



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1021

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Legal Services Clinic of the Puerto Rican Community, Inc., is a stand-alone non-profit organization, (501 (c)(3)), whose primary mission is to offer no cost and/or affordable legal assistance to low income families. The Clinic's continuing mission is to provide legal services for under served communities who have legal needs, also providing legal assistance to persons who are Pro Se but cannot understand or properly prepare the pro se forms in Seminole County. Orange County Clerk uses the services of the Orange County Bar Association to assist pro se litigants prepare documents such as divorces, child support, etc. Seminole County has no such assistance. We have been providing that assistance for the last year. Without funding, we cannot undertake this mission for coming year. This is critically important in Seminole County with the heavy Spanish speaking population and no relationship with any legal entity that can translate and prepare legal documents for the public.

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                         | 500,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>500,000</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)       | 500,000          | 50%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 100,000          | 10%         |
| Other  | 400,000          | 40%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> | <b>1,000,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
| 2023-24                  | 0         | 250,000      | 1057                        | 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.

Donations from Attorneys subscribed to the Florida Bar that wants to comply with the Rule 4-6.1, and private foundations.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1021

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         |
|--|---|----------------|
| <b>Administrative Costs:</b>   |   |                |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits                    | Executive Director  | 75,000         |
| Other Salary and Benefits  |   | 0              |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                |   | 0              |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Contract compliance officer and Grant Writer  | 36,000         |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |   |                |
| Salary and Benefits  | Attorneys, paralegals, administrative assistants, and any and all necessary support personnel   | 238,100        |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Office supplies, Marketing material, Special programs, Insurances, Web pages, equipment, travel expenses, conferences, conventions, registrations, rent, utilities, software and subscriptions, business registration renewal, scholarships, payroll services, legal process expenses, express mail services, | 132,726        |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Advertising, Accounting and Audit, teachers and mentors for legal education summer camp for adolescents.  | 18,174         |
| <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>500,000</b> |

14. Program Performance

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

**LFIR # 1021**

The rendering of culturally and linguistically competent legal services to low income families who otherwise would not have access to legal representation. Our Pro Se project, operated from the County Clerks office, assists the citizens who can not fill out the forms for actions such as Pro Se divorces, adoptions, name changes, and child support. This allows for more efficient administration of the court dockets as the Judges are looking at well prepared complaints and petitions which reduces the time for the court to attempt to understand the basis of the complaint when drafted by non professionals.

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

Any and all competent legal representation deemed necessary. The Pro Se service makes access to the courts available to thousands who cannot have access without assistance. This program also allows for more efficient administration of the court dockets as the Judges are looking at well prepared complaints and petitions which reduces the time for the courts to attempt to understand the basis of the complaint when drafted by non professionals.

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

Legal representation and guidance. Our attorneys and staff are all bilingual and can assist both the citizens and the clerks, who cannot give legal advice on how to prepare these forms. We are able to assist the citizens, the clerks of Seminole and Osceola county and the courts all at the same time. Effectively this expenditure is cost saving measure.

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

Our primary mission is to offer no cost and/or affordable legal assistance to the low income families that are in need of legal representation. We expect to serve as many as possible. The number of clients served will be based on available funding. We will provide assistance in family law cases, misdemeanors, power of attorneys, wills and testaments, and Chapter 7 bankruptcies.

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

We have in the past provided clean deliverables in the number of cases and consultations that we can provide with funding available. We can expect to provide in excess of 48 legal cases and 84 legal consultations, which we can process, and a two week summer camp for our youth community.

**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?**

In the past we had 3% of the reimbursement value submitted for each month during which the monthly goals are not met.

**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)



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1021

- 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**