



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** The Female Offender Entrepreneurship and Employability Initiative

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Lauren Book

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/19/2018

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Ladies Empowerment and Action Program (LEAP) is the first of its kind re-entry program for women operating in the Florida prison system. LEAP, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization since 2009, is the only entrepreneurship-based program dedicated to preparing incarcerated women re-enter society. LEAP provides participants with the tools necessary to sustain themselves post-release by creating their own small business or obtaining employment. Equipping inmates with the skills necessary to create a small business or secure jobs, gain economic stability, and support their families in turn positively impacts the community by empowering the most marginalized demographic within South Florida. LEAP recently opened its own retail thrift store that employs LEAP graduates and other ex-offenders, where we provide paid retail internships to give real world work experience to a population that has great difficulty finding employment. The efforts made by LEAP help to rejuvenate the local workforce.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** No

a. If yes, which state agency?

b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested?
Department of Corrections

6. **Amount of Non-recurring Requested for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Amount Requested for Operations	Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay	Total Amount of Requested State Funds
120,000		120,000

7. **Type, amount and percent of matching funds available for this project for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Type	Amount	Percent
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	206,895	63.3%
TOTAL	206,895	63.3 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 326,895



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

9. Previous Year Funding Details:

- Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
- In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional)
- What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?
- Complete the following Worksheet.

FY:	Input Prior FY Appropriation for this project for FY 2017-18 (If appropriated in FY 2017-18 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)		
	Column:	A	B
Funds Description:		Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *
Input Amounts:			

10. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

Yes

- If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year.

Unknown at this time.

11. Program Performance:

- What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

Reduce recidivism among female offenders (thereby reducing crime and state expenditures for incarceration and associated social service costs,) increase employment and small business development among female ex-offenders (thereby reducing expenditures associated social service costs for the women as well as their children.)

- What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

-Secure support for the ongoing delivery and growth of the program.-Establish LEAP's delivery of program services from one that is predominately volunteer base to one which is professionally staffed and therefore sustainable into the future. -Provide participants with exemplary entrepreneurship training and financial counseling, resulting in economic empowerment. -Facilitate higher learning with expert instruction (provided by Barry University and Miami-Dade College professors) to implement entrepreneurship training. -Continue to support participants and program graduates by supplying references, counseling services, and connecting LEAP graduates to community resources and relationships such as women's associations, internships, mentors and employers. -Increase community involvement and program awareness. -Foster new relationships and



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

collaborate with others interested in replicating the program. -Establish a social enterprise that will serve as a place for women coming out of prison.

c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director	20,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits	Case Manager, Salary; Program Instructors; Stipends for Thrift Store Interns (formerly incarcerated women)	80,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to Ocala and Tallahassee prisons for class selection, rent for thrift boutique retail training program	20,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		120,000

d. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

LEAP currently runs two classes per year year, each one lasting 8 months with over 300 hours of coursework. Phase I of the program (first 5 months) includes entrepreneurship provided by professors from Barry University and extensive cognitive behavioral work. The inmates are taught how to create a small business, with modules



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

that include marketing strategies, preparing a business plan, daily business management, and financing. In Phase II of the program (last 3 months), the participants collaborate with the case manager to create exit plans for re-entry into the community. Through partnership with Miami-Dade College, LEAPers continue building and implementing the entrepreneurship and employability skills learned in Phase I. This portion of the program is very interactive and includes résumé preparation, job search skills/tips, case studies and role playing. Additionally, trauma informed addiction work is a critical component of the curriculum.

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

Pursuant to a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Florida Department of Corrections, LEAP serves women in prison throughout the state who are within one year of release.

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

a) Successfully deliver the in-prison program as measured by 90 to 95% successful completion of the in-prison program by participants, b) 90% of LEAPers will have secured a job, an internship related to their micro enterprise, be enrolled in school, or be actively engaged in the development of micro-financing for the business plan they have developed, c) The rate of recidivism for participants in this program shall not be more than 6%. d) A marked change in the attitude and behavior of the community towards employing, housing, and other services to ex-offenders, e) Successful re-integration of graduates into local communities and families, f) Expansion of the program to other areas and/or states g) Increase number of collaborative partners h) Increase number of inmates served. i) 100% will have housing upon release j) 85% will be employed within 2 months of release from prison k) Employ and train at least 6 ex-offenders per year at our own retail shop.

g. 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?

Ineligibility to receive future state grants

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

n/a

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. Name:** Mahlia Lindquist
- b. Organization:** Ladies Empowerment & Action Programs
- c. Email:** mahlia@leapforladies.org
- d. Phone Number:** (305)619-5925

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. Organization:** Ladies Empowerment & Action Programs
- b. County:** Statewide
- c. Organization Type:**
 - ☐ For Profit
 - ☒ Non Profit 501(c) (3)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

☐ Non Profit 501(c) (4)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Mahlia Lindquist

e. E-mail Address: mahlia@leapforladies.org

f. Phone Number: (305)619-5925

15. If there is a registered lobbyist, fill out the lobbyist information below.

a. Name: None

b. Firm: None

c. Email:

d. Phone Number: