



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2829

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Nature-Based Wellness Workforce Initiative aims to develop a diverse workforce of health professionals skilled in nature-based wellness practices, including traditional herbal medicine, meditation, forest bathing, ecological wellness, and holistic healing. The program will train doctors, nurses, naturopaths, herbalists, and others in traditional herbal practices for natural healing. Key goals include building a skilled workforce, preserving traditional knowledge, promoting sustainability, expanding access to wellness for underserved communities, integrating therapies into conventional healthcare, and advancing research. The initiative fosters collaboration, public awareness, and the use of natural healing in mainstream wellness, emphasizing ethical resource use and a balance between mind, body, and spirit.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	250,000	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 2026-2027	250,000	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.



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Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2829

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)?

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Program Manager: 1 @ \$12,000 ; Lead Instructors (Herbal Medicine and Plant Therapies): 2 @ \$67,200 ; 1 Sustainability and Ecological Wellness Educators: 1 @ \$18,000; Program and Community Outreach Director: 1 @ \$14,400	112,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Leased Learning Area: \$16,800; Natural Health Practitioner Tuition for 55 Learners: \$110,000; Supplies and Tools: \$8,000; Graduation: \$3,600	138,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The Nature-Based Wellness (NBW) Workforce Initiative, proposed by Nwamara Center for Integrative Health, seeks funding to train a diverse workforce in NBW practices like traditional herbal medicine and plant therapies. It aims to integrate traditional healing with modern healthcare, preserve ecological knowledge, promote sustainability, and expand access to holistic care in underserved communities. The initiative emphasizes research, collaboration with healthcare providers, and building professional networks to foster growth in nature-based wellness.

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

The Nature-Based Wellness Initiative will offer natural healing activities and herbal workshops, including training in medicinal tea making, tincture making, emotional support therapy "Bach Flowers", and gardening to develop traditional healing skills. Sustainability will be emphasized through composting and eco-friendly practices. Professional development will include entrepreneurial training and certification to enhance credibility. These services aim to foster economic self-sufficiency, promote environmental stewardship, and create entrepreneurial development opportunities in wellness.

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

The funding will provide citizens with a variety of workforce support services, including workshops, entrepreneurial guidance, and sustainability education. Participants will earn certifications to boost job credibility and create entrepreneurial opportunities. The initiative will support careers in the wellness sector, promote eco-conscious practices, and focus on creating long-term, stable employment for community leaders, ultimately contributing to the growth and development of the wellness industry.

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

The target population for this project includes jobless persons, economically disadvantaged individuals, university/college students, and elderly persons. The initiative is expected to serve 55 individuals, providing them with skills in nature-based healing practices, sustainability, and entrepreneurship to improve their economic and physical well-being, while creating long-term opportunities for personal and professional growth.

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

This initiative aims to improve physical and mental health, enrich cultural experiences, enhance education, and increase economic activity. Outcomes will be measured through pre- and post-training evaluations assessing knowledge in health practices, cultural enrichment, and sustainability. Economic growth will be tracked by monitoring entrepreneurial ventures and income, with follow-up surveys at 6 months to a year. Success will be indicated by participants' improved health, cultural understanding, education quality, and increased local economic activity.

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?

In addition to standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables, the Department of Education may reduce funding for non-performance. Future funding may also be suspended until compliance is achieved. Another penalty includes requiring corrective action planning, where the contractor must submit a plan to address deficiencies and meet performance goals.

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2829

- 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)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2829

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.