



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2500

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

UF/IFAS proposes the Florida Agricultural Enterprises Accelerator, a chain of hubs focused on entrepreneurship for Florida's rural and agricultural technology economies. The Accelerator will focus on AgTech Enterprises (precision farming, drones, vertical farming, and AI applications); and Workforce Development (vocational training across all food systems, farm mechanics, food safety, supply chain management, etc.); and incorporate throughout all levels of curriculum.

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	15,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	15,000,000

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)	15,000,000	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	15,000,000	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.
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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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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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

TBD

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

TBD

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.

UF/IFAS

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	A statewide Director of the Accelerator (Full Professor level) with both administrative and programmatic (research, teaching, and/or extension) responsibilities. Total reflects the partial administrative appointment responsible for meeting the three core missions of Ag Tech Emerging Enterprises Workforce Development for Advanced Food Systems and Rural Food Hubs and Enterprise Development.	357,495
Other Salary and Benefits	The total reflects the partial administrative appointment for the Assistant Directors who will also have a programmatic responsibility in research, teaching, and/or extension.	723,810
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel expenses for administrators to for initial program setup and recurring meetings with stakeholders.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Faculty positions (e.g., Assistant Professor or higher who are extension specialists) supporting programmatic initiatives in research, teaching and extension. Staff positions (e.g., extension coordinators) that support core functions of the Accelerator and help guide program implementation throughout the state and assist with design, implementation, delivery and support of the programs.	3,927,360
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Scholarships, materials and supplies to provide to local community to support the three core missions, including resources needed for program implementation (e.g., ag makerspaces and commercial kitchens) and travel to meet with local community stakeholders for program implementation and development throughout the period of performance.	9,891,335



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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)		15,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

A dynamic initiative to foster entrepreneurship, support workforce development, contribute to sustainable agricultural systems, and accelerate advanced agricultural technology (AgTech) innovation in Florida.

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

Support applied research that leads to market-readiness; Forge private-public partnerships with technology firms and start-ups; and provide advanced education and vocational training and curriculum to create a highly skilled workforce.

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

Increase opportunities for commercialization of AgTech; Support applied research that leads to market-readiness; and develop a highly skilled and experienced workforce to serve the needs of the industry and bolster the economy with employees qualified for higher paying jobs.

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

Potential entrepreneurs, industry, agriculture producers, and UF students.

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

Support applied research that leads to market-readiness; Forge private-public partnerships with technology firms and start-ups; and provide advanced education and vocational training and curriculum to create a highly skilled workforce. The outcome will be measured by number of public and private partnerships, student employment, and research outcomes.

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 University penalties.

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



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- 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number