



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3303

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funding will be used for a project using heavy lift drones to deploy bivalve (clams, oyster and scallop) seed into existing oyster habitat and seagrass meadows with more coverage and density than traditional methods previously used to jump start rejuvenation of depleted areas. The goal is to deploy over 30-40 million 1-6 mm bivalve seeds.

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	2,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

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)	2,500,000	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	2,500,000	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		
2023-24	0	1,750,000	1551	No

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

10. Status of Construction



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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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning	375,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Field staff for drone deployment locations	400,000
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	Permitting, construction planning and oversight, monitoring, Drone lease and equipment maintenance, oyster and clam seed, additional supplies, Internships, monitoring, permitting and data collection	1,725,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The goal is to deploy over 30-40 million 1-6 mm bivalve seeds.

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

The funding will be used for a project using heavy lift drones to deploy bivalve (clams, oyster and scallop) seed into existing oyster habitat and seagrass meadows with more coverage and density than traditional methods previously used to jump start rejuvenation of depleted areas.

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



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The project will support restoration oysters and other bivalve habitat, improving water quality and the overall health of the ecosystem. This will also help support the local economy and tourism. The project will also utilize internships from State University students and provide future employment for students.

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

General population; university and college students.

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

The project will support restoration oysters and other bivalve habitat, improving water quality and the overall health of the ecosystem. This will also help support the local economy and tourism. The project will also utilize internships from State University students and provide future employment for students.

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?

All seed stock will be procured from FDACS certified Aquaculture facilities and inspected by staff prior to deployment. Detailed maps and plans will also be approved. If there is a failure to meet deliverables or performance measures the project will not move forward and reimbursement will not be provided.

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#:

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



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- 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

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number



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