



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2787

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds are for contractual services for project management, engineering during construction and construction to address drain field failures due to flooding, rain events, poor drainage, and bad soils in this Rural Area of Economic Concern. Approximately 1 ton of nitrogen and 0.25 tons of phosphorus per year will be prevented from entering the groundwater and local surface waters. Improves water quality, protects life/health/safety and reduces HAB's and 100% reclaimed water reuse. Design, permitting and bidding were addressed through the FY23-24 Water Quality Grant Program, WWG, GAA LI 1671, FY 22-23, WPSPTF.

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	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	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	2,500,000	33%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	7,500,000	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		
2022-23	0	2,500,000	1671	No

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2787

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?

10/01/2025

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.

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		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	Contractual services for project management, engineering during construction and construction for wastewater infrastructure	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?

Goal achieved by funds are for contractual services for project management, engineering during construction and construction to address drain field failures due to flooding, rain events, poor drainage, and bad soils in this Rural Area of Economic Concern. Approximately 1 ton of nitrogen and 0.25 tons of phosphorus per year will be prevented from entering the groundwater and local surface waters. Improves water quality, protects life/health/ safety and reduce HAB's.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2787

Activities include seeking contractual services for project management, engineering during construction and construction for wastewater infrastructure improvements through the OUA's procurement policies.

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

Direct services to citizens is improved life, physical/mental health, safety, protection of the environment with reduced flooding, less septic system back ups into households, yards and water tables. Reduction of expenses with less pumping of septic tanks; provides for improved environment as contaminants no longer infiltrate households, yards and water tables.

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

Target population served is the State through the protection of waters of the State in the Lake Okeechobee Estuaries and surrounding areas. Additional benefits is increased levels of service expected by visitors and residents of Okeechobee County, which is designated as a Rural Area of Economic Concern per Executive Order #11-81 and as outlined in Florida Statutes 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) as a 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 improved life, health, safety and welfare of residents, the general public, ground and surface water quality, drinking water and wastewater system management with the removal of 110 failing septic systems. It is estimated the annual nutrient loadings to be reduced by one ton of TN per year and 0.25 tons of TP per year with conversion to centralized wastewater treatment system. 100% reclaimed water reuse.

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?

Non-payment of outstanding invoices, implementation of the corrective action plan, invoking the public construction bond or performance bond.

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:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2787

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)
- 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?

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2787

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) 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.