



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3388

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The purpose of Farm-Ed is to enrich grades 6-12 education by embedding modern agricultural techniques and cutting-edge technologies within the curriculum, facilitating experiential learning opportunities for students. This comprehensive program encompasses a robust grade 6-12 curriculum developed by experts, mentorship from seasoned horticulturists, access to state-of-the-art agricultural tools, and intuitive data dashboards for real-time learning and analysis. Farm-Ed's overarching mission is to cultivate a new cadre of skilled agricultural innovators by merging classical educational models with immersive, project-based learning experiences that are informed by empirical data and sustainable practices. This forward-thinking approach not only equips students with vital skills but also instills a deeper understanding and appreciation for the agricultural sciences.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,200,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,200,000	52%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,000,000	48%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>4,200,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 11. 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?

12. 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.

### 13. 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	Chief Executive Salary and Benefits Chief Operator/Scientist Salary and Benefits	240,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for training, classroom and curriculum supplies, technology for staff/teachers and students. Equipment costs for 200 units from manufacturer, and shipping of devices to schools in the pilot program.	600,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services will be used to refine features, ensuring adaptive content and tools that meet the distinct needs for a diversity of students. On-going tech support and training for teachers on data analysis. Consultants will prioritize gathering educator feedback and driving enhancements aligned with real-time classroom dynamics and needs; consultants will also be responsible for UI/UX refinement for the classroom based on school feedback.	1,360,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,200,000</b>



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

The purpose is to integrate modern agricultural practices and technologies into the grades 6-12 curriculum, providing students with hands-on learning experiences. The program includes elements such as a full grades 6-12 curriculum, access to master horticulturists, the latest growing tools, and easy-to-use data dashboards. The overall goal is to educate the next generation of agricultural innovators, merging traditional education with hands-on project-based, data-driven agricultural practices.

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

Project-based learning [PBL] tools will be provided to cater to a wide diversity of students throughout the Tampa Bay area. Contracted services will be used to refine features, ensuring adaptive content and tools while consultants will prioritize gathering educator feedback, on-going tech support, and refinements to UI/UX. The funds will also be channeled to support specialized training initiatives and consistent on-site assistance, aiming to promote teacher retention and student academic support.

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

Project-based learning [PBL] initiatives centered around agriculture and gardening will benefit all participating students in Tampa Bay 6-12 schools, particularly addressing the specific needs of ELL, ESE, gifted, and economically disadvantaged students. Teachers will benefit from specialized training and continuous support, enhancing their ability to provide personalized instruction.

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

Grades 6-12 Students in the Tampa Bay Area, 800+ served.

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

By harnessing advanced algorithms, personalized learning pathways are enhanced and reinforced, catering especially to ELL, ESE, and Gifted students. This tailored approach boosts student comprehension and engagement. Anticipated measurable outcomes include improved standardized test performance and increased teacher retention, attributed to enriched instructional methods. Evaluation will center around daily student data insights provided to teachers, enabling real-time tracking of student growth and comprehension. Yearly comparisons of standardized test performance will further quantify academic improvements. Teacher retention rates will be analyzed annually, linked with their engagement in training and tools.

**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 the contract?**

Should the organization not meet the agreed upon deliverables, a pay back process will be established.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information

**a. Organization**

**b. Municipality and County**

**c. Organization Type**



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- 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**

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**