



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1075

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Legal Services Clinic of the Puerto Rican Community, Inc., is a stand-alone non-profit organization, (501 (c)(3)), whose primary mission is to offer no cost and/or affordable legal assistance to those impacted by Covid-19. The Clinic's continuing mission is to provide legal services for under served communities who have been peripherally impacted and to provide legal assistance to persons who are pro se but cannot understand or properly prepare the pro se forms in Osceola County. The Orange County Clerk uses the services of the Orange County Bar Association to assist pro se litigants prepare documents such as divorces, child support, etc. Osceola County has no such assistance. We have been providing assistance for the last year. Without funding we cannot undertake this mission for the coming year. Critically important in Osceola County with the heavy Spanish speaking population and no relationship with any legal entity that can translate and prepare legal documents for the public.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	50,000
Total State Funds Requested	950,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	950,000	46%
Matching Funds		
Federal	600,000	29%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	5%
Other	421,000	20%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	2,071,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2019-20	980,000	0	1351	No

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.

Donations from Attorneys subscribed to the Florida Bar that wants to comply with the Rule 4-6.1, and private foundations.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

We received \$85,000 from PPP loan, and \$10,000 from Hispanic Federation.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director	86,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract Compliance Officer	36,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Attorneys, paralegals, administrative assistants, and any and all necessary support personnel	511,835
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	2 offices (Orlando and Kissimmee), office equipment, utilities, telephones, insurance, internet (website), court costs and fees.	112,300
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Outreach, market research and surveys, grant writers, marketing/advertising, monitoring, and accounting. Funding for legal education camp for adolescents.	153,865
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction Capital	50,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		950,000

12. Program Performance

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

The rendering of culturally and linguistically competent legal services to low income families who otherwise would not have access to legal representation. Our ProSe project operated from the County Clerks office provides a special service, we assist the citizens who can not fill out the forms for actions such as ProSe divorces, adoptions, name changes, and child support. This allows for more efficient administration of the court dockets as the Judges are looking at well prepared complaints and petitions which reduces the time for the court to attempt to understand the basis of the complaint when drafted by non professionals.

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

Any and all competent legal representation deemed necessary. The ProSe service makes access to the courts available to thousands who cannot have access without assistance. This program also allows for more efficient administration of the court dockets as the Judges are looking at well prepared complaints and petitions which reduces the time for the courts to attempt to understand the basis of the complaint when drafted by non professionals.

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

Legal representation and guidance. Our attorneys and staff are all bilingual and can assist both the citizen and the clerks, who cannot give legal advice on how to prepare these forms. We are able to assist , the citizens, the clerks of Osceola county and the courts all at the same time. Effectively this expenditure is a cost saving measure.



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

Those who have been impacted by Covid-19 and are in need of legal representation, and the under served communities who have been peripherally impacted.
We expect to serve as many as possible.
The number of clients served will be based on available funding.
We will provide assistance in evictions, foreclosure and bankruptcies.

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

We have in the past provided clean deliverables in the number of cases and consultations that we can provide with funding available. We can expect to provide in excess of 400 cases which we can process.

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?

In the past we had a \$500 per case penalty if we fail to meet deliverables.

13. 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.

Non applicable.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

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

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

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