



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3109

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

These funds are for the continuation of research by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) for the purpose of providing modernized, science-based fertilizer (nutrient) application rates to crops. It will also provide recommendations on best management practices for applying nutrients in the most efficient manner to maintain and or increase production while reducing impacts to the environment. Simultaneously, UF/IFAS will continue developing an artificial intelligence database on nutrient recommendations that will be developed through students in agriculture and engineering disciplines working with local farmers.

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	6,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	6,000,000

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)	6,000,000	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 2024-2025	6,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	6,200,000	1510A	No

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.

Revenue: \$76M direct student aid and \$93M institutional support; Expenses: 1) \$76M direct student aid, 2) \$93M campus operations; \$8.7M for IT infrastructure & equipment for remote/distance learning; \$9.4M reimbursements for housing/study abroad; \$9.1M campus health/safety; \$8.2M other operating/research costs and student mental health/basic needs; \$57M for lost revenues in the student union, educational business activities, parking, research service centers, and museums/performing art centers.

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Partial support for statewide Nutrient Management Communications Coordinator.	48,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies and travel to support project administration.	27,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	UF faculty, post-doctoral associates, graduate and undergraduate students, research assistants, biological scientists, and hourly workers.	4,000,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Field and laboratory equipment and supplies, computers, repairs and maintenance, UFARM charges, soil/plant/water analysis, tuition, publications, grower reimbursement, and printing and mailing.	1,925,000
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)		6,000,000

14. Program Performance



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

Continuation of a Nutrient Research & Education Program to increase UF's Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences capacity to assess and update crop nutrient management recommendations. The accurate amount of fertilizer applied in agricultural production practices will decrease impact to the environment, increase production, and reduce production costs.

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

Develop database that can be continually updated through artificial intelligence. Conduct research on fertilizer application including traditional academic research plots, working with growers in on-farm trials, and compilation of all available public data sources regarding nutrient applications.

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

More efficient food production and reduced impact to water quality, quantity, and the environment.

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

Agricultural producers, farmers, ranchers across the state and the population through reduced environmental impacts. In addition, Floridians will benefit through less impacts to our water and the environment.

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

More accurate nutrient rates will enable agriculture producers to become more efficient in fertilizer use decreasing the cost of production and reducing impacts to the state's environment and water quality. The success will be measured by the reduced nutrient runoff from agriculture operations.

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?

Standard penalties for the state university system.

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

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity



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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