



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1181

1. Project Title

Brevard County - Indian River Lagoon, Septic Upgrades to Advanced Treatment Units (300 sites)

2. Senate Sponsor

Debbie Mayfield

3. Date of Request

10/17/2025

4. Project/Program Description

This project will upgrade at least 300 septic systems posing the highest threat to Indian River Lagoon water quality in terms of nutrient and pathogen loading. Grants will be offered to homeowners who upgrade to nitrogen-reducing NSF-certified aerobic treatment units or In-ground Nitrogen Reducing drainfields. State grant funding will be used to fund up to \$10,000 for each septic upgrade. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon program will provide up to \$10,000, for maximum homeowner eligibility of \$20,000/property.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted?

Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	3,000,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	6,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

No

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?

No

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?

07/01/2026

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?

This project incentivizes Brevard residents to upgrade their septic systems, including the contracting, permitting, construction, and inspection phases of an advanced septic installation. Participating citizens, as owners of these private septic systems, will be responsible for ongoing operation and maintenance.

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.

The citizens of Brevard County who apply for grant funding will become owners of the facility (private septic systems) receiving capital outlay funding from this appropriation. The entity (Brevard County) will retain no ownership of any capital improvements performed on these private properties.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
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	Planning, permitting & inspection costs. Abandonment of deactivated systems. Installation of advanced (aerobic) treatment units or INRB drainfields, pumps, electrical connections, site restoration, and other miscellaneous costs associated with retrofitting existing septic systems.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The ultimate goal of this project is to improve water quality of the Indian River Lagoon by reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from household wastewater that enters groundwater through septic drainfields. By reducing this nutrient pollution, groundwater which makes its way to the Indian River Lagoon will not fuel new algae blooms or exacerbate ongoing blooms. Bloom conditions reduce water clarity and decrease dissolved oxygen, contributing to seagrass loss and fish kills.

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

Septic contractors will replace existing conventional septic systems with advanced septic systems that meet NSF 245 wastewater standards for nitrogen reduction. Septic upgrades and site restoration will take place on private properties with the consent of owners who volunteer to participate in the program. The first 300 applicants who are located outside of current or planned sewer service areas will be offered funding. Over 60,000 septic systems remain within the watershed of the Indian River Lagoon in Brevard County.

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

Brevard County will provide funds for qualified septic contractors to upgrade conventional septic system to advanced treatment septic systems on private property. Funds will cover the costs associated with abandonment of deactivated septic systems and planning, permitting, and installation of the new system. Individual funding amounts will be based on each particular septic parcel's modeled nitrogen loading to groundwater, with a maximum grant amount of \$20,000 per septic system.

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

At least 300 owners of conventional septic systems in Brevard County will be served. The highest priority sites within the Indian River Lagoon watershed in Brevard County are older, waterfront properties where sewer service is not available, septic systems installed in close proximity to surface waters, and in sandy high-conductance soils with shallow depth to groundwater. Targeted priorities include high-density, 1950s to 1960s single family homes, mobile home parks and recreational vehicle lots.

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

The expected benefit of this project is a reduction of up to 1,125 pounds of nitrogen, though total nitrogen reductions could be as high as 7,000 pounds depending on specific properties that apply. The success of the program may be measured by the number of participants, the estimated reduction in nitrogen loading, and performance data from measuring the groundwater at a subsample of participating sites.

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?

Past performance should be taken into account by bill sponsors. Brevard County continues to meet its deliverables, however there could be a penalty of non-payment until contractual obligations are met.

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):

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

- ☐ Yes, Applied



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- ☐ 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):

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



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☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)

☒ N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

Planning and permitting begin once Brevard County property owner applies for grant funding.

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%, ~570 properties participated in 2020-2025, successfully testing this program.

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)

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



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d. Phone Number

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