



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2982

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Provides funding to expand the Connecting Everyone with Second Chances (CESC) evidence-based diversion program to reduce wait lists for individuals experiencing homelessness. The program prioritizes prevention by providing immediate housing placement; transportation to stay with family members who would provide support; or negotiation with landlord to maintain housing are examples of services) in lieu of entering a homeless shelter. ROI of program by FSU's Askew School found services to be 46.09% more cost effective than non-congregate shelter.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	31%
Matching Funds		
Federal	1,957,303	39%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	716,000	14%
Local	620,005	12%
Other	210,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	5,003,308	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	1,500,000	350	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.

Unknown.

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

Yes



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

\$500,000 PPP loan to maintain services.

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

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits	These funds will pay for a portion of our finance and general administrative staff costs to assist with the required single audit, reporting, and award/contract compliance responsibilities, all directly related to the project/program services.	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	These funds will pay for the diversion program specialists salary and benefits that meet with clients on a daily basis to evaluate them for possible diversion services.	209,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	These funds will pay for our diversion program expenses (e.g., Helping people transition from living in their cars by providing funds for a deposit on a home, or rent-to-own trailer, or transportation to a family member's home.)	1,216,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The goal of this request is to continue providing evidence-based Diversion services for up to 1500 individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless or who are experiencing homelessness. Financial assistance includes services such as first/last month's rent, security deposit assistance, back rent/utility payments, utility turn-on fees, application fees. Continuing these services through this best practice model will provide the necessary safety net for individuals who may face eviction in the upcoming year, with COVID-19 eviction moratorium ending.

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

Our best-in-class Diversion Program team works with each individual who is at risk of becoming homeless—to identify immediate, alternate housing arrangements and connecting him/her with services and financial assistance to help the individual return to permanent, safe housing. The program also helps reduce the demand for shelter beds and the number of individuals on shelter wait lists who individuals who have no other option but to enter our homeless shelter.

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

Direct services include the following: helping people transition from living in their cars by providing funds for a small deposit on a safe home; helping people concerned with being evicted to negotiate and provide remediation payments to their landlord. The homelessness direct services include case management, emergency shelter, meals, and basic supplies.

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

The target population are individuals in the Panhandle region who are at risk of becoming homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other health or weather disasters. More than half of the individuals we serve self-report mental or physical disabilities; more than 60% are African American, half of all clients report no income. We expect to serve 1500 plus individuals affected by the impacts of Covid-19 and/or other events that lead to homelessness.

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

The first-year results showed a promising Return on Investment as studied by FSU's Askew School. They reported on average, providing diversion services is 46.09% more cost-effective than non-congregate shelter. The program was too new to analyze long-term housing results, but initial findings showed stability of housing in the first few months; only 14% were not stably housed in the FSU evaluation. A longitudinal report on these findings will be included. Methodology is primarily self-reported feedback loops 6-months and 1-year post services.

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?

Delay or loss of funding tied to deliverable requirements.

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



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- 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**