



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1142

1. **Project Title** Mote SEA Aquaculture Technology Transfer, Workforce Training & STEM Education for Florida's Economy

2. **Senate Sponsor** Jim Boyd

3. **Date of Request** 11/08/2023

4. **Project/Program Description**

Construction of STEM critical interactive exhibits & interactive laboratories for public engagement & workforce training at Mote SEA focused on implementation of aquaculture technology transfer to local farmers & demonstration of integrated best practices approach to sustainable commercial aquaculture that will address growing demand for safe seafood resources by Florida consumers, reduce fishing pressure on declining wild fish populations & improve our nation's food security & health.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,050,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	8,950,000
Total State Funds Requested	10,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	10,000,000	84%
Matching Funds		
Federal	500,000	4%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	500,000	4%
Local	500,000	4%
Other	500,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	12,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future 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.**

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

\$2,318,359 for employee salaries and benefits

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

8/1/24

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/1/24

12. 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.

Mote Marine Laboratory

13. 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: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Scientists, engineers and technicians salaries and benefits to design, construct and implement aquaculture technology transfer, workforce training and public education/outreach project, education/outreach materials/exhibits, and Aquaculture STEM experiential K-12 learning experiences..	400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Aquaculture pumps, piping and filtration equipment, chemicals, and printed or digital educational materials, along with broodstock, larval and nursery tank systems and associated recirculating system equipment.	650,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of STEM critical interactive exhibits & interactive laboratories for public engagement & workforce training at Mote SEA focused on implementation of aquaculture technology transfer to local farmers & demonstration of integrated best practices approach to sustainable commercial aquaculture	8,950,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		10,000,000

14. Program Performance



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

Construction of STEM critical interactive exhibits & interactive laboratories for public engagement & workforce training at Mote SEA focused on implementation of aquaculture technology transfer to local farmers & demonstration of integrated best practices approach to sustainable commercial aquaculture that will address growing demand for safe seafood resources by Florida consumers, reduce fishing pressure on declining wild fish populations & improve our nation's food security & health.

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

Enhance local industry interest in expansion of integrated marine fish and sea vegetable production. Develop and transfer operational model, including number of individuals needed to operate a facility, specific job skill-sets, and workforce development strategies.

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

Establish an education, extension and training platform to transfer technology to local commercial farmers for successful land-based saltwater aquaculture operations. Identify opportunities for business and industry collaborations and socialize next steps to position the industry for private sector investment.

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

Develop new industry creating direct aquaculture and related jobs and economic growth for Florida. More than 1,000 direct, and indirect, recipients of aquaculture opportunities.

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

Financially feasible saltwater aquaponics production model leading to a land-based marine fish and vegetable aquaculture industry. Establish pilot commercial-scale facilities. Identification of options and costs associated with processing marine aquaculture by-products. Evaluate marketability of land-based, recirculating aquaculture systems for the production of marine fish and sea vegetables.

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 the contract?

Funding would be withheld via a grant agreement with DACS for deliverables not achieved, e.g. percent of project not completed.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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- 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number