



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1846

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Community Legal Services is a legal aid that has served within in the mid-Florida region since 1966. Under the federal guidelines given to us by our primary funder, the Legal Services Corporation, we are only able to serve those below the 200% federal poverty level. Many working-class Floridians earn too much to qualify for our services, yet do not make enough to afford an attorney.

The requested funds will be used to promote, support, and provide legal services to those with income up to 400% of the poverty level, broadening the reach of legal aid services to individuals who often do not meet standard income requirements but will experience financial hardship by hiring an attorney to address a legal concern. Funds will support the goal to close this "Justice Gap" through development of a sustainable model that can serve more individuals in our 12-county service area (Brevard, Citrus, Flagler, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia).

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	2,300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,300,000

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)	2,300,000	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	2,300,000	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.



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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	A portion of the CEO salary as well as an additional 24-month salary for the managing attorney of the project.	190,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	To begin development, implementation, and management of this legal aid project, this line item will fund salaries for three full-time attorneys and four full-time paralegals for a 24-month period. These staff will render legal services with the goal of closing the "Justice Gap."	1,210,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding under this line item will be used to support general operating expenses at the firm, to purchase technology and laptops for new staff, and to promote the firm's more expansive availability of legal aid services through marketing efforts.	850,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant to assist in identifying the best target locations and needs of those below the 400% federal poverty level.	50,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,300,000



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14. Program Performance

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

The funds will be used to promote, support, and provide legal services to those with income up to 400% of the poverty level, broadening the reach of legal aid services to individuals who often do not meet standard income requirements but will experience financial hardship by hiring an attorney to address a legal concern. Funds will support the goal to close this "Justice Gap" through development of a sustainable model that can serve more individuals in our 12-county service area.

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

The funds will be used to provide a range of legal services to citizens with income up to 400% of the poverty level. These legal services will span multiple areas of civil law, and will be provided virtually and in-person to reach the greatest number of community members. Additionally, funds may be utilized for marketing and outreach purposes to promote our civil legal aid services.

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

Direct services that will be provided to citizens with the funding requested may include provision of legal advice/brief services, pro se pleadings for clients to file, or extended services and full representation. Additionally, funds will be used to support and promote the firm's services which may include marketing and outreach efforts to expand access to civil legal aid services.

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

The target population served will be those below the 400% federal poverty level between the 200% and 400% federal poverty level range. We expect to serve 400-800 people directly with the requested funds.

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

The expected outcome is increased access to lawyers for working class Floridians within our 12-county service area who make too much to qualify for legal aid, but not enough to afford an attorney. We will track clients coming in who fall between the 200%-400% federal poverty who we were able to serve due to this funding.

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?

Should Community Legal Services (CLS) fail to meet deliverables or performance measures set forth in a contract resulting from the appropriation of funds for this project, CLS agrees to return any funding that is not utilized or under-utilized to the selected source agency. Community Legal Services agrees to abide by all terms set forth in any contract resulting from state funding following review and signature by our authorized official.

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



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- 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