



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3180

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This project seeks to promote volunteer legal services to indigent and homeless Florida residents by providing legal representation to traditionally underserved clients in matters related to family law, housing, domestic violence, and other civil/non-criminal matters to those in greatest need and limited resources.

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        | 100%        |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                |             |
| Federal  | 0              | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0              | 0%          |
| Local  | 0              | 0%          |
| Other  | 0              | 0%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> | <b>500,000</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      | 1336A                       | 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.

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.



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CARES Relief - Orange County Government - We qualified to receive up to \$48,500 for additional services provided specifically for COVID-19 relief efforts for the calendar year of 2020.

## 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                    |   | 0              |
| Other Salary and Benefits  |   | 0              |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | This travel is to attend Virgil Hawkins training conferences to learn best practices for boards and to assist them in running a Pro Bono legal organization in order to better serve the homeless and/or indigent communities.  | 5,424          |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Supervises contract attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants in the execution of their duties; Reviews and assigns pro bono cases to attorneys based on case type and attorney workload; carries out legal actions in accordance with grant. Attends community events/legal forums.                  | 61,200         |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |   |                |
| Salary and Benefits  |   | 0              |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Office supplies such as paper, pencil, toner, printing, books, postage, transportation for clients/victims; monthly service costs for telephone, utilities, case management, rent, continuing legal education courses, insurance, marketing court expenses; staff mileage within the program area, etc. | 92,456         |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Four (4) attorneys, three (3) paralegals/legal assistants - maintain case load, client support, drafting pleadings, attending hearings, handling cases from intake to trial or settlement; payroll, accounting, taxes, and audit.   | 340,920        |
| <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> |



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

The organization provides access to legal resources and services to the underserved population and those with limited resources. The program will assist this demographic with certain non-criminal matters. Services include providing legal advice, filing pleadings or responses, and/or assistance at trial or administrative matters. By providing legal based knowledge and services to the underserved, the organization seeks to receive more favorable outcomes within the aforementioned service area.

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

Community based initiatives, bringing attorneys and resources to the underserved communities, providing panels and discussion forums to educate and inform residents, offering flexible schedules to ensure persons of varying needs are accommodated, offering multiple access points via social media, video/teleconference and in person support, and assisting with legal matters and litigation.

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

Attorneys and staff will provide pro bono legal services to the citizens assisting them in certain legal matters within the scope of the program. Trained attorneys will offer counseling and legal support in the practice of law. Citizens will have an advocate for their pending matter and access to services and resources of the organization.

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

The targeted population to be served are elderly persons, persons with poor mental health, persons with poor physical health, jobless persons, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, homeless, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, high school, and university/college students. We will serve 400-800 individuals.

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

The objective is to provide legal services and representation to those with limited resources and access to said services. It will improve mental health, quality of education, protect general public from harm, economic activity, create specific immediate job opportunities, enhance specific individuals' economic self-sufficiency, and enrich the cultural experience. Part of the program requires measurable deliverables as relates to clients served, cases resolved, and community-based programs/training sessions that have been provided throughout the year, per quarter.

**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 any deliverable not be met within the specifications of the agreement, funds are withheld and or reduced from the total allocation in the form of a financial penalty. Should the program not deliver on any deliverable during a period where the organization has received an advanced payment, a potential advance payment repayment penalty is also available at the discretion of the contracting agency.

#### 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**



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#### 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