



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2843

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

The project will undertake a two year "nutrient fingerprinting" program in Tampa Bay that will greatly improve policymakers' ability to reduce Tampa Bay nutrient pollution, slow the growth of harmful algal blooms and accelerate the recovery of seagrasses essential to healthy fish populations and overall bay function. Lessons learned in Tampa Bay, which is a model Floridian ecosystem, can be applied elsewhere in the Sunshine State where nutrient pollution problems persist, including the Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay, and elsewhere. Similar projects have been undertaken to identify pharmaceutical traces in Florida's fisheries resources –this innovative approach will identify similar chemical indicators in the runoff and pollution that is driving Florida's harmful algal blooms and compromised water quality.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	590,500
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>590,500</b>

**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)	590,500	70%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	30%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>840,500</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?**  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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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

## 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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

### 13. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Florida State University - Knapp Lab: \$94,000 Florida International University - Gardinali Lab/CREST Center: \$105,000	199,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Lead Scientist	95,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Nutrient Core Facility - \$86,500 University of Florida IFAS Extension, Gulf Lab, Sampling - \$100,000 Statistical Modeling and Design - \$55,000 Hydrological Modeling and Design - \$55,000	296,500
<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>590,500</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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The project will enhance the public and scientific communities' understanding of non-point sources of nutrient pollution in Tampa Bay, allowing for direct intervention to address that pollution and reduce harmful algal blooms that decimate fisheries and other wildlife in the region. The innovative technique will use unique chemical tracers that pass through the human body and bind to Nitrogen, and track those chemical tracers through the marine environment. Even a small reduction in non-point sources of Nitrogen will have a significant impact on water quality and will enhance seagrass coverage and fisheries productivity - this project facilitates that non-point source reduction.

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

The funds will support water sampling in Tampa Bay and will support analysis of samples taken using the "nutrient fingerprinting" method; the funds will also support validation of the sampling methodology using isotopic monitoring.

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

Citizens of Tampa Bay and West Central Florida will be able to achieve healthier, cleaner waters that sustain productive recreational fisheries. In recent years red tide events have ravaged the region and decimated fish stocks and other wildlife, including marine reptiles and manatees - by pinpointing heretofore non-point sources of Nitrogen, we can eliminate that pollutant from the environment and reduce the frequency and severity of harmful algal blooms like red tide, resulting in healthier, cleaner Florida water.

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

The immediate area served is the Tampa Bay Area, consisting of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Pasco, and Hernando County, with a population of nearly 4 million. Improvements to water quality will serve the greater West Central Florida and Gulf Coast Regions of Florida as reductions in red tide and harmful algal blooms will result from reducing non-point source Nitrogen, a key objective of this project.

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

This project will result in cleaner Florida coastal water by reducing nutrient inputs that fuel harmful algal blooms, including red tide. The methodology used is referred to as "nutrient fingerprinting", and it facilitates reducing non-point source discharges of nutrients such as Nitrogen by allowing a clearer, more concise understanding of where those nutrients are entering the marine system.

**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 contracting agency could consider recalling unspent funds and rescinding the contract.

**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

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

#### 18. 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

#### 19. 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

#### 20. What is the status of construction?



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21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025