



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2390

1. Title of Project: FVF Veteran Aid & Attendance Benefit Initiative

2. Senate Sponsor: Doug Broxson

3. Date of Submission: 02/06/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

To locate, educate and assist 20,000 Florida veterans over the next 3 years obtain pension aid & assistance benefits (VA Benefits) from the federal VA, and to register all Florida veterans with the VA. This request seeks funding for Pensacola and Tampa outreach offices. Additional offices will be established throughout the state as additional funding is acquired. These VA Benefits are relatively unknown to veteran communities, but provide significant financial assistance (up to \$22,577 annually w/o dep.) to veterans needing assistance with basic daily living tasks – such as eating, bathing, toileting, dressing, and ambulatory assistance. With average lifetime benefits exceeding \$50,000 per veteran, and a federal funds economic multiplier of 2.39, this Initiative could reasonably drive over \$3 billion federal dollars into the Florida economy, reduce Florida Medicaid expenditures, all while providing critical and life-altering assistance to Florida's most vulnerable veteran population.

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	379,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000
Total State Funds Requested	389,000

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)	389,000	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	389,000	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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2390

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	President of FVF (legislatively mandated 501(c)(3)) will serve as the Initiative's Executive Director. Executive Director will provide administrative oversight and serve as a daily liaison between state and private party Initiative participants, as well safeguard and ensure compliance with legislative interests and FDVA interests. This position will serve as director of entire statewide Initiative, and seek grants to minimize future legislative funding requests.	72,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Executive administration will require the services of two part time additional staff: 1- A part time bookkeeper/clerical/administrative assistant (\$10,000); and 2- A part-time accountant responsible for ensuring compliance with regulatory, financial and accounting protocols (\$6,000)	16,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Operational administration for the Pensacola and Tampa offices will collectively require the following people: 1- Two (2) Veteran Advocates (Salary \$48,000 each); and 2- Two paralegals (Salary \$42,000 each)	180,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Internet/Utilities (\$2,000); Phone (\$4,800); Travel Expenses (\$28,000); Marketing Materials, Brochures, Cards (\$12,000); Seminar Packets (\$1,800); Internet and Social Media Development (\$3,000); Educational Video Presentation (\$9,000); Seminars (\$2,400); Seminar Presentation Materials (\$10,000)	73,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	American Patriot Service Corp and National Association of Veterans and Families (operational consultant) will supervise all operations: (\$2,000 per mo. per office for (i) Pension aid and attendance consulting, regulatory and compliance and oversight, (ii) office operations and administration, employee supervision, paycheck services, marketing materials design and aids, employee training, presentation oversight – exclusive of actual claims processing costs to be paid by third party donation resou	48,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	N/A	0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		389,000



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2390

11. Program Performance:

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

Program provides direct financial help to the most indigent and physically disabled veterans and their surviving spouses in the Panhandle and Tampa regions, through the VA pension aid and attendance benefit. This benefit provides an average remaining lifetime benefit of \$50,000 per claimant which secures assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, toileting, dressing and ambulatory movement. Each office is expected to process a minimum of 100 benefit claims annually, resulting in claimant average lifetime benefits of \$5 million per office, with an overall total collective federal economic multiplier value of nearly \$24 million to Florida's economy. The Project further seeks to ensure that every veteran in the target areas is registered with the VA, ensuring eligibility for qualifying VA benefits, and qualifying Florida VA medical facilities to receive 5 additional medical personnel per 800 registrations obtained.

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

Project will engage in direct community outreach in the Panhandle and Tampa regions to locate veterans and surviving spouses in their residences, assisted living facilities, care facilities, and through businesses, civic groups, veterans groups and other outreach networks. Veterans and family caretakers are personally invited to educational seminars discussing pension aid and attendance benefits and providing eligibility screenings for all attendees. Through a series of one-on-one personal follow-up conferences, all requisite data and information will be gathered, assembled and remitted to claim submission experts who will work directly with the veteran or surviving spouse to submit their claim for benefits at no charge to the claimant, as well as ensure registration with the VA.

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

Through an intense community outreach and educational seminar program, the targeted indigent and physically disabled veterans and their surviving spouses will receive VA benefit education and fraud literacy through a seminar medium. Qualified individuals thereafter receive one-on-one personalized assistance in actually making a claim for VA pension aid and attendance benefits. Such VA benefit will directly provide these veterans and surviving spouses with financial resources that may be used to offset expenses incurred for critical and daily care, food, shelter and other basic costs of living. Without such personalized assistance, this elderly group is generally overwhelmed and frequently unable to navigate the regulatory requirements for determining benefit qualification. Personalized assistance will further be provided to assist veterans in formally registering with the VA.

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

The Project has two target populations. The first is indigent and/or physically disabled veterans and their surviving spouses who are in need of assistance performing routine activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, toileting, dressing and ambulatory movement, but who lack the necessary financial resources to obtain such help based on specified VA asset and income standards. The second target population is all unregistered veterans, so as to (i) assist the veteran in registering with the VA, thus facilitating eligibility for a qualifying VA benefits, and (ii) qualify Florida VA medical facilities to receive an additional 5 medical personnel at federal government expense for each 800 registrations obtained.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2390

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

The Project commences a statewide FVF initiative to contact and determine eligibility of up to 20,000 Florida veterans and their surviving spouses over a 3 year period. Successful claimants may receive up to \$22,577 annually, which (i) drives federal dollars into the Florida economy carrying a 2.39 economic multiplier, (ii) reduces disabled veterans and surviving spouse dependence upon Florida Medicaid, (iii) provides solutions for critical care to a highly disadvantaged group of Florida's veteran community, and (iv) stimulates growth opportunities for elderly industry business enterprises. Specific financial impact is generally measured by: [(# successful claims x average remaining lifetime benefit of \$50,000) x federal dollar economic multiplier of 2.39]. More important quality of life benefits to each veteran and surviving spouse are measured in terms of societal value of self-respect, personal dignity, personal self-reliance, and overall success of public policy.

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?

The agency's standard contract penalties are sufficient.

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:** Dennis Baker
- b. **Organization:** Florida Veterans Foundation
- c. **E-mail Address:** bakerd@fdva.state.fl.us
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)545-6668

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Florida Veterans Foundation
- b. **County:** Leon
- 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:** Dennis Baker
- e. **E-mail Address:** bakerd@fdva.state.fl.us
- f. **Phone Number:** (850)545-6668

15. Lobbyist Contact Information



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2390

- a. **Name:** None
- b. **Firm Name:** None
- c. **E-mail Address:**
- d. **Phone Number:**