



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2723

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Neighborhood Care Network is a senior service non-profit serving Pinellas County for over 50 years. We have three services for seniors: Adult Day Care, Transportation, and Nutrition. We are best known as Meals on Wheels Pinellas County. Neighborhood requests state funding for nutritious meals to at-risk seniors in our community. Neighborhood serves over 2000 seniors yearly, but over 1300 people wait for meals, and nearly 100 people wait for Adult Day Care. The nutrition program ensures that seniors who cannot prepare meals for themselves due to physical, financial, or social limitations receive the proper nutrition they need to maintain their health and independence. With your support, we can ensure that 500 seniors on the Meals on Wheels waitlist receive nutritious meals, social connections, and other resources to help them thrive independently.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	2,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

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

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

We will have limited ability to continue the meals under funding from the Older Americans Act, Pinellas County, or municipalities.



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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.

Neighborly used \$1,017,809.98 in American Rescue Plan funds to help seniors off the waitlist. However, the funds have run out, and the waitlist has grown to over 1344 seniors. The current request aims to serve at least 500 of these waitlisted seniors.

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
 N/A

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.

N/A

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	10% of Nutrition Director & MOW Manager positions, 50% of MOW Coordinator Positions, 50% of Driver positions	129,226
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Fuel, Insurance, Program Supplies, Depreciation, Equipment, Vehicle Maintenance, Communications/Utilities, training/education, uniform expense, software maintenance	670,774
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Raw Food Costs purchased from Florida Vendors.	1,200,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance



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

Help prevent malnutrition and isolation among seniors in Pinellas County by supporting Meals on Wheels. With one in two seniors at risk of malnutrition, providing meals and connection to at least 500 seniors on the waiting list is crucial. Your support can make a difference and ensure seniors can thrive, and live independently at home, avoiding costly institutional care. Help prevent the waiting list from growing each month.

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

We provide regular meal delivery and wellness checks by trained volunteers or staff to support seniors to live independently and improve their quality of life. Our service is a lifeline, and drivers have even prevented suicide. Drivers may call family if they notice a change in the client, make an adult protective services report if they are concerned for their safety, or call 911 if their life is in danger.

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

In-person meal delivery and social connection with a caring volunteer or Neighborly employee. All meals are planned by a registered dietitian to ensure they are balanced and meet the needs of older adults. Recipients may choose between hot or frozen meals and all recipients will receive hurricane meals. They also have access to nutrition counseling with a dietitian and monthly nutrition education.

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

We will serve older adults age 60 and over. We expect to serve approximately 548 people. Targeted populations include clients who are low-income, minority, live alone, veterans, and at-risk for institutional care. Pinellas County is reported to be 35% age 60+, 13% minority, 30% living alone, and 14% low-income.

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

Food security and reduced isolation and malnutrition for seniors. We track this through evidence-based assessments and client survey data. Meal data and client welfare notes are tracked daily. Preliminary findings in an ongoing study on Pinellas County meals on wheels recipients suggest that in-person meal delivery improves health outcomes, reduces loneliness, and decreases food insecurity. Community-based Meals on Wheels programs are evidence-based, cost-effective solutions to reducing healthcare costs. institutional care, healthcare utilization, improving nutrition status, and safety.

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?

Neighborly will return unused funding at the end of the contract year.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity



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

d. **First Name** **Last Name**

e. **E-mail Address**

f. **Phone Number**

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name**

b. **Firm Name**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number**