



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3131

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Valerie's House, one of only a handful of non-profits in Florida with the sole mission to help grieving children and families after a death of a parent or sibling, is experiencing tremendous growth and strain due to the impact of the fentanyl epidemic that continues to plague our state. Florida ranks second in the nation with the most fentanyl deaths, behind only California. More than 71,000 children are grieving in the regions Valerie's House serves, in large part because a parent or sibling has overdosed on fentanyl. These children are at risk of being homeless, addicted themselves, incarcerated and are at risk for suicide. Resources across our community are slim for these families. Valerie's House is a safe place for these children to heal and to stop the generational addiction that has infected their families. This project will provide capital funds to purchase and or renovate existing facilities and to provide ongoing support and care for grieving children and adults.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	600,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	400,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	25%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	6%
Other	2,750,000	69%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	4,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	100,000	372	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

Valerie's House has received upwards of \$2,000,000 in pledges over the next two years from various local family foundations and private individuals.



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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.

Valerie's House received funding from two different rounds of COVID fundings totaling \$218,484.72 for losses of revenue due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

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.

Valerie's House is a 501c3 non-profit organization and does not have an owner. The Governing Board of Directors consists of 12 business leaders who oversee the organization, including all finances.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	CEO Charlotte County Director Escambia County Director	150,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Lee County Family Coordinator Charlotte County Family Coordinator Escambia County Program Manager Mental Health Counselors (2 FTE)	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Charlotte County Home Program Operations Lee County Home Program Operations Escambia County Home Program Operations	250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation of Charlotte County Home Purchase of Collier County property	400,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000



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14. Program Performance

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

The goal is to stop the generational cycle of fentanyl addiction in the state of Florida, help recovering addicts and their families get support and stay out of the prison system, and help bring families back together after addiction. Valerie's House will meet this goal by providing resources and support to more than 2,500 grieving individuals. 68 percent of all accidental deaths in 2021 were overdose related according to the Centers for Disease Control. More than 1/3 of children in the Florida Juvenile Justice System are bereaved. Unresolved grief often leads to more serious societal problems as they grow up, including drug abuse, homelessness, and crime.

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

Valerie's House is part of the solution and gets to the root cause of what Florida taxpayers end up paying on the back end when grief and trauma is not dealt with in childhood. Valerie's House follows an evidence-based national model, offering peer to peer support groups, mentoring, therapy and support to the entire grieving family impacted by the Florida fentanyl epidemic. Funds will help with purchase and renovation of two properties, expanding mental health programs to support addiction recovery efforts, children's trauma support groups, and survivors of suicide recovery. Individuals stay in the Valerie's House program an estimated two years. All services are at no cost to Florida citizens in their families.

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

Counseling, Peer to Peer Group Support, mentoring, Family Financial Assistance for Funerals and Medical Bills, Help after Income loss after the death of a spouse, in-school support groups, college and trade school scholarships for children wanting to better their lives, parenting classes.

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

The target population is an estimated 71,000 grieving individuals in the regions that Valerie's House serves. The project will care for approximately 2,500 grieving children and caregivers who are bereaved due to the loss of a family member to opioids or another cause of death. Families who are a part of the Valerie's House program are our community's most at risk and are the most vulnerable in our population.

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

Outcomes show 75 % of Valerie's House participants see hope for their future, and or have less incidents in school, and their grades have increased after just six months in the program. These are all indicators that a child's life is on the right path. . Methods used are observations made by on-staff mental health professionals, case file notes, caregiver surveys, report cards and school evaluations, and self-reporting surveys. The overall impact on the State of Florida is that juvenile recitivism is down and fentanyl overdoses are declining.

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 Valerie's House fails to meet the deliverables from this contract, then funding would be withheld and/or returned to the State of Florida.

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



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b. Municipality and County

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 **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