



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2154

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Task Force Dagger Foundation seeks funding to amplify our Rehabilitative Adaptive Events, notably our annual "Dagger Dive" held in Key West, FL. Our primary objective is comprehensive healing for wounded, ill, and/or injured Special Operations Forces members and their families, understanding service injuries impact the entire family. Funds will expand reach, enhance experiences, and reinforce family-focused recovery, offering therapeutic diving sessions for injured veterans and their families. Beneficiaries receive diving instruction, participate in family-oriented marine activities, and gain educational insights on marine ecosystems. These services aim to promote rehabilitation, family unity, and environmental appreciation among participants.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	485,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	485,000

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)	485,000	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	485,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

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.**

Program is currently funded by individual private donations, but state funding provides an expansion in impact to the veteran community, as well as local Florida businesses in the area of execution.



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

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	This cost estimate covers 5 hours a week of Executive Director time spent planning and shaping annual Dagger Dive event	15,000
Other Salary and Benefits	This cost estimate covers 5 hours a week for each of the two other Foundation employees' time spent planning and shaping annual Dagger Dive event.	20,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	This covers Foundation employees' and volunteers' travel, equipment, and expenses.	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Strategic communications (donor and supporter) support and consultancy through media, film, and social content.	15,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	This covers full-time hours for each Foundation employee throughout the weeks of set-up and execution of the event	10,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	This covers travel & lodging costs for participant families and volunteers (2023 lodging and event space costs were \$170k and flights were \$40k). This estimate also includes rations and food costs for all participant families, volunteers, and staff (2023 costs were \$100k) Also included in this cost are supplies & equipment supporting event, particularly dive equipment(2023 \$40k).	400,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A - These costs are covered by other financial means.	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		485,000



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14. Program Performance

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

Dagger Dive is a therapeutic diving event fostering rehabilitation for wounded, ill, and/or injured special operations veterans and their families. Activities include diving lessons, family-centric events, and marine education. Emphasis is on strengthening family bonds, aiding veterans' physical and mental recovery, and enhancing mutual experiences in marine environments. The program offers specific mental health benefits by reducing stress through therapeutic water activities, promoting family bonding, and boosting self-esteem. Documented success stories highlight transformative mental and physical health journeys, offering qualitative evidence of the program's lasting impact.

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

Funding will facilitate therapeutic diving sessions for injured veterans and their families. Beneficiaries receive diving instruction, participate in family-oriented marine activities, and gain educational insights on marine ecosystems. These services aim to promote rehabilitation, family unity, and environmental appreciation among participants. Diving bolsters respiratory, cardiovascular health, and muscle coordination. The therapeutic aspect reduces stress, evident by lowering cortisol. It offers improved mobility for those with limitations. Engaging as a family in diving strengthens bonds and promotes collective physical enrichment. Skills from "Dagger Dive" inspire continued physical activity post-event.

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

The "Dagger Dive" program boosts local tourism by attracting participants and their families, increasing spending in accommodations, dining, and local attractions. Moreover, participants may pursue diving certifications or equipment, bolstering the dive industry. By promoting marine conservation, it ensures sustained tourism appeal, fostering a cyclic economic uplift for the community. The "Dagger Dive" program also necessitates local hires for event management, diving instructors, equipment handlers, and logistics. Local eateries, accommodations, and transport services experience heightened demand, leading to temporary job openings. Additionally, the event's spotlight on the region might attract future tourists, fostering sustained local employment opportunities.

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

Task Force Dagger provides services to all current or former Special Operations Service Members and their families, regardless of whether they served in the special ops components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, etc. Dagger Dive participants are specifically vetted by both Task Force Dagger and the US Special Operations Command's Warrior Care Program to ensure they and their families would benefit from the specific physical and mental health therapies provided at Dagger Dive. The event has roughly 50-60 service members and their families participating, along with over 100 volunteers and staff - many of whom are veterans or family members of veterans themselves.

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

The three primary benefits expected are to improve veteran/family physical health, mental health, and improve awareness and education of Florida marine environment and local culture. In other to measure the effectiveness of the program, we conduct pre and post-event health assessments, distribute feedback surveys, and perform periodic follow-ups. Participants will log post-event activities, aiding in comparative analysis with non-participants. We'll monitor family activity metrics, seek professional evaluations, and document transformative success stories, providing a holistic insight into the program's impact. Success stories will spotlight transformative cultural experiences gained and lasting physical and mental health impacts.

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?

Stand contract penalties.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number (813)610-3364 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