



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1892

1. Title of Project: K9s For Warriors

2. Senate Sponsor: Lauren Book

3. Date of Submission: 02/15/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

K9s For Warriors provides Service Canines to Warriors suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. Our program pairs veterans with Assistance Dog International (ADI)-certified Service Canines, 90-95% of which are rescued. The pair then participates in a 21-day residential training program that focuses on daily living skills, community integration, peer-to-peer interaction, coping skills, and veteran-dog bonding with skilled oversight. The entire program is provided at no cost to the veteran. K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of Service Dogs for disabled American veterans.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Veterans Affairs

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,006
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	500,006

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,006	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	500,006	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		250,000	577A	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 250,000



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for kennel staff and warrior operations staff (\$15,941.35 per team x 20 teams = \$318,827)	318,827
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Service dogs: acquisition, veterinarian care, transportation, food & supplies, off-site training; Warrior training program: trainers' gear, screening/processing, meals, warriors' gear, supplies, transportation, office and facilities; Education (\$9,058.93 x 20 teams = \$181,178.60)	181,179
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,006

11. Program Performance:

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

Providing acquired dogs with clean and safe kennel housing, temperament testing, veterinary care, food and water, and training to become a certified Service Dog for twenty (20) Florida based veterans who graduate from K9s For Warriors twenty-one (21) day in-house training program to help mitigate the effects of their Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and help prevent veteran suicide.

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

These funds will help us acquire, screen, and train dogs to become Service Dogs for twenty (20) Florida-based veterans and cover all costs associated with the three-week, in-house training for the veterans. For 2018, it cost approximately \$25,000.00 for each warrior/Service Dog team to graduate from our program. Our warriors pay nothing out of pocket when they come through our program.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Receiving an ADI-certified Service Dog and the associated training, disability and public access law education, daily living and coping skills, human and animal bonding, community re-integration, 21 days of housing and meals during on-site training.

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



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The primary population served by our program are post-9/11 veterans diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma. We have learned that these veterans are not the only ones that benefit from what we do. Spouses and caregivers, children, other family members, and entire communities all benefit, because veterans, with the help of their Service Dog, are no longer solely focused on the debilitating symptoms of their invisible wounds of war. We anticipate serving 20 warriors with state funding.

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

K9s For Warriors has partnered with Purdue University to conduct studies which scientifically evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of K9s For Warriors' Service Dogs on the mental health and wellness of military veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These studies measured the physiological response to stress and arousal using the hormone Cortisol, as well as the baseline following receipt of a Service Dog, but not while receiving usual care alone. Those with a K9s' Service Dog had Cortisol levels returning to normal. Both studies showed a direct link between having a K9s Service Dog and a reduction in PTSD symptoms. Please see attached studies published in the Psychoneuroendocrinology Journal and Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Additional studies are forthcoming.

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 in the contract?

In the event K9s For Warriors fails to meet the contractual deliverables, the financial consequences would be that FDVA recover its actual administrative costs attributable to the failure or delay. In fiscal year 2018-2019, the FDVA estimated the daily costs of the financial consequences to be \$68.49.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

Not applicable

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Rory Diamond
- b. **Organization:** K9s For Warriors, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** rory@k9sforwarriors.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (904)686-1956

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** K9s For Warriors, Inc.
- b. **County:** Saint Johns
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity



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University or College

Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Patricia Dodson

e. E-mail Address: patty@k9sforwarriors.org

f. Phone Number: (904)686-1956

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Monica Rodriguez

b. Firm Name: Ballard Partners

c. E-mail Address: monica@ballardfl.com

d. Phone Number: (850)577-0444