



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3190

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Estero proposes to remove the existing residential septic tanks along See See Street and connect the homes to municipal sewer. This will reduce the pollution discharging to the Estero River and Estero Bay thereby improving water quality in the Estero River and Estero Bay.

Additionally municipal water services will be provided to See See Street. Residents will enjoy reliable drinking water and improved fire protection.

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	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	800,000

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)	800,000	40%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,200,000	60%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,000,000	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		
2024-25	0	0		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.



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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?

After construction, the utilities will be owned and operated by Lee County Utilities (LCU). LCU will allocate appropriate funding for operation and maintenance.

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.

Lee County Utilities and private citizens will own the utilities after construction. Lee County Utilities provides municipal water and sewer service to Village residents.

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	Appropriation funds will be used to hire a construction management and inspection (CEI) firm and a general contractor to construct the proposed utility improvements.	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The goal of the funds request is to improve the quality of water in the Estero River, Estero Bay and Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. The Estero Bay has been identified as impaired for nutrients and the Estero River has been identified as impaired for bacteria. Septic tanks have been identified, through a Gulf Coast University study, as a source of nutrients and bacteria within the watershed. Removing septic tanks will reduce the nutrient and bacteria load to the River and Bay helping to improve water quality and reduce the impairments.

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

The funds will be used to extend water and waste water service to the homes along See See Street and decommission existing septic tanks.

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

Citizens will see improved water quality in the Estero River and Estero Bay. Citizens in the project area will be provided central potable water and sewer which are safer, and more reliable environmentally sound sources.

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

The target population serviced by this project are the residents along See See Street and all residents and visitors to Lee County.

The improved water quality in the Estero River and Estero Bay will serve all residents in Estero, City of Bonita Springs, Town of Fort Myers Beach and Lee County.

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 from the project is improve quality of water in the Estero River and Estero Bay.

The outcome will be measured by continuing to monitor the quality of water in the Estero River and Estero Bay.

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 project construction bid documents will require a bond to cover the bid amount to ensure the contractor completes the project; The Village will include liquidated damages in the project's construction contract.

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



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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)
- 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?



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Not Started

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 10/1/2026

22. Requester Contact Information

a. **First Name** David **Last Name** Willems
 b. **Organization** Village of Estero
 c. **E-mail Address** willems@estero-fl.gov
 d. **Phone Number** (239)221-5035 **Ext.**

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. **Organization** Village of Estero
 b. **Municipality and County** Lee
 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** Steve **Last Name** Sarkozy
 e. **E-mail Address** sarkozy@estero-fl.gov
 f. **Phone Number** (239)221-5035 **Ext.**

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name** Julia Juarez
 b. **Firm Name** JEJ & Associates Inc
 c. **E-mail Address** lena@jejassoc.com
 d. **Phone Number** (850)212-8330

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.