



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3239

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The demand for access to affordable housing option for homeless individuals, especially those with substance use disorders, continues to be a top priority for St. Johns County and across Florida. To address this demand, EPIC Behavioral Healthcare requests funding to expand its current transitional "sober living" housing program, Second Wind. EPIC will use the funds to purchase land in the county and construct 8 transitional houses (each house will serve 8 residents) that provide a safe, structured and sober living environment for adults who have a substance use disorder, are homeless, and are involved or have completed court-ordered treatment (i.e. Drug Court, Veterans Court, Jail Re-Entry program).

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes  No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>10,000,000</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)	10,000,000	86%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	280,000	2%
Local	1,400,000	12%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>11,680,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.**



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3239

The Board of Directors and Executive staff have developed a step-by-step plan to secure a Transitional Housing Expansion project. We have garnered support to match a portion of the state funding request from our local County government and from current donors. It is the opinion of our Board that a full capital campaign to raise funds locally is not a good option due to economic strength concerns and a declining trendline of giving. The project would therefore be placed on a hold status.

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.

The facility is owned by EPIC Community Services, Inc. dba EPIC Behavioral Healthcare who is requesting the fixed capital outlay funding. We are a not-for-profit organization.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Purchase land and design and engineering and construction expenses for the 8 housing units, and furnishings.	10,000,000



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3239

<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>
--	-------------------

**14. Program Performance**

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

The goal of the Second Wind transitional housing program is to provide a safe and sober environment for individuals to participate in early recovery and community-oriented services that leads to long-term sobriety and permanent housing to become a self-sufficient and productive member of their community.

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

Purchase and prepare land to construct 8 transitional houses in St. Johns County; each house will have 8 residents. This housing model will provide expanded access to transitional housing offering a safe, structured and sober living environment for adults who have a substance use disorder, are homeless, and have completed residential treatment or are involved in court-ordered treatment.

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

Residents must work, pay rent, food & other living expenses, attend recovery meetings, participate in life-skills classes including a financial literacy course and vocational coaching, and meet with the Peer Support Specialist several times a week. These supportive services are provided to help residents meet their recovery goals and to facilitate transition to permanent housing.

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

The target population are men and women who are homeless and have a substance use disorder. The population will have completed detoxification/residential treatment or involved in court-ordered treatment (Drug Court, Veterans Court, Jail Re-Entry Program). It is anticipated that 75 -100 adults will be served per year.

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

1. Reduce Substance Abuse  
Measure: Reduction of symptoms. Employment and safe/sober housing.  
Method for measuring outcome: Participation in services provided while in transitional housing. Employed or attending vocational or higher educational programs. Adherence to Second Wind house policies and practices.
2. Improve Mental Health  
Measure: Reduction of symptoms. Psychiatric Assessment.  
Method for measuring outcome: Assessment with Licensed Practitioner, adherence to treatment plan, PHQ-9 depression screening at baseline and intervals throughout treatment.
3. Enhance Specific Individual's Economic Self-Sufficiency  
Measure: Maintain employment. Pay rent and other living expenses. Secure checking and savings account.  
Method for measuring outcome: Obtaining and maintaining employment. Successful completion of financial literacy course and other life skills classes.

**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?**

Establish a correction action plan, withhold payment, if necessary, until deliverables are met.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**16. Recipient Contact Information**



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3239

**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**