



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3278

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

4. Project/Program Description

There is a dire need for a hurricane-rated barn/structure in Sarasota County that would serve as an evacuation facility for horses, other large animals and their caretakers during a hurricane/other natural disaster. The structure/facility would also serve as an evacuation center and a relief/recovery center in the aftermath of disasters/emergency events. The structure would be flexible in it's configuration to accommodate changing needs, and include a generator, restroom and kitchen facilities. While the priority for this structure would be disaster preparedness and recovery, the rest of the year it would be leased to Fox Lea Farm and used as a horse show barn. Fox Lea Farm generates a \$100MM annual economic impact to Sarasota County; we would anticipate a measureable increase with new facility.

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	150,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,350,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	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	1,500,000	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?

10/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

03/03/2026

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

Fox Lea Foundation LLC will lease the facility to Fox Lea Farm, a horse show facility, when not being used for disaster recovery/relief; this revenue will fund ongoing operations, maintenance, and improvements.

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.

Kim Aldrich-Farrell, David and Linda Aldrich are owners. The Fox Lea Foundation LLC is a non-profit separate from Fox Lea Farm, and will be the actual owner of the barn structure.

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	Project Consultants to oversee entire project including Project Planning, Budget Management, Communication and contract management, documentation and stakeholder management.	150,000
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	Construction of two hurricane-rated buildings plus restrooms, generators, kitchen area to house evacuated large animals and people from Sarasota County and the surrounding area.	1,350,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The hurricane-rated structure will be used as an evacuation and hurricane-preparedness center for horses, other large animals, and their caretakers, for Sarasota County and surrounding counties. The Sarasota County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol would use it for evacuation of their animals and officers. There is a dire need for a facility in Sarasota County at which to evacuate large animals; the past two years, Fox Lea Farm has served as a disaster recovery facility after the storms, but the facility is not currently hardened enough to be a shelter during the storm.

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

Fox Lea Farm has a full staff and is experienced in disaster recovery for equines and other large animals, gained the past two years of record storms and flooding. This will provide a safe place for humans and animals that might otherwise not be able to evacuate. Fox Lea Foundation LLC will own the structure; Fox Lea Farm Inc will lease the structure and provide ongoing maintenance of the structure. When not being used as a disaster center, the structure could be used for other community events and Fox Lea will lease as a horse show barn.

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

A hardened barn/structure will be built that would house up to 100 horses/other large animals as well as their caretakers during storms. The structure and surrounding facility would serve as a relief and recovery center after storms/natural disasters, and could provide a staging area beforehand as well. Fox Lea Farm Inc will provide the coordination of evacuation communications and relief and recovery. During non-storm time, the facility will be leased by Fox Lea for use as a horse show barn.

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

Horse and large animal owners in Sarasota, Manatee, Lee, and DeSoto counties for disaster preparation and relief and recovery. During non-storm times, the horse show barn is expected to increase attendance at events at Fox Lea that is anticipated to result in a 10% increase in attendance, increasing the annual economic impact to the local area by as much as \$10MM.

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

Benefit during natural disasters will be safety of not only the human and animal evacuees, but also benefit first responders by putting more people in safe places and out of risk during storms. During normal operations, a permanent structure such as this will result in an increase in attendance of 10%, resulting in 10,000-20,000 additional hotel room nights in the area, as well as a \$10MM increase in annual economic impact to the area. This is easily measurable by the number of horses we have attend our events and the number of animals/people that evacuate during storms.

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?

funding suspension

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No Yes

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):

Milton, Debbie and Ian

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied



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- 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
- 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



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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.