



Florida 4-H Education Center Improvements

The proposed request will expand Florida 4-H program's ability to educate Florida's youth about the environment through developing Environmental Stewardship and Agricultural Sustainability programs. The Florida 4-H program uses a science-based approach for positive youth development- creating opportunities for youth to explore different project areas through hands-on activities and preparing them for success through "learning by doing" to be responsible, productive citizens.



As Florida's 1862 land-grant university, UF is responsible for 4-H leadership programs and facilities as designated by Congress. Residential camping is one of the delivery modes 4-H uses to achieve its mission.

This request will increase capacity of the Florida 4-H program by providing youth in grades K-12, from all 67 counties, a research-based environmental and agricultural sustainability education. **The program will utilize and modernize the three residential 4-H education centers statewide.**

This request will also allow us to expand programs at the nature-based learning labs, each located in a distinct ecosystem, at the three 4-H Education Centers throughout the state: Camp Timpooshee (Niceville, FL) marine science focus, Camp Cherry Lake (Madison, FL) small farms and agricultural sustainability focus and Camp Cloverleaf (Lake Placid, FL) environmental education including wetlands focus. Centers are aged and require investments to modernize; upgrade and repair, to meet youth needs of today, and accommodate new programs based on current interests and events.

Return on Investment:

- 4-H participants report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school. They are two times more likely to plan to go to college and pursue future careers in science, engineering, or technology.
- In 2018-19, Florida 4-H reached over 208,000 youth, ages 5-18, through 4-H clubs, 4-H camps and school enrichment programs across the state. They were led by more than 13,000 adult and youth volunteers trained by UF/IFAS Extension Faculty statewide.

The Florida 4-H Program will leverage the requested funds with grants, contracts, participation fees, etc., to help assure there will be sufficient resources to elevate the 4-H program.

- The 4-H state faculty has received a total of \$36,500,671 in external funding since 2006.
- Regional specialized agents brought in an additional \$2,189,215. **Combined, this is more than \$3.8 for every state dollar invested in projects.**
- Additionally 13,194 volunteers provided **725,826 volunteer hours of service; a value of over \$17 million.**