



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1734

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Acquire, store, transport and distribute healthy and nutritious fruits, vegetables, proteins, dairy and non-perishable food products free of charge to Farm Share's nearly 2,000 statewide partner agencies as well as directly distributing food to hungry families, children, seniors and individuals in food insecure communities. Farm Share also acts as a first responder organization during times of natural disasters and pandemics.

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	8,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	8,000,000

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)	8,000,000	57%
Matching Funds		
Federal	3,200,000	23%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	900,000	6%
Other	2,000,000	14%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	14,100,000	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		
2025-26	0	5,000,000		No

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.

State funding is currently the best option for providing consistent dollars to enable Farm Share to operate its statewide feeding and disaster relief programs. Farm Share is working on developing a stronger corporate, individual, foundation donor network to help supplement or eventually replace its reliance on state dollars to carry out operations. This process will take time to develop. Our goal is to generate sufficient dollars within 5-10 years.



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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)?

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Administration, recordkeeping, operations management	350,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Office Supplies, copy machines, computers, etc...	120,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Audit and Accounting	90,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits for employees necessary to carry out Farm Share's operations, management, and programming at all facilities	1,500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Operational costs (fuel, truck repairs, capital asset acquisition, purchase of new semi-trucks and box trucks, fork lifts, storage bins, etc...) Farm Share maintains and operates 8 regional warehouses as well as a fleet of more than 55 semi-trucks, refrigerated trailers and refrigerated box trucks.	5,940,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		8,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Florida faces a chronic hunger challenge and is ranked 10th in food insecurity. This is unacceptable, especially in light of the fact that 40% of every crop harvested in Florida is thrown away or plowed under. These are edible, nutritious foods that are thrown away instead of being packaged and sold on grocery store shelves. Farm Share exists to take this produce and other shelf stable food products, dairy and proteins and use it to address the hunger crisis in the State of Florida. We are able to distribute food to consumers at a cost of \$.13 per pound; this is a fraction of what the costs would be at an average grocery store, where prices have risen 28% over the past 5 years. Farm Share is also a first responder during times of disaster focusing on providing life sustaining aid in the first 14 days after the disaster occurs.

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

Acquisition and Distribution of healthy and nutrition fruits, vegetables, non-perishable food products and proteins to partner agencies (soup kitchens, food pantries, churches, law enforcement agencies, etc...) throughout the state of Florida. These partner agencies then distribute the food directly to persons in need in the regions and local communities that they serve. We also directly distribute food to families, children, seniors and individuals in need utilizing our fleet of semi-trucks and box trucks to take the food directly into communities not served by a partner agency. Response to natural and man made disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, government shutdowns and pandemics.

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

Farm Share facilitates nearly 20,000 Community Food Distributions each year statewide in conjunction with our nearly 2,000 partner agencies. These food distributions provide food directly to those persons identified below in high poverty communities. Farm Share frequently partners with other social service organizations to provide health screenings, educational opportunities and job training on site in conjunction with the distribution of food. Farm Share also partners with law enforcement agencies to distribute food thus helping to bridge the divide between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Farm Share also provides food, water and supplies directly to communities and individuals affected by disasters.

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

Families, children, seniors and individuals who are hungry and living in poverty or affected by a natural or man made disaster. More than 86 million meals are expected to be served to these persons statewide.

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

Farm Share tracks a broad range of outcomes on an ongoing basis, including amount of food collected, distributed, and the number of food distribution events held around the states to provide food to underprivileged residents or those affected by a disaster. By the end of this funding period, we anticipate distributing over 100 million pounds of food to people across the State of Florida.

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?

Historically, Farm Share has been reimbursed for costs incurred to acquire and distribute food. They do not receive the allocated legislative dollars unless the services are performed first. Therefore, penalties are not needed since if the deliverables are not met, no money is paid.

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):

Farm Share will respond to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other disasters occurring during the fiscal year.



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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

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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☐ 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.