



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3164

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Center for Civic Engagement Inc. for the past 5 years developed the CivicCon program to create informed public dialogue and continuous community engagement around critical community issues. This often results in civil citizen-powered positive change. Communities in other states actively reached out and now have their own CivicCon projects. This grant would let us reach out to other Florida communities to share effective community engagement strategies.

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	180,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	180,000

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)	180,000	30%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	357,000	58%
Other	75,000	12%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	612,000	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.

Additional efforts to find new private foundation grant support.

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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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.

N/A

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Salary or contractor compensation for a project leader to provide toolkits, videos and mentoring for communities to successfully launch a civic engagement project.	65,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to Florida communities to engage key stakeholders in conversations regarding a civic engagement project	15,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	* Development of a CivicCon Toolkit, including videos to assist Florida communities that create a civic engagement program. * A social media campaign promoting community civic engagement and offering assistance to communities. * Development of a CivicCon website as a resource and tool for Florida communities starting a local CivicCon civic engagement program.	100,000
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)		180,000

14. Program Performance

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



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An increase in civil civic engagement driven by informed public dialogue has been an outcome of CivicCon in Pensacola and Escambia County. The nonprofit's goal is to share the successful community engagement strategies developed by the Center for the CivicCon project to as many Florida communities as possible over the next five years. We believe that a data and best-practice driven civic engagement program "raises the civic IQ" and re-engages larger numbers of community members around critical community issues. This restores their faith that they can make a difference. It elevates the quality of candidates for public office. And it positions a community to make better decisions for the quality of life of those that live there.

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

Limited funds would be used to sustain the current programs for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The bulk of the funds would be used to market civic engagement to other Florida communities and provide the means to start effective civic engagement programs that can grow to have widespread community involvement.

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

A sophisticated CivicCon Toolkit would be developed that includes event SOP documents, a data plan to identify community priorities, help videos for local CivicCon organizers and a schedule of webinars to benefit Florida communities that create a civic engagement program. A social media campaign would be developed to promote civic engagement initiatives in Florida communities.

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

Increasing civil civic engagement benefits all population groups in Florida communities. CivicCon is a project that can be utilized by cities, towns, communities and even neighborhoods. The impact over the life of the project will be in the tens of thousands. More than 65 CivicCon events held over the past five years averaged in-person attendance of about 250 people and livestream views ranging from a median of 7,000 to a high of 15,000. The current Pensacola mayor and two city council members have said they were inspired to run for office by CivicCon's engagement practices because it gave them faith that they could make a difference.

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

The CivicCon civic engagement strategies would be replicated in other Florida communities so that citizen-powered change driven by informed public dialogue guides efforts to improve quality of life where people live.

Outcome measurements from the community dashboards:

- * Measuring whether there is growth or decline in the number of young people who choose to live in a community.
- * Progress in local education measured by kindergarten readiness, narrowing The Achievement Gap, high school graduation rates and percentage of college-bound students.
- * Public dialogue around best practices includes public safety; improve crime stats
- * Water quality in estuaries and bays.
- * Local transportation safety.
- * In today's economy, talent follows place and investment follows talent; track the number of young people staying or moving to a 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?

The focus will be on communities who have a core group of local leaders (business, elected, activists and other leaders) to own community engagement and administrate a quality of life survey, community dashboard and best-practice speaker events. These are the minimum parts of the CivicCon strategy to enable and encourage informed public dialogue on key community issues.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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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)
- 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