



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2161

1. Title of Project: Edward Waters College Pre-Law Program

2. Senate Sponsor: Audrey Gibson

3. Date of Submission: 02/15/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

To support the launch of the Pre-law concentration, Edward Waters College is requesting \$400,000. The Pre-Law Program will be designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers in law and to contribute to the larger societal goal of diversifying the legal profession. According to the American Bar Association’s National Lawyer Population Survey (2007-2017), only 5% of this nation’s lawyers are African American. The American Bar Association also reports that 95% of elected prosecutors are White; with only 61 of the 2400 prosecutors being Black.” To that end, the objective of the program is to enhance the pipeline for African-American prosecutors in the State of Florida and nationally. EWC students will benefit from an enriched learning environment, mentoring from legal professionals, preparation for the law school entrance exam (LSAT), public lectures, workshops, undergraduate research, internships, and scholarships.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	80.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	100,000	20.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	500,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No



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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	Director of Program-w/ a J.D. degree will be responsible for setting and monitoring the strategic and operational direction of key initiatives within the Pre-law program and administering the pre-law concentration	80,000
Other Salary and Benefits	(2) additional faculty to design/deliver the pre-law concentration at \$50,000 each.	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to conferences in state and out of state to mock trial conferences, events, and activities; establish a mock trial team; internship support; undergraduate research tools, prep material for law school entrance exam (LSAT), etc.	220,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		400,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The Pre-Law Program will be designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers in law and to contribute to the larger societal goal of diversifying the legal profession. According to the American Bar Association’s National Lawyer Population Survey (2007-2017), only 5% of this nation’s lawyers are African American. The American Bar Association also reports that 95% of elected prosecutors are White; with only 61 of the 2400 prosecutors being Black. In 2017, the National Association for Law Placement published its Report on Diversity which revealed that “the overall percentage of Black/African-American associates has declined every year since 2009, except for the small increase in 2016.” To that end, the objective of the program is to enhance the pipeline for African-American prosecutors in the State of Florida and nationally.

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

EWC students will benefit from an enriched learning environment, mentoring from legal professionals, preparation for the law school entrance exam (LSAT), public lectures, workshops, undergraduate research, internships, and scholarships.

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



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This concentration builds upon our successful Criminal Justice program, and will be designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers in law and contribute to the larger societal goal of diversifying the legal profession.

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

The Pre-Law Program will be designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers in law and to contribute to the larger societal goal of diversifying the legal profession. To that end, the objective of the program is to enhance the pipeline for African-American prosecutors in the State of Florida and nationally.

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

This concentration builds upon our successful Criminal Justice program, and will be designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers in law and contribute to the larger societal goal of diversifying the legal profession. Edward Waters College hopes to learn from this valuable work the impact that a pre-law concentration can have on underrepresented students at HBCUs in regards to graduation, retention, and job/graduate school placement on a longitudinal scale. All findings will be presented and published.

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?

Reduce amount of funding.

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.

n/a

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** DeShanna Brown
- b. **Organization:** Edward Waters College
- c. **E-mail Address:** dbrown@ewc.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (904)470-8251

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Edward Waters College
- b. **County:** Duval
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** DeShanna Brown



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e. **E-mail Address:** dbrown@ewc.edu

f. **Phone Number:** (904)470-8251

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name:** Mario Bailey

b. **Firm Name:** Becker & Poliakoff

c. **E-mail Address:** mbailey@beckerlawyers.com

d. **Phone Number:** (954)364-6094