



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2782

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Completing the dredging, widening and berm removal of the remaining 6-1/4 miles of the channel and construction of the embankment for the linear park allows for improved water flow and filtration, cleaner water, provides for safer navigation, addresses permitting agencies regulations. Provides for direct access to the Lake and increased economic development venues to be hosted--fishing, duck hunting, bird watching, hiking, wildlife enthusiasts and activities, etc., which increases tourism, State revenues and maintains employment. Glades County owns the largest area of Lake Okeechobee on the western shore & access to the Lake is vital to the economy in this fiscally constrained community and the Moore Haven Canal serves as the life line for the County. 3/4 mile was completed with SFWMD funding and multiple State agencies participating (SFWMD, FWC, TIITF, FDEP). Glades County is located in a rural area of economic opportunity.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	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	5,000,000	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		
>5 years	0	1,000,000	n/a	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.**



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

01/4/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2027

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

general revenue

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.

Glades County is the owner 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	n/a	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contractual services for engineering, bidding, project management, engineering during construction, project management, administration and construction.	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Goal is to dredge & widen the remaining 6-1/4 miles navigational channel & construct the embankment for the linear park which will improve water flow and filtration, resulting in cleaner water, and safer navigation. Glades County owns the largest area of Lake Okeechobee and access to the Lake is important to the economy. The Moore Haven Canal is the life line for the County that allows direct access to the Lake. Project provides for protection of State water resources, the public, tourists, visitors, citizenry & residents. Allows direct access to the Lake for revenue producing venues to be hosted for fishing, duck hunting, bird watching, hiking, wildlife enthusiasts & activities, etc. Addresses permitting agencies regulations, maintenance & reporting requirements.

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

Funds to be used for contractual engineering, bidding, project management, engineering during construction, project management, administration and construction through the County's procurement policy to dredge and widen 1.5 miles of the remaining 6-1/4 mile channel and construct the embankment for the linear park. Tasks may include photogrammetry, hydrologic modeling, earthwork, dewatering, turbidity control, water quality monitoring, mitigation planting, seeding, mulching and planting along the channel embankments, installing navigational aids, clearing and grubbing, wildlife surveys, maintenance of traffic for boaters, record surveys, final quantities, etc.

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

Direct services to citizens and tourists is for safer navigational waterways with direct access to the Lake, protection of State water resources, improved water flow and water quality, use and enjoyment of linear park.

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

Target population is citizenry, visitors and residents of Glades County, which is designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity, financially disadvantaged community. Expected to be served is greater than 12,000 and includes the areas served by the Caloosahatchee River Basin and Estuary, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Basin and the Everglades West Coast Watershed areas. Greater than 12,000.

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

The expected benefit/outcome to complete the widening and deepening of the 7-mile navigational channel that provides for safer navigation, improved water flow and filtration, local access to Lake Okeechobee for Glades residents, tourists, citizenry, etc. Provides for direct access to the Lake allowing for economic stabilization and development for activities such as local events to be hosted for fishing, boaters, duck hunters, bird watching, hiking, wildlife enthusiasts, etc.; increases tourism and State revenues; maintains employment. Addresses permitting agencies requirements, maintenance and reporting requirements.

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?

Contracts will include timelines, milestones to be adhered throughout the project; implementation of corrective action plan, non-payment of invoices until milestones completed.

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

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?



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- 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):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants) Florida Water Management District
- N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)



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- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

Ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/30/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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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.