



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1731

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Gadsden County has been designated as a Strike Force Zone. Persistent poverty has historically plagued this county. The county is the only predominately African-American county in the state. A food kitchen located in the Stevens School will support a healthy food movement that will address the health disparities of the county, declined income of local farmers, and dwindling number of professional farmers and develop skills and provide support for small businesses. The implementation of the business incubator itself will strengthen the planning, marketing, and management infrastructure of existing farmers and create opportunities for citizens especially young citizens unable to find work. The incubator will be a direct-link to limited-resource farmers with low-income consumers, improve the local economy with the creation of jobs, and increase tax revenue.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	550,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	7,936,738
Total State Funds Requested	8,486,738

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)	8,486,738	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 2021-2022	8,486,738	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

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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Yes

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

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) established several CARES Assistance Programs to assist with various unbudgeted, county-wide needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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	Commercial kitchen equipment, rental lockers, storage materials, cooking materials, shipping materials.	550,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of emergency shelter and farmers market, storage, renovation of existing structures, land, site development, additional parking, engineering.	7,936,738
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		8,486,738

12. Program Performance

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

The incubator will be a direct-link to limited-resource farmers with low-income consumers. The incubator will improve the local economy by creating jobs and increasing tax revenue. Small businesses will have an increased probability of success. Start-up businesses in an incubator environment have an almost 90% chance of increased success after five years. New ideas and business ventures are sure to flourish in incubator environments. The shelter will be used during emergency evacuations and non-emergency situations as a COVID-19 vaccination and testing site. It will also serve as an emergency response training center for law enforcement, emergency responders from throughout the state, and members of Florida's 67 counties workforce when not used during a state of emergency. The shelter will be located eight (8) miles off I-10, Exit 181.

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

Emerging businesses is a priority for Gadsden County for growing small businesses. The county is committed to expanding small businesses and new start-ups by establishing a revolving loan fund. There are two objectives for the revolving loan fund: provide a revolving financial resource of \$500-\$2,000 for start-up businesses and assist existing businesses by connecting them to larger loan funds with Access Florida, banking institutions, and other financial companies. The program will also help small businesses, especially start-ups, develop business plans, and pay attention to their credit. Management workshops will be held to ensure that the participants will understand the legal and managerial areas. Depot Exchange - A fresh fruit and vegetable Depot Exchange will be developed and will coordinate with all the seasonal local farmer's markets, including the Gadsden County Extension Farmers Market and the Tallahassee Farmers market and others from the North Florida-South Georgia area.

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



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Food will be produced to address the lack of quality fruit and vegetables. A community garden will be accessible. A emergency shelter will be constructed. Local farmers and small businesses will benefit from the incubator environment and be armed with the tools and resources to gain market share.

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

The target population is Gadsden County, 45,000 people.

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

The Center for Economic Empowerment will address local farmers' declined income and the dwindling number of professional farmers and will develop skills and provide support for small businesses. The shelter will be used during emergency evacuations and non-emergency situations as a COVID-19 vaccination and testing site. It will also serve as an emergency response training center for law enforcement, emergency responders from throughout the state and members of Florida's 67 counties workforce when not used during a state of emergency. The shelter will be located eight miles off I-10 Exit 181.

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?

Failure to meet the deliverables should include the inability to apply for and/or obtain state funding for proposed projects from the sponsoring organization for not less than two years.

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.

Gadsden County



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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