



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1489

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Fire Watch is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. It is doing so by building an early intervention network of community gatekeepers trained to identify veterans in crisis and direct them to resources they need. Inspired by CPR, the 'Watch Stander' program will reach 8,500 Florida participants by the end of 2024. In NE Florida, where the program started, veteran suicides are down 46%. The program is implemented in partnership with FDVA and the Florida Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide.

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	1,112,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,112,000</b>

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)	1,112,000	93%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	30,000	2%
Other	60,000	5%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>1,202,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	250,000	593A	No

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.**

Federal grant funding likely 2026 - 2027.

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



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

## 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.

### 13. 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	Executive Director (ED) leads the implementation of the Watch Stander program and other veteran suicide prevention initiatives statewide, including a key statewide initiative of the Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide. The ED coordinates closely with the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs (FDVA). Half of the ED's cost is Administrative and half Operational. Includes benefits.	65,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel, registrations, subscriptions, laptop, monitor, office supplies, office space, full year.	30,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	IT support and helpdesk - \$36,000. 3rd party accountant, audit - \$20,000. Business Development and Planning - \$40,000	96,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Payroll and benefits for 3 Regional Program Directors, Program Manager, Program Evaluator/Administrator, half of the ED. 5.5 FTEs total. The RPDs (North, Central, South Florida) train community members as Watch Standers. The PM manages program/vendors. The PE/A evaluates program results and provides administrative services. This structure allows program delivery to all 67 counties in Florida.	397,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Each of the 3 RPD travels to neighboring counties - \$30,000. Marketing and Collateral - \$10,000. Train the Trainer program miscellaneous costs - \$75,000. Laptops, equipment, office space and office supplies - \$30,000.	145,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Primary contracted service is marketing - creating and delivering social media, digital media, and other media and collateral across Florida to drive program awareness and Watch Stander recruitment - \$250,000. Next most important vendor is our training portal developer, PsychArmor. They will charge \$80,000, at \$10 per trainee in 2024. Website and App maintenance - \$27,000. Veteran Suicide Data Collection & Analysis - \$22,000.	379,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,112,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

Over 6,000 Veterans have died by suicide each year since 2008, including more than 600 annually in Florida. The Fire Watch is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. It is doing so by building an early intervention network of community gatekeepers trained to identify veterans in crisis and direct them to resources they need. Inspired by CPR, the 'Watch Stander' program will reach 8,500 Florida participants by the end of 2024. In NE Florida, where it started, veteran suicides are down 46% from 2019 to 2021. The program will look to replicate these results across the rest of the State and is implemented in partnership with FDVA and the Florida Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide.

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

The Fire Watch will develop a trained network of volunteers to identify risk signs of veterans in crisis and to direct those veterans to the help and resources they need. Based on CPR and with State funding from the most recent fiscal year, this program recently expanded from Northeast Florida to the Tampa Bay and Southeast Florida regions, and our network numbers more than 5,500 trained Watch Standers. With this new appropriation, this network will expand to all 67 counties.

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

Our goal is to promote random early interventions in the community between trained Watch Standers and vulnerable Veterans – in places where Veterans live, work and play. When those random community interventions occur, Watch Standers are trained to direct at-risk Veterans to the help they need, including the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL), 211, 844-MyFLVet, and the community services listed in our Veteran Resources Guide. Regular quarterly surveys show Watch Standers make 1.2 referrals per year on average. At our current number, that is over 6,500 Veteran referrals per year.

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

1.5 million U.S. military veterans residing in Florida.

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

Using data from Florida DOH, we collect and analyze Veteran suicides for all 67 counties, from 2010 to 2021, sortable by age, gender, race, era, and means. This data serves two primary purposes – first, it establishes a baseline to measure our programs, and second, it allows us to identify and target high risk areas to focus our suicide prevention programs. Our primary objective is to reduce Veteran suicide in our targeted geographic areas by 25% over 3 years when compared against baseline data. We are on our way to achieving that in Northeast Florida and are expanding to the rest of the State.

##### 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?

Performance measures could be quarterly milestones tied to veteran suicide prevention program deliverables, including ROI reports toward our Watch Stander goal of 8,500 by Year End 2024. Penalty could be discontinuation or withholding of funding unless ROI reports are submitted.



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#### 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
- 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