



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1963

1. Project Title Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project, Inc.

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 02/23/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Holistic Legal Services and Representation will be provided to Veterans, Victims of Human Trafficking, Victims of Domestic Violence and Children that have been abused, abandoned and neglected. By providing free legal services we are assisting individuals and families regain personal and economic stability, safety, join the work force and become contributing members of our State. The Legal services that we provide our clients with help them obtain employment, an education and a better future.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Legal Affairs and Attorney General

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	43%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	650,000	57%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,150,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	500,000	1010	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 500,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

2021-2022 Nonrecurring 350,000. LFIR #1090. Not vetoed.
2020-2021 Nonrecurring 100,000. LFIR #1332. Not vetoed.
CABA Pro Bono also receives funding from the Florida Bar Foundation, Miami Dade County, the Children's Trust and local fundraising efforts. However, CABA Pro Bono needs continued support from the State of Florida in order to continue to effectively carry out their mission.



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

Yes

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

CABA Pro Bono received two PPP loans, each in the amount of \$137,500. These funds were used to pay for staff salaries.

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

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director is in charge of supervising all of the legal work provided through the office, including the organization and execution of all legal service clinics. Director is also in charge of mentoring and recruiting pro bono attorneys and supervising the administration of the office.	45,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Office Manager is responsible for performing the day-to-day administrative functions of the office including but not limited to accounting, record keeping, maintenance of the files and tracking of all cases on our legal server case management system.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants include a subcontracted CFO to manage the organization accounting and a marketing company to help with outreach and recruitment of pro bono attorneys. Additionally, we hire a technological support company to monitor the Organization's computer system and assist with any technology issues that are encountered.	25,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	We pay salaries and benefits for 6 full time attorneys that we have on staff. These attorneys solely work for CABA Pro bono and are responsible for providing direct services in the form of legal representation to children, families, veterans and individuals that we represent. Additionally, we have a part-time attorney. Appropriation requested will be used to pay for part of the salaries & benefits.	360,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	This amount will be used to cover court fees and other litigation costs including court reporters, process servers and court translators. This amount will also be used to cover program costs including mileage when traveling outside of Miami Dade, parking, telephone / internet and office supplies.	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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

Holistic Legal Services and Representation will be provided to Veterans, Victims of Human Trafficking, Victims of Domestic Violence and Children that have been abused, abandoned and neglected. By providing free legal services we are assisting individuals and families regain personal and economic stability, safety, join the work force and become contributing members of our State. The Legal services that we provide our clients with help them obtain employment, an education and a better future.

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

We will provide free legal services and representation in various areas of law including Family Law, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Dependency and Landlord Tenant. We will be attending Veterans Treatment Court and G.R.A.C.E. Court weekly (GRACE court is specifically for victims of Human Trafficking) to offer legal representation to all veterans and victims of human trafficking.

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

Legal Services provided will range from full direct court representation across multiple areas of law, to legal services with filling out documents to help the clients proceed pro se, to legal counsel and advice.

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

Elderly persons, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth.

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

ABA will provide free legal services to at least 1500 residents of Florida for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Individuals served will fill out satisfaction surveys to report on the specific benefit that they gained through the legal services provided. All legal services provided including Court Representation will be documented in our legal Server Case management system. Additionally, files will be kept documenting all services provided and outcomes achieved.

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?

If deliverables are not met, money will be deducted from the total amount due as detailed in the contract.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.



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16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project, Inc.

b. Municipality and County Miami-Dade

c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☐ University or College
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Lesley Last Name Mendoza

e. E-mail Address lesley@cabaprobono.com

f. Phone Number (305)458-2003

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Jorge Chamizo

b. Firm Name Floridian Partners LLC

c. E-mail Address jorge@flapartners.com

d. Phone Number (850)681-0024