



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3265

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

In response to one of the State of Florida's initiatives, this project converts up to 300 septic tank sewer systems in the FGUA Lehigh Acres service area to an updated sanitation and treatment system. The project received 50 percent funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Water Quality Grant Program. The project area is located directly on the Caloosahatchee River in a low-lying area severely impacted by Hurricane Ian, and any additional funding would significantly reduce the financial burden for the customers in the project area.

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	625,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,375,000
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	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	5,000,000	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		

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

12/31/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

07/31/2026

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

FGUA revenue collected through water utility billing will be used for operation and maintenance and replacement and renewal of the new infrastructure.

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.

The Florida Governmental Utility Authority is the owner and operator of the sewer collection system who will benefit from this capital outlay funding.

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	The main activities include public outreach, permitting, project management, grant management, construction and inspection services	625,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The main activities include public outreach, permitting, project management, grant management, construction and inspection services	4,375,000
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?



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The project is focused on improving water quality and sanitation in the FGUA Lehigh Acres service area by transitioning septic tank sewer systems to a more modern and reliable treatment system. This is beneficial not only for residents but also for the surrounding environment, particularly the Caloosahatchee Basin and Estuaries, which are impacted by excessive nutrient loading.

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

The main activities include public outreach, permitting, project management, grant management, construction and inspection services.

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

The main activities include public outreach, permitting, project management, grant management, construction and inspection services.

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

Lehigh Acres community will benefit in the project area identified removing septic tanks for approximately 1000 citizens.

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

The project is focused on improving water quality and sanitation in the FGUA Lehigh Acres service area by transitioning septic tank sewer systems to a more modern and reliable treatment system. This is beneficial not only for residents but also for the surrounding environment, particularly the Caloosahatchee Basin and Estuaries, which are impacted by excessive nutrient loading.

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 suggested penalty for not meeting the deliverables is to refund the FDEP 20% of the total funding received for each calendar year past the project completion date, not to exceed 100% of the total funding amount.

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

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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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?

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 06/30/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Will Last Name Fontaine
 b. Organization Florida Governmental Utility Authority
 c. E-mail Address Will.Fontaine@FGUA.com
 d. Phone Number (352)409-6520 Ext.

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Florida Governmental Utility Authority
 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) 163.01(7)(g)1

d. First Name Scott Last Name Towler
 e. E-mail Address Scott.Towler@FGUA.com
 f. Phone Number (407)629-6900 Ext.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Howard E. (Gene) Adams
 b. Firm Name Pennington PA
 c. E-mail Address gene@penningtonlaw.com
 d. Phone Number (850)222-3533

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