



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3405

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Project is to improve and expand fairground facilities that include rabbit & poultry barns, show barn, and covered walkways; to increase revenue for this Rural Area of Opportunity; to meet increased demand; and to provide appropriate facilities for agriculture-related educational events and shows, rodeos, 4H, FFA, fair events, cultural events and programs. Provides for proper facilities to draw participants to enjoy and develop life skills at revenue producing events.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	515,000
Total State Funds Requested	515,000

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)	515,000	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	515,000	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.

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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 10/15/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/30/2027

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

Annual Budget

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.

Hardee County is the owner 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
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		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contractual services for design, bidding, permitting and construction.	515,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		515,000

13. Program Performance

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

To increase economic revenue for this Rural Area of Opportunity with improvements and expansion of the infrastructure at the fairgrounds needed to meet increase demand and to provide appropriate facilities for agriculture-related educational events and shows, rodeos, horse shows, 4H, FFA, fairs, cultural events and programs that allow for increasing activities, participants, tourists and users.

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

To seek contractual professional engineering design, bidding, and construction through the competitive procurement process.



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

Direct services to citizens is usage of improved and expanded fairgrounds facilities and amenities while attending events. The enhanced, appropriate and adequate facilities promotes a healthy, quality of life and aides in stimulating the economy in this Rural Area of Opportunity.

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

Hardee County, which is a financially disadvantaged community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C.) that is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes), citizenry, visitors, tourists, business community and surrounding areas. Greater than 27,000 expected to be served.

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

Expected benefit is completion of the improvements that will allow for more participants, spectators to comfortably attend events. Enhanced and modern facilities allows for increase of revenues and an enhanced economy. Improved educational programs/events for this Rural Area of Opportunity.

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?

Non-payment of invoices until milestones achieved; implementation of corrective action plan.

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



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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):

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.