



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1750

1. Project Title VolunteerCleanup.Org Statewide Expansion and Support for Marine Debris Cleanup Groups

2. Senate Sponsor Ileana Garcia

3. Date of Request 12/1/2025

4. Project/Program Description

VolunteerCleanup.org is an event-management platform that connects volunteers with litter cleanups and provides organizers with the tools and training to run effective hands-on experiences that build awareness of plastic pollution and inspire long-term solutions. In South Florida, over 150 organizers have led 5,000+ cleanups with 125,000+ volunteers, removing more than 1 million pounds of trash from neighborhoods, shorelines, and waterways. This project will 1) expand our platform into 5 additional counties, 2) develop new organizers through micro-grants, training, and supplies, and 3) support existing Miami cleanup organizations.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	50,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	50,000

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)	50,000	33%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	100,000	67%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	150,000	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 25,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Corporate donations and private grants.



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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	Project leader Salary	9,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Headcount needed to manage grants and recruit/train new organizers	15,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	1) Core Technology Platform Enhancements 2) Travel Expenses to visit and train 5 new geographies, 3) Micro-Grants for Startup Territories, 4) Fund existing cleanup groups in Miami-Dade County	26,000
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)		50,000

13. Program Performance

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



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VolunteerCleanup.org is an online platform that helps organizers recruit volunteers and manage effective cleanup events. Funding will allow us to engage and educate thousands of Floridians about marine debris through hands-on shoreline, waterway, and neighborhood cleanups. This project will: (1) expand our service area into five additional coastal counties; (2) develop new organizers through micro-grants, training, supplies, and educational materials; and (3) support existing Miami-Dade organizers with continued grants for ongoing cleanups.

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

We will support and expand volunteer cleanups that remove litter and provide firsthand, eye-opening experiences about plastic pollution. These events educate residents, inspire action to reduce waste at the source, and foster neighborhood pride. We will (1) expand programming in Miami-Dade to create more volunteer cleanup opportunities, and (2) expand into five additional coastal counties by providing outreach, micro-grants, training, supplies, and educational materials to help new groups launch and sustain cleanup efforts.

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

Funds will provide citizens with volunteer cleanup opportunities and hands-on training about marine debris. Micro-grants, supplies, and support for organizers will expand access to local shoreline, waterway, and neighborhood cleanups, directly engaging residents in improving and protecting their communities.

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

The target population includes residents across Florida (adults, youth, schools, & civic groups) who benefit from clean neighborhoods and waterways. We expect to serve over 20,000 new citizens statewide through accessible, educational events that also provide student and court-ordered service hours. In Miami, we have supported 150 organizers who engaged over 125,000 volunteers. As we expand into 5 new coastal communities, we will mentor and support 5 groups in each area, each leading 5 cleanups and engaging about 250 residents per community.

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

This project will improve environmental quality, increase civic engagement, and expand community stewardship. Outcomes will be measured through: (1) cleanup metrics—pounds of debris, number of cleanups, and types of materials collected; and (2) post-cleanup surveys measuring knowledge gains and intentions to reduce single-use plastics. Our most recent surveys show that 66% increased their knowledge of marine debris, 96% want to do more to protect the environment, and 73% committed to using fewer single-use plastics.

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?

Return unused funds provided and withhold any additional future funds remaining to be dispersed.

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



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☐ 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)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)



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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.