



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2693

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Severe Weather Mesonet provides real-time, hyper-local weather data to state agencies, local governments, and the public. Its solar-powered monitoring units transmit data via cellular networks and withstand wind gusts up to 185 mph. Public data access is available via a website and mobile app, while government agencies use a robust platform with real-time alerting. This system enhances public safety, emergency response, and disaster preparedness statewide. Funding will expand the network into fiscally constrained counties, support critical system updates based on past severe weather events, and ensure peak operational capacity during emergencies. Investing in this program strengthens Florida's ability to mitigate risks, protect communities, and enhance resilience against severe weather.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,900,000

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)	1,900,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,900,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	738,000	3031	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

At this time, there is not alternative funding sources available to support this project. State funding is essential to ensuring its successful implementation and impact.



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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)?

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Other Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will support the purchase of weather monitoring systems and essential connectivity equipment, including cameras, solar panels, modems, batteries, and mounting hardware. Additionally, funds will be used to enhance and upgrade existing units to improve performance and reliability.	1,140,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funding will support technological enhancements and service agreements for both new and existing systems, covering data storage, software, maintenance, and data connectivity plans.	760,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,900,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The requested funding will drive technological enhancements for the Florida Severe Weather Mesonet, enabling expansion to address critical gaps in fiscally constrained counties, addition of sensor types, and procure rapid deployable units to facilitate enhanced resilience. This investment will provide for seamless operation and sustainability of both new and existing systems, delivering long-term reliability and performance in the face of severe weather challenges.

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

Technological enhancements to the platform to include strategically installed, High-resolution weather monitoring and alerting systems. Rapid deployable units will be procured for landfall and other severe events. Comprehensive maintenance will be performed to guarantee consistent performance and connectivity. Systems will utilize cellular networks for connectivity and feature solar power systems

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

Citizens will benefit from access to real-time information and targeted responses throughout all phases of severe weather events—before, during, and after they occur. This critical data supports local and state partners, including local emergency management agencies, FDEM, and the general public, in making informed decisions and providing accurate reporting during emergencies.

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

This project serves the general population across the State of Florida by provided publicly accessible, hyper-local weather data from stations in their neighborhoods while simultaneously providing increased efficiency to local and state agencies.

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

The expected outcome of this project is the expansion of monitoring units to address current coverage gaps, the integration of additional sensors to monitor hazards such as fire and flooding, and improved system performance before, during, and after severe weather events. Success will be measured through expanded coverage maps, enhanced data availability for critical decision-making, and performance evaluations during severe weather events.

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?

The contracting agency's standard penalties should be sufficient to ensure accountability. If additional penalties are considered, they should be proportionate and account for unforeseen factors like supply chain disruptions or other other factors beyond reasonable control. A focus on corrective action and performance improvement measures is recommended to ensure project success.

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.