



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1693

1. **Title of Project:** Stetson Law Veterans Advocacy Clinic

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Jeff Brandes

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/18/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Stetson's in-house probono legal clinic for veterans serves those who have served us as they navigate the disability benefits application and appeals process of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	380,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>380,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	380,000	49.67%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local		0.00%
Other	385,000	50.33%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>765,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

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

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 350,000

10. **Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		



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Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Medical consultations/opinions	40,000
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Supervising Attorney	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Technology, software, advocacy, and travel	80,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Case Management, Paralegals, Staff Attorneys	160,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning		
Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>380,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

Outreach to the local communities of veterans and community providers of veteran services. Legal services for Florida's disabled veterans seeking earned benefits, before the US Veterans Administration, especially homeless and at-risk veterans.

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

Legal assistance is provided as veterans file claims, appeal decisions at the local level, and in some cases provide assistance at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, D.C.

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

Outreach to veterans and veteran groups, intake interviews, conducting case analysis, performing fact investigations, preparing claims, and drafting briefs.

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

Veterans 101-200

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

Assistance to veteran clients in the Tampa Bay region and across the state of Florida. Assistance includes representation to secure VA benefits, discharge upgrades, and medical exams needed to file and appeal VA claims.

**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?**

Assistance and legal representation will be provided to veteran clients in the Tampa Bay region and across the state. Outcomes of assistance and representation will be tracked and reported via case management and include veterans seeking VA benefits, discharge upgrades, and medical exams to file and appeal VA benefit claims that have been denied.



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**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.**

Stetson University College of Law is a part of Stetson University. The Veterans Institute and Veterans Advocacy Clinic are at the Stetson University College of Law campus to provide outreach efforts in the veteran community, legal profession and academia.

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Stacey-Rae Simcox
- b. **Organization:** Stetson University College of Law
- c. **E-mail Address:** ssimcox@law.stetson.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)562-7732

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Stetson University College of Law
- b. **County:** Pinellas
- c. **Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Stacey-Rae Simcox
- e. **E-mail Address:** ssimcox@law.stetson.edu
- f. **Phone Number:** (727)562-7732

**15. Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. **Name:** Dr. Joshua Truitt
- b. **Firm Name:** Stetson University College of Law
- c. **E-mail Address:** jtruitt@stetson.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)948-3160