



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2663

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Hardee County has a broadband mesh network covering 96% of the county. However, with rapid expansion of bandwidth needs and higher speed requirements this system must be updated and strengthened. The goal of this project is to improve the broadband service of under-served areas of Hardee County, making it more reliable with higher speeds. Also working with the local governments to make secure interconnections available between facilities.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,750,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,750,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,750,000	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 2022-2023	2,750,000	100%

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?

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



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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	Installation of fiber optic lines. Installation of new and upgrading existing equipment. All engineering and design of the project.	2,750,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,750,000

12. Program Performance

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

- Improved reliability of current rural broadband system.
- Improved speed of current under-served areas and improved availability.
- Interconnectivity of law enforcement emergency operations and other county offices.

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

- Third party contracted services for installation of fiber optic cable.
- Installation of transmission equipment on current poles and businesses.
- Installation of monopoles to support expansion of mesh network equipment.

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

- Improved access to virtually the entire population of Hardee County.
- Improved Internet reliability and speeds.
- More reliable interconnectivity of communications for law enforcement centers.

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

The target population will encompass roughly 27,000 people or the entire county through both internet availability and improved local services of local government.

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

The benefit will be the interconnection of county and city departments communications. Secure, direct interconnections of law enforcement offices, 911 call center, and emergency operations. Improved speed and reliability of residential internet connections in all areas included rural homes and business of Hardee County including some areas in Polk, Highlands and DeSoto counties.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties



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for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Nonpayment of invoices.

- 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.**

The Hardee County Industrial Development Authority with divestiture of competitive private sector businesses.



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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