130k) and is expected to serve more than 800.annually.

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

Some benefits include: improvement in nutritional quality of produce grown; 80% of participants reporting increased knowledge of local agricultural and culinary practices; 20% reduction in foodborne illness outbreaks linked to local farms; 90% of farmers complying with food safety standards; \$2M increase in local agricultural revenue within two years; 20% growth in agritourism activities; 70% of incubator kitchen participants generating a net profit within the first year; and 80% reporting improved financial planning skills. Methods for measurement of success used include: Conduct surveys and interviews with farmers pre- and post-training; administer post-event surveys to gauge learning outcomes and satisfaction; analyze data on reported foodborne illnesses from public health records; collect feedback from farmers on revenue changes; evaluate tourism activity in agritourism; Track participant income levels pre- and post-program and track progress in financial planning skills.

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?

No future funding for this project would be permitted and any unspent funds deobligated.

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

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?



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- 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.