



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1709

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The college is in the middle of the largest workforce program expansion in its history. To support tremendous growth in N. FL and the Ocala metro area, funds will support new and expanded programs in nursing, allied health, agricultural sciences, teacher education, hospitality, business and technology. Ocala was named #3 in the nation for high-earning job growth and #6 in the nation for overall job growth in 2025 by Lightcast.

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	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

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	91%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	300,000	9%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>3,300,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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**



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#### 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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

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.

#### 12. 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		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Faculty and staff expenses related to program development, recruiting and instruction.	2,450,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment and supplies and modernized technology for workforce education programs.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services to assist in rapid deployment of new programs and services.	50,000
<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>3,000,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

The college is in the middle of the largest workforce program expansion in its history. To support tremendous growth in N. FL and the Ocala metro area, funds will support new and expanded programs in nursing, allied health, agricultural sciences, teacher education, hospitality, business and technology. Ocala was named #3 in the nation for high-earning job growth and #6 in the nation for overall job growth in 2025 by Lightcast.

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



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Creation or expansion of workforce ready degree programs, to include program planning, proposals, start-up expenses, employer partnerships, facilities expansion or renovation, faculty and staff hiring and marketing for awareness of these programs.

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

Programs and services will be designed for the working individual to upskill or reskill to meet the unprecedented need for high-skill, high-wage employees locally. The labor market participation rate is declining. It will take targeted strategies and employer aligned training programs to attract individuals to seek training.

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

Citizens of Citrus, Levy and Marion county who need an affordable pathway to a high-skill, high-wage job. Employers in Citrus, Levy and Marion county who need local, job-ready and highly-qualified employees to grow their companies and to support the region and state's critical workforce needs. College of Central Florida's enrollment is projected to grow 15% through 2031, leading to an additional 759 students being served with this funding.

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

1. Improve agricultural production/education through creation of precision agriculture program designed to produce high-skill technicians. This program will be aligned to the statewide critical need to modernize and automate the industry, and to preserve natural resources such as water. Success measured by an enrollment increase of 20%. 2. Improve quality of education by developing/expanding critical workforce training programs to meet specific industry needs in health sciences, allied health, precision agriculture, teacher education, hospitality and tourism, information technology and business. Success measured by specific and measurable targets for number of graduates that are based on labor market data for each industry for Citrus, Levy and Marion counties. 3. Increase or improve economic activity by increased participation in the labor market by highly-trained individuals and up-skilling of employees. Success measured by decrease in self-reported vacancies in targeted industries.

**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?**

Reversion of funds to the state.

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

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



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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
- ☐ 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



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="Larry Cretul"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="GrayRobinson PA"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="larry.cretul@gray-robinson.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(850)577-9090"/>

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