



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2740

1. Project Title Ecosphere Restoration Institute Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Statewide Restoration and Aquaculture

2. Senate Sponsor Manny Diaz

3. Date of Request 01/27/2022

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Create a sustainable fresh and saltwater Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Nursery and implement regional specific plantings along with creation of SAV habitat restoration grow plots in critical areas of need (NW Florida Panhandle, Springs, Caloosahatchee River Basin, and the Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay and The Florida Keys). Areas will be prioritized to maximize food sources for Manatee's and other species in where food source and SAV is limited. Projected 100 acres of plants grown and planted annually within critical areas of need. The program includes public-private partnerships, Universities, and 501c3.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	5,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

#### 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)	5,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 3,000,000

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

n/a

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



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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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Field staff for aquaculture center maintenance	300,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Admin Expenses and site inspections	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Aquaculture facility lease and maintenance	200,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Internships, monitoring, permitting and data collection	400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	SAV plants, Exclusion Cages, Signage, and Education	2,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	SAV Planting and Cage installation	1,900,000
<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>5,000,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

The project will utilize existing Aquaculture techniques for cultivation of SAV for continued large scale SAV planting projects without damaging natural SAV communities. The project will restore SAV in critical areas that are in dire need of SAV restoration. Areas planned for restoration are also habitat for The West Indian Manatee.

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

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation provides critical habitat and nursery area for hundreds of species of aquatic life including the Manatee. The Manatee's have seen a record number of deaths due to starvation. The Aquaculture nursery will provide SAV for future restoration and planting of food in areas of critical need.

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

The project will create immediate positions for marine biologist, environmental professionals, and restoration ecologist. The project will also improve water quality, therefore increasing tourism, Ecotourism, and both recreational and commercial fisheries.

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

Statewide +/- 20 million people

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



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Monitoring will be conducted to show project goals and objectives are being met. Drone transect along with ground truthing.

**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?**

The Nursery and SAV will be inspected and certified by FDACS staff, any plants that fail certification or inspection will not be used for planting and not available as a pay item.

**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.**

N/A



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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



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**Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.**

**17. Have you applied for alternative state funding?**

- ☐ Waste Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☒ N/A

**18. What is the population economic status?**

- ☐ Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- ☐ Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- ☐ Rural Area of Economic Concern
- ☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- ☒ N/A

**19. What is the status of construction?**

Shovel Ready

**20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

40

**21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

10/22