



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2784

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Improve life, health and safety. Funds to be used for permits and for construction to abandon 350 septic tank systems (OSTDS), install the piping system from the house to the street side connection and restoration to assist low income homeowners located in this rural area of opportunity and help alleviate financial hardship due to the requirement to connect per local land development regulations & per 381.00655 F.S.

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	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	83%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	605,000	17%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,605,000	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.

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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 03/02/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/30/2026

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.

Okeechobee Utility Association 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	Permit and construct a service lateral from 350 existing OSTDS to central sewer connection allowing for OSTDS to be taken out of service.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

Reduce pollutants, protect life, health and safety. This funding will help to alleviate some of the financial burdens put on homeowners due to the requirement to connect per local land development regulations & per 381.00655 F.S. Removal of OSTDS enhances localized groundwater & surface water quality & removes a potential public health threat to this rural area of opportunity.

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

Activities include obtaining contractual services to permit and construct service lateral from existing OSTDS to central sewer connections through the OUA's procurement policies and procedures.



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

Improves and protects life, health and safety of the community and State water resources. With the removal of approximately 350 septic tanks and their daily loads of nutrients to soils, groundwater and surface waters, water quality will be improved. This project also eliminates a potential public health threat due to poor soils conditions, flooded drain fields and small lots.

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

Target population is low income individuals in the OUA utilities service area, Approximately 350 individuals are expected to be served in this Rural Area of Opportunity.

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

Benefit is reduction of old, unreliable leaking septic tank systems in the Lake Okeechobee Basin and Estuary/BMAP area where daily loads of nutrients to soils, groundwater and surface waters, water quality will be improved. This project also eliminates a potential public health threat due to poor soils conditions, flooded drain fields and small lots. Completion and certification of the project.

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?

Contractual milestones established 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?

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

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)?



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

19. What is the status of construction?

Not Ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2026

22. Requester Contact Information



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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) Special District

d. First Name Last Name
e. E-mail Address
f. Phone Number Ext.

24. 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.