

UF/IFAS 4-H & Family Initiative

\$1,000,000

Sponsor: Representative James “J.W.” Grant and Senator Denise Grimsley

This request is to **restore funding for the UF/IFAS 4-H and Family Initiative**. Restoration of this funding is essential to maintain and advance this program, which **yields a \$3.80 to one return on investment in Florida’s youth**

The Florida 4-H Program is the statewide youth development program of the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service. Annually, over 200,000 Florida youth participate in 4-H clubs, residential camps, after-school programs, school enrichment programs, and day camps.



While Florida 4-H has a rich history of providing agriculture and livestock programs for youth, 4-H now encompasses a variety of **opportunities for youth to engage in STEM, Healthy Living, and Citizenship/Leadership programs**. The goal of 4-H is the positive development of young people into contributing members of society, developing life and career skills, and **preparing these youths for success in the workforce**.

This program also provides families and youth guidance and support in managing their lives and resources (income, credit, housing, insurance, etc.) Research shows the most effective strategy to prevent negative outcomes and strengthen youth and families is to develop evidence-based programs to strengthen families and provide youth with positive learning experiences. **Florida 4-H is the only research-based statewide positive youth development program.**

This program is implemented by a network consisting of thousands of volunteers trained and managed by state, regional, and local faculty. All tenure track faculty funded through this request also teach undergraduate and graduate students to be future 4-H Extension agents, youth development workers and community leaders.

State faculty funded through the 4-H and Family Initiative have a primary objective to improve the lives of Florida’s families and youth through teaching, research and extension efforts that help prepare Florida’s youth for success in the workplace and in society. These tools and programs enable youth to develop life skills to prevent negative outcomes (dropping out of school, crime/incarceration, substance abuse, bullying, etc.) and **promote positive youth development activities that help develop successful emerging adults.**