



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 2235

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

FORCE BLUE, a nationally-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that retrains, retools and then redeploys former Special Operations veterans and military-trained combat divers on environmental missions, proposes establishing a base at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Port St. Lucie, FL for the express purpose of recruiting and training additional teams of Special Operations veterans, Florida veterans and civilians for deployment on environmental and marine conservation missions across the state, and to expand those operations in such a way as to provide "mission therapy" for as many veterans as possible.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted? Yes No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="2,249,485"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="126,010"/>
Total State Funds Requested	2,375,495

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="2375495"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="100.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	2,375,495	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>

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

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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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	Salary and benefits will be used to compensate existing Executive Director.	201,991
Other Salary and Benefits	Salary will be used to hire Production/Communications Manager.	94,605
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will be used for: team bunk house rental, insurance (Basic, D&O, WC.), accounting, IT, training expenses and promotion.	435,526
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Salary will be used to hire Strategy and Development Director.	128,949
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries will be used to compensate existing Operations Director, Program Director, Dive Operations Director, Dive Safety Officer and to hire a Facilities Manager.	694,270
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will be used for all mission costs: travel, per diems, gear, maintenance, tank fills, boat rental, truck and van purchases.	459,940
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds to be used to compensate FORCE BLUE Special Operations Team Divers, PTSD counselor, outside researchers and scientific instructors.	278,964
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds to be used to renovate FORCE BLUE office, dive locker and loading area at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.	81,250
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,375,495



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11. Program Performance

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

Funds will be used to recruit and training additional teams of Special Operations veterans, Florida veterans and civilians for deployment on environmental and marine conservation missions across the state, and to document those missions on behalf of state agencies, scientists, universities and NGO partners.

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

FORCE BLUE expects to recruit, train and on-board an additional three (3) teams of Special Operations veterans, as well as 100 Florida veterans as FORCE BLUE Assistant Scientific Divers in 2020-2021. Furthermore, FORCE BLUE intends to deploy on at least six (6) environmental missions alongside new and established scientific partners within the state, and to hold as many as a dozen public outreach events.

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

N/A

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

Veteran participants (both inside the state and out); anyone who benefits from the preservation and restoration of Florida's environmental resources.

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

Benefits will be measured in the number of veterans we are able to train, the number of environmental missions we deploy on and the number of people we are able to reach with our messaging. The methodology used to judge our outcomes will largely be qualitative. How did the "mission therapy" we provide veterans struggling in their assimilation back to civilian life positively impact them? What was the efficacy of our environmental work based on the goals set for those missions?

- 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?

Termination of funding.



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12. **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.**

Florida Atlantic University/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute — signed MOU to house all FORCE BLUE operations

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.