



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3074

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Florida A&M University (FAMU), through its College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), is leading the development of the Brooksville Agricultural and Environmental Research Station (BAERS). BAERS is an expansive 3,800 acre property that focuses on agricultural education, research, and extension opportunities. This initiative will expand STEM education, livestock management, beginning farmer training, pre-veterinary studies, and other key agricultural career education training by partnering with Pasco-Hernando State College.

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	5,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,500,000</b>

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)	5,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>5,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

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?**  No

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?

09/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

02/01/2025

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

We will use maintenance dollars from the university based on the space. The space utilization report is due annually and we utilize dollars when there is a pressing maintenance need.

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.

Florida A&M University.

### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction and Infrastructure for site development, facility upgrades, technology for agricultural and research tools, and STEM lab setup and broadband installation.	5,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>5,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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FAMU has a standing MOU with Pasco Hernando State College, so the goal is to have the Brooksville campus used as a training campus for those who want to pursue careers in agriculture. By expanding educational pathways and strengthening partnerships with institutions like Pasco-Hernando State College, the Brooksville Agriculture and Research Station will play a pivotal role in developing a highly skilled workforce, driving innovation, and supporting Florida's agricultural and economic growth.

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

The Brooksville Agriculture and Research Station will serve as a transformative community hub for hands-on, experiential learning, fostering community engagement, workforce development to promote careers in agriculture. This initiative will provide opportunities in community farming, STEM education, animal husbandry, and vital agricultural disciplines, equipping students and residents.

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

We will return the investment back to the state to grow agriculture capabilities in this region. The proposed installation of broadband internet services will expand digital access, enhancing education, research, and economic development while bridging the digital divide in rural communities through the strategic collaboration with Pasco-Hernando State College. The station will strengthen regional partnerships, expand career pathways, and drive long-term agricultural innovation and economic growth in Pasco and Hernando County.

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

Target population are local residents who benefit from the research and the students at Pasco Hernando State College who desire to pursue a career in agriculture. This initiative will provide graduates of state colleges with seamless access to four-year and advanced degree programs in high-demand fields such as animal science, pre-veterinary studies, and agricultural engineering.

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

The impact of the Brooksville Agriculture and Research Station will be measured through key metrics in education, workforce development, community engagement, and research. Success indicators include increased enrollment and graduation rates in four-year and advanced agricultural programs, higher job placement rates, and workforce readiness.

**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?**

Standard penalties will apply.

**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?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No



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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)

**d. First Name**  **Last Name**



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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.*