



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1020

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

4. Project/Program Description

Neighborhood Farms USA (NFUSA) is a 3 year-old 501 (c) 3 non-profit that promotes hard work, healthy food, and strong communities. We promote the many benefits of agriculture while teaching kids and families to grow their own food in their own backyards or balconies. Together, we turn unused land into productive gardens that feed local families and strengthen the community with home-grown, nutrient-rich food. Our educational programs promote sustainable agriculture, hands-on training and scholarships for urban farmers, customized digital content, and getting back to the basics that built America: good soil, good food, and good people.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	520,200
Fixed Capital Outlay	86,680
Total State Funds Requested	606,880

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	606,880	82%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	129,376	18%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	736,256	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.
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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

03/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

09/01/2026

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

Matching donors (private) and existing online fundraising activities will amply sustain program development.

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.

Facility partners are independent and unrelated to NFUSA. Among identified partners are Kristi House advocacy center for child trauma; Legacy Gardens and Ministerial Alliance in Coconut Grove and Overtown; Southport Middle School in Pt St Lucie; Fruitful Field Gardens in Davie.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Program Director will manage implementation of neighborhood farms and oversight of educational curriculum including coordination with head farmer, scholarships distribution and community liaisons necessary to meet program objectives.	114,900
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Miscellaneous expenses (accounting, legal, other support)	18,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Outreach communications program so new gardens can take root across the state. By partnering with farm-to-table restaurants, hospitals, and school advocates, we're proving that neighborhood farming builds healthier families and stronger towns.	41,774
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Head farmer and team. Provide expert oversight on farming operations, curriculum design, and mentorship. Plan seasonal crop schedules and program for mini farms to produce nutrient rich food. Conduct site visits and troubleshooting support. Delivers educational curriculum.	88,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Garden beds, soil, nutrients, seeds, gardening materials, transportation, travel to community gardens: Kristi House (Miami-Dade), Southport Middle School (Pt. St Lucie), Legacy Gardens (Coconut Grove, Liberty City, Little River), West Palm Beach, Occala, Davie, Doral	35,750
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Create a hands-on farming program that teaches nutrition, plant science, sustainability, and the core values of hard work and community. Help neighborhoods grown their own food while preparing the next generation of local farmers through internships, training and scholarship support.	221,276



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Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:

Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Land preparation, installation of irrigation, garden beds, CAD garden design and planning, engineering, and permitting.	86,680
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		606,880

13. Program Performance

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

Bringing back rural values and respect for agriculture. Build local independence. NFUSA helps towns grow neighborhood farms that cut dependence on big corporations or handouts. Kids gain real-world business and science education, along with after-school activities that keep them out of trouble. Seniors stay active and connected. Families eat better. Communities get stronger. Hands on education for a new generation of farmers, nutrition-rich food and awareness in kids to prevent illness.

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

We train future farmers, offer scholarships, and provide practical agricultural content. Neighborhood farms grow fresh, healthy food while giving families and youth hands-on experience. Through workshops, community events, online seminars, product reviews, we provide the means for self-reliance, and independent access to food by working the land. We promote farm-to table restaurants, growing local, and food as a means to a healthier lifestyle and wellness discipline.

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

Hands-on farm training, nutrition education, and scholarships for students and local leaders. We'll train local urban farmers on best practices, new technology, and pest-control guidance. We develop school and community programs to teach neighborhood farming to kids and seniors and offer food-security initiatives ensuring fresh, locally grown food.

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

This project enables everyone with a balcony or backyard easy access to information to turn idle land into sources of fresh, local food. Our community impact with neighborhood gardens will benefit over 1000 residents. Students gain hands-on learning and after-school programs, senior stay active and engaged, and at-risk neighborhoods activate idle spaces to benefit from nutrition, composting, and waste-management education that strengthens neighborhoods.

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

10-14 micro gardens (neighborhood farms) activated. 1900 volunteer hours to manage gardens. 10-15 internships and scholarships awarded to local neighborhood farmers/grow leaders. 100 hours of hands-on training per scholarship participant (cohort of 15 expected). 4,000 total hours of content watched by individual constituents (estimated over 48,000 followers on social media). Improved food access for 2000+ residents. Measured by volunteer/class attendance, size of community population, and media consumption recorded.

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?

Funds will follow a set schedule of deliverables, with payments tied to verified completion. Partners and vendors are vetted and held to performance standards. Contingency plans address staffing gaps or delays. Obtaining applicants for farmer scholarships and neighborhood farms will not be an issue because we have a greater demand for our program than we are budgeting to serve in 2025-2026.

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)



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- ☐ 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):

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

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

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):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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 Ext.

19. 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.