



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3274

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

4Roots' mission is to unearth the power of food to build healthy communities. This vision comes to life at its 18-acre Farm Campus in Orlando, a hub for agricultural research, education, and community engagement. Funds requested are for the Phytonutrient Lab to study and enhance crop nutrition through soil analysis, nutrient dense plant development, and sustainable farming techniques. By advancing agricultural innovation, 4Roots supports Florida farmers, boosts food security, and drives economic growth.

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	900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>900,000</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)	900,000	14%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	5,550,000	86%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>6,450,000</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		

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.

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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?** 03/31/2026

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 03/31/2027

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

A \$100 million capital campaign, which to date has raised more than \$45 million in committed funds from individuals, corporations, foundations, and public funds for the Farm Campus' construction.

**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 4R Foundation, Inc., dba 4Roots

**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	Executive Director	150,000
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	Phytonutrient Lab Equipment: Specialized equipment to analyze the nutritional content of crops and assess soil quality. This investment enables cutting-edge research to enhance crop nutrition and soil health.	750,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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>900,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The requested funds will help establish the 4Roots Phytonutrient Lab, advancing Florida's agricultural industry by researching nutrient-rich crops, improving soil health, and supporting sustainable farming. This lab will provide farmers with training, develop innovative agricultural solutions, and drive economic growth through agritourism and job creation, positioning Florida as a leader in phytonutrient research and agriculture innovation.

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



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Support the development of the Lab, advancing agricultural research to enhance the nutritional quality of crops. Activities include analyzing soil and plant samples, developing nutrient-dense crop varieties, and researching sustainable farming practices. The lab will drive economic growth by supporting local farmers, attracting agricultural tourism, and positioning Florida as a leader in agriculture innovation.

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

Support Florida's agricultural industry by developing nutrient-rich crops, improving soil health, soil analysis for farmers and providing research-backed solutions for farming. Additionally, farmer trainings, agriculture education and access to healthier food. The Lab will drive economic development and tourism, positioning Florida as a leader in agriculture innovation as one of the few labs in the US dedicated to these services.

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

The 4Roots Phytonutrient Lab will serve farmers, medical professionals, culinary experts, students, and the community, enhancing Florida's agricultural and health industries. It will provide farmers with training on soil health and nutrient-rich crops, educate medical students and physicians on food-as-medicine, train culinary professionals in sustainable practices, and students will engage in STEM-based learning. The 4Roots Farm Campus will attract 300,000 visitors annually, boosting agritourism and economic growth.

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

The Phytonutrient Lab will advance Florida's agricultural industry by developing nutrient-rich crops, improving soil health, and providing research-backed solutions for sustainable farming. It will support farmers with training, enhance food quality, and drive economic growth through agritourism and job creation. Outcomes will be measured through soil and crop analyses, farmer training participation, economic impact reports, visitor data, and community health metrics, ensuring tangible benefits for Florida's economy, environment, and public health.

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables or performance measures will result in either the inability to draw down all of the appropriated funds or the repayment of funds back to the State agency.

**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#:**



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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):**

**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.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**



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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.*