



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3286

1. **Project Title** Ocean Conservancy Tracking Non-Point Source Nitrogen Pollution in Critical Florida Watersheds

2. **Senate Sponsor** Nick DiCeglie

3. **Date of Request** 3/6/2025

4. **Project/Program Description**

The specific purpose is a reduction of nutrient pollution in Florida's coastal watersheds that fuel harmful algal blooms like red tide. The project will use a suite of techniques in partnership with Florida International University to pin-point misunderstood sources of nitrogen pollution in critical Florida watersheds, including but not limited to Tampa Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Indian River Lagoon.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Environmental Protection

**State Agency contacted?** Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	850,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>850,000</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)	850,000	77%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	23%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,100,000</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.** 1,000,000

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

Apply for grants and look to private and corporate sources of 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)?**

**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	Project management costs for Ocean Conservancy and Florida International University staff to oversee the project	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	State related travel to key watersheds; travel to conferences to present findings; purchasing of monitoring equipment including sondes and sensors.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Outside contracts for supplemental stable isotope validation, additional nutrient analysis, GIS, and modeling	100,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Staff time for Ocean Conservancy, Florida International University, University of Florida, Florida State University, and other key partners	400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	State related travel to key watersheds for sampling and monitoring efforts to deploy nutrient chemical tracer analysis techniques and stable isotope testing	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Outside contracts for supplemental stable isotope validation, supplemental nutrient analysis, GIS, and modeling	100,000
<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>850,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The specific purpose is a reduction of nutrient pollution in Florida's coastal watersheds that fuel harmful algal blooms like red tide. The project will use a suite of techniques in partnership with Florida International University to pin-point misunderstood sources of nitrogen pollution in critical Florida watersheds, including but not limited to Tampa Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Indian River Lagoon.

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



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The funds will not be used directly for services to citizens

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

The funds will not be used directly for services to citizens

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

The funds will not be used directly for services to citizens

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

Reduction in frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms; reduction in nutrient loading that drives compromised water quality in key Florida watersheds including Tampa Bay, Biscayne Bay, and the Indian River Lagoon. Pinpoint with geographic specificity sources of nutrient pollution that drive harmful algal events. Non-point sources are misunderstood and not capable of being identified with precision - this project will identify them, and allow for them to be intercepted. Even a small reduction in non-point source nutrient pollution will reduce the frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms.

**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?**

Funds will be returned for any uncompleted part of the project.

**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



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- 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) joint source management grant (DEP)
- 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?**

**21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

**22. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**



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b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 23. 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.

#### 24. 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.*