



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1396

1. Project Title Northeast Florida Fair Association - Agricultural Education Multi-Use Facility

2. Senate Sponsor Aaron Bean

3. Date of Request 02/04/2021

4. Project/Program Description

Expansion of the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds. This facility is used for yearly community events including our agricultural fair, staging area for emergency operations, and animal evacuations during storms, fires and flooding. The present facility is not adequate to meet the rapid growth of Nassau and surrounding counties. Arena type buildings that can be used for multi-purpose events are being built. All are ADA compliant. There is no facility of this type in our area and it will be utilized year round. Community activities, training clinics for law enforcement, programs for FFA and 4H, health fairs, job fairs, and family rodeos are held at this facility. Addition of 3 buildings are underway and our plan is to erect at least two additional buildings. Most of the buildings located on the property need replacement.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	990,000
Total State Funds Requested	990,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	990,000	21%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,796,855	38%
Local	50,000	1%
Other	1,913,145	40%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	4,750,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	250,000	1483c	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 990,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

N/A



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

No

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

11. 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: Other		
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	Site plans, Permitting, Site prep, Purchase of 3 Steel buildings, erection and completion of buildings	990,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		990,000

12. Program Performance

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

To expand our present facility to accommodate its uses as emergency operations center staging site, strategic animal response team (SART) facility, and for increases in patrons and the additional community events held at the fairgrounds throughout the year. We are paving the parking lot to ensure additional and safe parking for the facility. Expansion will increase our building space at least 150%.

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

We host a yearly agricultural fair allowing 4H and FFA youth from all surrounding counties to participate in many activities. Yearly clinics are held to teach youth about animal husbandry. Local job fairs, health fairs, cancer fund raiser Night The Light, car shows, and with completion of the facility many other events can be held at the facility. Emergency operations is giving full rights to use the facility anytime their is a need and has used the facility for recent Hurricanes Irma, Michael, and Dorian.

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

The citizens may bring their families to this facility and participate in the yearly fair. Local non-profits are welcomed to hold fundraisers during our fair to fund school projects. ROTC, 4H, FFA, volunteer firemen, police explorers, and local schools can participate. During inclement weather, the fairgrounds provides a safe haven for animals who must be evacuated and we are recognized as a SART Facility.

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



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All the citizens of Northeast Florida which includes Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Baker, Columbia, Bradford and Union Counties are welcome to participate in events held at the fairgrounds. The 2018 Fair had an attendance of approx. 47,000 and we expect to serve over 100,000 patrons a year once construction is completed. The events held here are family oriented and encourages education while sharing the history of our heritage.

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

To provide the state access to the facility for emergency operations staging during natural disasters and declarations of emergency. Nassau County and Northeast Florida is growing in record numbers. As a result of this we have seen an increase of participants in our agricultural fair. The outcomes are measurable by the attendance records kept daily for the fair. Community activities are also measurable by keeping records on the patrons and the outcomes from the events .

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?

If a recipient of this funding does not meet the stated requirements, deadlines and standards set forth, then funding should be withheld until compliance is established. This will penalize those who do not meet critical deadlines.

13. 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.

Keith Wingate, President NEFFA
Paulette Kirkland, Director NEFFA, Capital Funding Resource Coordinator



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number