



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3181

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The mission of The Red Tent Women's Initiative (RTWI) is to provide women who are incarcerated and at-risk of being incarcerated with the skills to heal and improve their lives through trauma informed programs. RTWI provides services in Hillsborough and Pinellas County in the jails for incarcerated women and in community locations for women who have been referred to our diversion program, Project Redirect by judges or the Public Defender's Office. In both programs, women participate in science-based trauma informed classes to build strategies to understand their past life choices and experiences and develop a plan for the future. Women are equipped with a toolbox of knowledge, resources, and techniques that support an improved healthy life. Participants are connected to local resources including housing and employment. Over 1,000 women have successfully completed the RTWI program with a recidivism rate half the average (24% vs. 56%). RTWI saves lives, and taxpayer dollars.

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	95,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>95,000</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)	95,000	24%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	80,850	20%
Other	226,150	56%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>402,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	95,000	0		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.**
- N/A



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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.

The Red Tent Women's Initiative received PPP loans for salary which was forgiven.

## 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)?

No

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	RTWI ED salary at \$85,000/year x 10% = \$8,500 Taxes FICA @ 7.65% = \$650; ED Health Insurance: \$6,000 x 10% = \$600; Worker's Comp @ 1.59% = \$135	9,885
Other Salary and Benefits	Fundraising Assistant @ \$16/hr x 1,000 hours = \$16,000 x 10% = \$1,600. FICA @ 7.65% = \$122 Worker's Comp @ 1.59% = \$25	1,747
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Other staff to provide in-jail and Project Redirect classes includes Master Trainer (\$30/hr), Mental Health program Facilitator (\$20/hr), Vocational Instructor (\$20/hr), Sewing Assistant (\$15/hr), and Program Assistant (\$16/h). Total wages = \$178,720 x 25% of total = \$44,680 FICA @ 7.65% = \$13,672 x 25% of total = \$3,418 Worker's Comp @ 1.59% = \$2,842 x 25% of total = 711	48,809
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Programmatic supplies (class materials, office supplies) - \$7,884, Technology, internet for classes - \$10,000, Office space, telephone, insurance - \$10,000	27,884
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted staff for RTWI classes and other services - \$26,700 x 25% = \$6,675 Includes evaluation, grant writing, accounting/bookkeeping.	6,675



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<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>95,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

RTWI provides science-based trauma informed curriculum to incarcerated women or women at-risk of incarceration in Pinellas and Hillsborough. This has proven to be effective in reducing recidivism and assisting women in addressing issues such as addiction, mental health, employment, and housing. Following release, The Red Tent continues to offer supportive services and connections to other needed programs. These funds assist in funding 60 women in each county with in-jail services and 60 women in each county for Project Redirect diversion, for a total of 240 women. Keeping each woman out of jail saves taxpayers \$30,000/year or a possible \$7.2 million each year.

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

RTWI offers incarcerated women and women at-risk of incarceration trauma-informed classes to support their future success. These courses, taught over 8 weeks teach participants skills to: Identify symptoms of trauma that led to poor choices and behaviors including substance abuse; Reframe negative past events using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; Develop tools to handle emotional dysregulation that can often lead to self-medication; Learn and apply tools to build resilience including a science-based program, Heartmath; Enhance interpersonal communication skills; and prepare the women for employment. RTWI follows the classes with on-going weekly support sessions.

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

RTWI trained instructors provide trauma-informed instruction in small groups to women in the jail setting who are nearing the end of their sentence to prepare for a successful re-integration with their families and communities. Project Redirect is offered to women by the judge and/or Public Defenders Office as an alternative to incarceration. The women participate in science-based trauma informed classes to build strategies to understand their past life choices and experiences and develop a personal plan for the future. The women are equipped with a "toolbox" of knowledge, resources, and techniques that support an improved healthy life. Once released, participants maintain connection with RTWI to continue their reintegration with additional opportunities for behavioral health counseling, employment assistance, and family connection.

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

The target population is incarcerated women in Pinellas County and Hillsborough County jails and women diverted from incarceration in Pinellas and Hillsborough. Red Tent expects to serve 60 women from each county in the jail program and 60 women in diversion in each county for a total of 240 women.

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

The outcomes for our in-jail program include 90% of participants complete the in-jail sessions prior to release and 75% of participants do not return to jail during the first year of release. RTWI will measure this through in-jail course attendance and completion records and by follow-up connections with participants. The Project Redirect diversion outcomes are 90% of the offenders referred to Project Redirect will accept the program's services and 70% of participants will successfully complete Project Redirect and not become incarcerated. The measurement is by tracking attendance and participation at Project Redirect sessions and follow-up with Public Defender's Office.

**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?**

Aside from payback of the proportionate amount of funds related to meeting the outcomes, The Red Tent does not suggest any other penalties.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**



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- 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