



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3227

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

This transformative initiative bridges food security, environmental stewardship, and workforce development to uplift at-risk youth and economically disadvantaged communities. By integrating wilderness education, community gardening, nutrition programs, and sustainable job training, it fosters self-sufficiency, enhances physical and mental well-being, and creates tangible economic opportunities. With robust community and legislative support, this project cultivates long-term resilience, empowering future generations to thrive.

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	1,310,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,310,000</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)	1,310,000	10%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	11,567,500	90%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>12,877,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.**

The Florida Children's Initiative sustains its impact through statewide fundraising, corporate partnerships, and local government support. While these efforts help expand programs, continued state investment remains vital.



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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?

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.

### 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	Subcontract with each of the five Florida Children's Initiatives	1,310,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,310,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The funds will expand access to wilderness education, community gardening, nutrition programs, and workforce training for at-risk youth and economically disadvantaged communities. This initiative aims to enhance food security, promote environmental stewardship, improve physical and mental well-being, and create sustainable job opportunities in agriculture and related fields. By fostering self-sufficiency and resilience, the project will equip participants with essential life skills while addressing systemic disparities in health, education, and economic mobility.

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



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The funds will support immersive wilderness education, hands-on agricultural training, and expanded community gardens to enhance food security. Participants will gain workforce skills through job training in sustainability, while structured nutrition, cooking, and wellness programs promote long-term health. By integrating education, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship, this initiative empowers communities to achieve lasting self-sufficiency and resilience.

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

The funds will support immersive wilderness education, hands-on agricultural training, and expanded community gardens to enhance food security. Participants will gain workforce skills through job training in sustainability, while structured nutrition, cooking, and wellness programs promote long-term health. By integrating education, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship, this initiative empowers communities to achieve lasting self-sufficiency and resilience.

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

The project targets at-risk youth, economically disadvantaged individuals, jobless persons, the homeless, and those facing physical and mental health challenges. It also supports grade school, high school, and college students, as well as individuals impacted by the justice system. By providing essential resources and training, the initiative aims to uplift vulnerable populations and create pathways to self-sufficiency. The program is expected to serve between 401 and 800 individuals, offering direct support through education, job training, and wellness programs.

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

This project will enhance food security, improve health outcomes, create job opportunities, and promote environmental stewardship. Success will be measured by increased access to fresh food, participation in nutrition and wellness programs, job placements in agriculture and sustainability, and environmental impact through garden expansions and community clean-ups. Metrics include participant engagement, pre- and post-program assessments, employment rates, and sustainability initiatives tracked through reports, surveys, and attendance records.

**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?**

While the standard penalties outlined in the contract provide a strong framework for accountability, the contracting agency may consider additional measures tailored to the specific circumstances of non-compliance. These could include actions designed to encourage timely resolution, foster collaboration, and ensure future adherence to deliverables and performance measures. The goal is to address issues constructively while maintaining the integrity and objectives of the agreement.

**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
- 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):

**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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.



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#### 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.*