



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3231

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Arts and Agriculture project brings high-quality arts experiences to the State's rural communities ensuring their access "to all the opportunities the rest of Florida has to offer." It creates partnerships between rural agricultural agencies - present in every Florida county - and Local Arts Agencies (LAAs) that have proven success delivering impactful arts programming statewide. Working through the rural agricultural agencies and the programs they offer, LAAs will distribute monthly, self-contained, Arts Activity Kits that reflect the interests and experiences of rural Florida communities. Kits will be available for take home use or can be incorporated into community events. Artist led activities, such as workshops, exhibitions and community projects that foster engagement and connection are also included in the program. This request supports a pilot program in DeSoto, Hardee, Glades and Hendry counties, four of the 19 Florida counties without LAAs.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?  No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	782,600
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>782,600</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)	782,600	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>782,600</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?  Yes
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

This program will be dependent on 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?

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	15% of current salaried position	10,800
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Percent of salary based on time spent on operations	42,100
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Creation of Arts Activity Kits Creation of special exhibits and programs Artist Activities Shipping/transportation and other expenses	541,200
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Local LAA program delivery Project management Fiscal Sponsor and operating partner Startup costs	188,500
<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>782,600</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to enrich the lives of rural Floridians through the arts. The program establishes a partnership between agricultural community support networks and arts support networks to increase rural communities' access to high quality arts experiences. It provides rural communities with all the measurable social, economic, and educational benefits the arts offer. These include health and mental health benefits for children, seniors and adults including those in high-stress environments (relevant for rural communities, because as the Florida Farm Bureau notes, farming is "a stressful occupation...associated with increased levels of anxiety and depression"). The arts also contribute to the overall quality of life, strengthen community vitality and contribute to the economy. (An estimated \$5.8 B annually in Florida, according to research). Equally important, the goal is to deliver these benefits in a manner that values rural communities and their contribution to the State of Florida.

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

Designated Local Arts Agencies (LAAs) as recognized by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Arts and Culture, will work with Ag agency partners to develop a deep understanding of the history, values and economic drivers of participating communities and what is important to their residents. From this discovery process, LAAs will work with area artists to deliver a comprehensive arts program that builds on the relationships the Ag agencies have with the communities they serve, that reflects Florida's rural communities' unique experiences and character and that can be easily and effectively deployed to bring high-quality arts experiences to the participating rural communities. The program will include monthly Arts Activity Kits and in person activities with artists. Both kits and activities will align with key community touch points and will emphasize that the arts and artists are already woven into the fabric of rural life while offering exciting and enriching arts experiences.

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

1 Monthly Arts Activity Kits: LAAs will provide Ag agency partners self-contained, hands-on Arts Activity Kits. The kits will provide engaging, arts experiences that speak to the interests and experiences of the community. Available in English and Spanish, they include all materials, easy to follow instructions and do not require prior arts training. Kits can be distributed for take-home use or as part of a community activity.  
2 Quarterly Artist Visits: In-person, artist-led activities, organized by the LAAs, bring the arts to life. They may feature workshops, performances, exhibitions or collaborative community projects such as a mural painting project or participation at community events.  
3 Ongoing Support and Evaluation: The LAA will provide continuous program support, gathering feedback and evaluating the program's effectiveness. Regular assessments will help refine the program, ensuring it remains responsive to community needs and delivers measurable value.

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

The target population for this pilot includes residents of DeSoto, Hardee, Glades, and Hendry counties, four of the 19 rural Florida counties currently without Local Arts Agencies (LAAs). These communities lack access to state funding and arts support distributed through the Florida Division of Arts and Culture, resulting in limited opportunities for arts experiences. The combined population of the four counties is about 118,000, with 26,000 residents under the age of 18 and 23,000 age 65 and above. About 39% of the population is Hispanic. Based on existing engagement levels with agricultural agencies in these counties, the program is estimated to directly serve between 2,000 and 5,000 individuals. Of the participants, 60% are expected to be youth under 18, 20% seniors, and 20% adults. Additionally, 20-30% of participants are anticipated to be Hispanic or Spanish-speaking, and program materials will be provided in both English and Spanish to ensure accessibility.

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

Expected outcomes include:  
1 Increased access to the arts: Including improved mental health, educational enrichment for children, enhanced quality of life for seniors and families, and greater community engagement and vitality.  
2 Recognition that rural communities are vibrant and rich with artistic tradition: From family & friends who love to whittle, work leather, design, tell stories, or photograph rodeos, arts and creative talent are present and valued in rural communities.  
3 Broadened horizons: Inspiring possibilities and new paths to move forward, from arts-related career opportunities to recognition that a hobby or craft can be art.  
4 A growing love of the arts and a desire to experience and to create more.  
Quantitative success will be measured by # of participants and Likert scale sentiment surveys. Qualitative success will be assessed by open-ended questions such as "How has this experience benefited you?"

#### **f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties**



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LFIR # 3231

**for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?**

This is a pilot program, and its success is essential to expanding its benefits to the 15 other rural counties currently without Local Arts Agencies. A failure to meet deliverables risks limiting future opportunities for these communities and the vision of what is possible for the arts in Florida. While we propose no additional penalties beyond those already provided in the contract, the team behind this project is deeply committed to its success and will work diligently to meet or exceed all performance measures.

**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)?**

- 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**



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### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3231

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.

#### 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.*