



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3347

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

E-RoadMap's HydroHUB will pioneer Palm Beach County's first community-centered hydroponic facility, producing 200,000 pounds of fresh produce annually, while providing subsidized organic produce to 15+ nonprofits, reducing their food costs by 30%. Through Operation No Food Gap, we transform underserved communities by combining sustainable agriculture with comprehensive enrichment programs, creating equitable food access across Title I schools and BIPOC communities.

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	90,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	160,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>250,000</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)	250,000	12%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	1,500,000	72%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	340,000	16%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>2,090,000</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)?**

**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?**

Ongoing operations and maintenance will be sustained through our diversified revenue model: 35% from government benefits programs, 20% from direct sales through Fresh Markets, 15% from CSA memberships, 15% from healthcare partnerships (including medically tailored meals), and 15% from nonprofit collaborations. Additional support comes through strategic partnerships with Palm Beach County School District and established grant funding streams.

**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 ERM HydroHUB facility represents new construction and will be owned by E-RoadMap Corporation, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, ensuring complete organizational control and alignment with our nonprofit mission of serving Palm Beach County's underserved communities

**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 partial salary and benefits	25,000
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	Technology platform development and implementation (partial)	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Supply chain development, implementation and consulting	40,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Hydroponics facility construction and infrastructure	160,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>250,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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The requested funds will establish HydroHUB, a state-of-the-art hydroponic facility designed to combat food insecurity in marginalized communities. This facility will provide consistent, year-round production of 200,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce, supporting 15+ local nonprofits and food banks with subsidized produce, while creating a sustainable food security infrastructure that serves Palm Beach County's most vulnerable populations.

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

Activities include installation of hydroponic growing systems, development of produce distribution networks, and implementation of a technology platform for logistics management. Services encompass year-round organic produce production, food box assembly and delivery to marginalized communities, CSA program management, and support for local food banks through consistent wholesale produce supply.

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

Through HydroHUB, citizens will receive weekly deliveries of fresh, organic produce via food box programs, with SNAP/EBT payment options. Services include nutrition education workshops, CSA memberships at subsidized rates for low-income families, and direct access to affordable, locally-grown produce. Additionally, 15+ local nonprofits receive subsidized organic produce, reducing their food costs by 30%

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

Target Population: Palm Beach County residents in food desert regions, with concentrated focus in Riviera Beach and Belle Glade, where over 80% of residents face significant food access barriers. Primary focus on Title I school communities, SNAP/EBT recipients, WIC participants, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Number Served: 10,000+ annual beneficiaries, including 1,000+ households through food box programs, 2,500+ CSA members, 15+ nonprofits receiving subsidized produce, 500+ nutrition education participants, and 100 workforce development trainees.

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

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:

- Increased Food Security
- Production of 200,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce annually
- Serving 10,000+ residents through multiple distribution channels
- 30% reduction in food costs for 15+ partner nonprofits
- Increased SNAP/EBT participation rates by 25%

Economic Impact

- Creation of 10 full-time agricultural jobs
- Training 50 youth in agricultural entrepreneurship annually
- 85% program retention rate in workforce development
- 5 youth-led enterprises launched

Measurement Methodology:

Quantitative Metrics

- Monthly production tracking through HydroHUB management system
- Digital distribution logs for food box deliveries and CSA memberships
- Point-of-sale data for retail transactions
- Nonprofit partner reporting on cost savings and distribution
- Participant enrollment and retention records

Qualitative Assessment

- Pre/post surveys measuring food security status
- Quarterly community feedback sessions
- Monthly partner organization impact reports

**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?**



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As a community-focused organization committed to service excellence, we propose the following performance accountability measures:

- Performance Enhancement Protocols
- Implementation of corrective action planning
- Enhanced staff development and training
- Increased frequency of quality assurance reviews
- Strengthened monitoring systems
- Reporting Adjustments
- More frequent progress updates
- Additional documentation of outcomes
- Enhanced stakeholder communication
- Expanded quality metrics tracking
- Quality Assurance Measures
- Third-party program evaluation
- Increased community feedback sessions
- Enhanced volunteer training protocols
- Strengthened partner coordination
- E-RoadMap maintains robust tracking systems, quality control protocols, and a dedicated team of 200 volunteers contributing 10,000 hours annually to ensure consistent service delivery and program excellence.

**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
- Yes, Received
- No



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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**

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