



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3296

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

4. Project/Program Description

Let's grow together! Our Neighborhood Farms Initiative aims to create education and appreciation for farming, particularly in young people, and transform underutilized parcels of land into thriving food gardens that will serve as an invaluable resource for disadvantaged communities in Miami-Dade and surrounding Counties. The components include: Site transformation, educational programs, community engagement, nutritional support, and environmental sustainability. The results include enhanced community nutrition, environmental stewardship, educational opportunities, community cohesion, and independence from corporate food industry.

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	86,700
Fixed Capital Outlay	39,400
Total State Funds Requested	126,100

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)	126,100	66%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	65,000	34%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	191,100	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.

We anticipate opportunity to expand and enhance community gardens to reach more children and communities. Alternative funding through individual and corporate donors who have indicated interest in supporting these projects and represent the "other" matching funds this legislative session.



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3296

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

08/01/2025

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

Matching donors (private) will support the maintenance and enhancement of gardens. Corporate partners including Home Depot and Behr have pledged support with materials and man-hours. Private donors include YMP Real Estate Management and Moshe Popack.

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.

1. Kristi House advocacy center for child abuse, trauma and trafficking. www.kristihouse.org 2. Avalina Assisted Living Facility for senior and high functioning adults with Autism. Owned by YMP Real Estate. Ready to start project upon approval. 3. Southport Middle School - Pt St Lucie (99% free lunch). To provide business education, promote science curriculum, sustainability 4. Other opportunities in Miami Dade: The Underline (Meg Daly), community gardens in Doral, Liberty City, and Little River

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	Plant the seeds! Promotional efforts to engage community and constituents so similar programs can sprout around the state.	12,680
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Garden beds, soil, nutrients, seeds, gardening materials, transportation, travel to set up at least 3 community gardens: Kristi House (Miami-Dade), Avalina Assisted Living (Broward), Southport Middle School (Pt. St Lucie), or similar in Dade (Liberty City, Little River, Doral, The Underline, Flamingo Park)	26,380
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Personalized turnkey guidance for educational curriculum to educate constituents on value of farming ranging from nutrition, science, business, fitness, sustainability, family and community values.. Consultative roadmap for caring and growing gardens by onsite volunteers or maintenance teams.	47,640
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3296

Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Land preparation, installation of irrigation, garden beds, CAD garden design and planning, engineering, and permitting.	39,400
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		126,100

13. Program Performance

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

NFUSA will lead the development of 3 community farms to raise appreciation for farming among constituents - particularly young people - promoting rural values and opening up opportunities for independence and resiliency from corporate food industry and reliance on foreign imports. Younger constituents get enhanced business education, science curriculum, and after school community activities to deter truancy and crime. Senior citizens get physical exercise, social interaction, and cognitive acumen. Supports Florida independent farms and tourism.

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

Build, grow, and maintain community farms. Share guided curriculum on growing garden, science of farming, nutrition, alignment with STEM for community youth. Guided activities and exercise for seniors, sense of responsibility and community. Community engagement activities - harvest festival, planting times, opportunities to further involve other partners (private/public) to enhance and develop tie in (farmers' market, nutrition education). Address challenge of waste management by providing a community composting site and education on recycling.

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

Education on the importance of national agriculture as the path to nutritional sustainability, healthy food security, exercise, and community engagement.

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

Youth (5-18).
 Senior citizens (65+)
 Young mothers
 Community development.
 Expect to impact larger neighborhood directly - with indirect impact to broader community and tourism.

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

Improve agricultural education and independent food production, improve physical health, improve mental health, enrich cultural experience, improve quality of nutritional education, increase or improve economic activity, enhance individual's economic self-sufficiency. We will measure the outcome with a combination of financial data, skill development assessments, and feedback from individuals, students, teachers, administration and seniors.

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 allocated according to a pre-established schedule of deliverables. The vendor is proven and engaged in other private contracts - such that they will be highly discouraged from failing to meet deliverables. We will build in contingencies around replacing materials, work hours to solve any issues, and in the extreme returning funds such that they can be reallocated to a new vendor.

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)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3296

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**

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)



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- 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.