



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3422

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds will help to improve water quality; reduce harmful algal blooms; improve water flow; restore and protect key habitats, fish, and wildlife resources; and increase public engagement in Florida's estuaries of national significance (Tampa Bay, Sarasota, Pensacola/Perdido and Charlotte Harbor).

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,600,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	4,000,000	45%
Matching Funds		
Federal	2,550,000	29%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,244,513	14%
Local	1,097,532	12%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	8,892,045	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. Is future-year 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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction



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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?

12/31/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2027

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

A specified amount of operations and maintenance will be included, based on the specifics of the projects selected.

11. 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.

Fixed capital outlay funding will go to competitively-selected construction companies, wastewater and stormwater engineers, and other consultants performing habitat restoration, water quality improvement and other infrastructure work on city, county, or state-owned lands and waters depending on the projects selected.

12. 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	10% indirect costs associated with managing funds.	400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funding would support planning, design, and monitoring of projects to protect and restore water quality and habitats. This may include direct water quality and habitat restoration (e.g. building oyster reefs and restoring wetlands), creating living shorelines, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure upgrades/retrofits, citizen science initiatives, and education/outreach activities supporting restoration & protection initiatives.	1,000,000
Operational Costs		
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	Final engineering, permitting and construction of identified habitat restoration, living shoreline, stormwater and/or wastewater infrastructure improvements identified through the operational costs listed above.	2,600,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Funds will help to improve water quality, reduce harmful algal blooms, improve water flow, restore and protect key habitats, fish and wildlife resources, and increase public engagement in Florida's estuaries of national significance. Potential projects are included in Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plans (CCMP) which were collectively developed and vetted by local, state and federal entities with extensive public input.

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

Funding would support planning, design, and monitoring of projects to protect and restore water quality and habitats. This may include direct water quality and habitat restoration, creating living shorelines, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure upgrades/retrofits, citizen science initiatives, and education/outreach activities supporting restoration & protection initiatives.

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

Providing assistance to rural areas of opportunity, local municipalities and individuals or communities in the NEP watershed areas with project management, grant applications and management, contracted design, planning, permitting and/or construction services that support direct implementation of the strategic plan priorities.

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

Coastal & inland communities and/or communities outside urban service areas that include rural areas of opportunity, hundreds of individuals will be served.

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

Expected benefits include enhancing the environmental, fish, and wildlife health, measured through acres of targeted habitats restored, lbs. of nutrients prevented from entering waterways, number of plans/permits completed and/or reduction in impaired waters within each system; promoting agricultural best management practices that support water quality and quantity improvements, measured by water quality monitoring and number of people reached, and more.

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 in the contract?

Programs typically operate under reimbursement agreements with predefined deliverables and milestones. Failure to provide deliverables in a timely manner will result in denial of related reimbursement agreements.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☒ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and/or Milton

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☒ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply



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a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☒ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- ☐ Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- ☐ Resilient Florida Grant Program
- ☐ Wastewater Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☐ Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- ☒ 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?



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Not ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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) independent special district

d. First Name Last Name
e. E-mail Address
f. Phone Number Ext.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.