



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1268

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Veterans Foundation was created by the Legislature as a Direct Service Organization of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to be the lead veteran's organization and a safety net for veterans in crisis. From July 2020 to December 2020 the Foundation's Veterans Hotline received 283 calls from veterans in financial crisis or other immediate needs due to COVID-19.

The purpose of the funding request is to add a caseworker, who along with the Executive Director will field calls, verify the needs of those veterans and either directly help or work in partnership with Project VetRelief and other organizations and funds to provide the financial resources to those veterans.

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	245,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	245,000

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)	245,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	245,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1268

Yes

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

The Foundation received 2 Leon County CARES ACT funding grants.
One in April 2020 for \$2,500 and a second in Nov 2020 for \$25,000.
These funds were used to cover services for veterans and administrative costs.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Hire a military veteran caseworker to assist and verify individual needs of veterans in crisis. All work will be conducted out of Capitol office and consist primarily of phone work.	45,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Emergency funds for direct services to veterans who are in danger of eviction or loss of utilities, unable to afford necessary healthcare, are homeless, or need necessary services to continue working. Examples of grants are to cover unpaid rent or utilities, uncovered necessary medical expenses, homeless veteran services, transportation costs.	200,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		245,000

12. Program Performance

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

Because of the pressures from COVID-19, the Florida Veterans Foundation needs to better staff its Veterans Crisis Hotline and increase emergency funding to assist veterans out of crisis situations and stabilize their lives.
\$45,000 would be allocated to hire a military veteran caseworker to assist the Executive Director field calls and verify individual the needs of veterans in crisis.
The remaining \$200,000 would be used for direct services to veterans in temporary crisis.
These funds are not intended to address veterans systemic long term issues.
Rather to aid in short term issues that have the veteran and their family in crisis.

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

The Executive Director and the caseworker will work with Project VetRelief and other organizations to vet the requested needs of veteran callers.
\$200,000 of this funding will be expended in emergency payments for direct services to veterans who are in danger of eviction or loss of utilities, unable to afford necessary healthcare, are homeless, or need necessary services to continue working. Financial funding is intended to allow the veteran and their family to cover the cause of their crisis and allow them to move back on the road to stability.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1268

Examples of grants are to cover unpaid rent or utilities, uncovered necessary medical expenses, homeless veteran services, emergency transportation costs.
Funds will be provided either directly from the Florida Veterans Foundation or partner veterans' organizations working with us.

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

Florida veterans who are in financial crisis. Florida has over 1.6 million veterans and represents the third-largest population of veterans in the nation.
This correlates to 12% of Florida's population 18 years old and over, according to the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs.
Support is available for active-duty military and honorably discharged veterans (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reservists) and their immediate family members (spouse or child) residing in Florida. All requestors are vetted for their military service and that the financial assistance is for a legitimate claim.
For instance, we would directly contact a landlord over a case where the veteran caller states he or she is facing eviction.

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

The outcome is to provide emergency assistance to veterans in a time of crisis and work with them to secure benefits and return to stable life. We also work to provide them a support system of other veterans and resources to assist with recurrence and for systemic problems outside this project.

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?

As a Direct Service Organization, we are under the direct auspices of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, with quarterly reporting of our activities.
The Foundation is also routinely audited by the Inspector General and has received positive audits.

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.

n/a



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1268

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