



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1761

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The mission of Veterans Alternative is to empower Veterans, Active Duty Military Members and their families through effective alternative therapies and community engagement, with the goal of creating a more healthy, connected and resilient population. This mission is achieved through the five-day Accelerated Wellness Program (AWP) and individualized counseling services. The organization has increased accessibility of our programs and service by offering individualized services in multiple FL locations. Participants experience proven therapies including Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART), Integrative Restoration (iRest), adaptive yoga, and art therapy. Veterans Alternative is seeking state funding to provide 150 Veterans and Active Duty Military Members with these life-changing services.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	42%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	75,700	10%
Other	345,000	48%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	720,700	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	100,000	376	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Veterans Alternative will continue to solicit grant funding and private donations in lieu of state funding. However, both have been limited with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.



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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.

Veterans Alternative received a PPP loan for \$69,805 to help cover salary costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization also received \$10,282 from the CARES Act to help cover costs of essential and personal protection items necessary to continue providing services during the pandemic.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses related to direct services through the Accelerated Wellness Program or individual counseling services.	286,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Expenses for external program evaluation of both the Accelerated Wellness Program and individual counseling services.	14,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

12. Program Performance

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

Veterans Alternative's goal is to provide Florida Veterans and Active Duty Military with increased access to Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART) and other alternative therapies that effectively treat symptoms and issues related to trauma, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression and more. Through alternative therapies, Veterans Alternative will help veterans and active duty military members live a more healthy, connected and resilient life after experiencing the traumas of war.

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

Veterans Alternative provides highly effective therapies including Accelerated Resolution Therapy, adaptive yoga, Integrative Restoration (iRest) and art therapy. Services are provided through two delivery formats including the five-day Accelerated Wellness Program (AWP) or on an individualized services basis. By providing services through both formats, the organization is increasing accessibility for those unable to attend a five-day program. Both models allow participants to experience proven therapies and become more healthy, connected and resilient.

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

Direct services include Accelerated Resolution Therapy, adaptive yoga, iRest, and art therapy.

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

This project will provide services to 150 Florida Veterans and/or Active Duty Military Members dealing with issues related to post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression due to the traumas of war.



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

Veterans and Active Duty Military Members who participate in either service delivery format will experience a reduction in trauma related to PTSD, depression, anxiety and stress. In addition, they will experience an increase in resiliency and community engagement. Pre- and Post- assessments are conducted as part of service delivery and use valid and reliable measures of psychological and physical health. Examples of measures used include the Post-Traumatic Checklist (PCL-5), the Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI), and the Pain Outcomes Quest. An external evaluator, KMS Research, then uses the data collected to perform an extensive analysis to produce a comprehensive program evaluation on overall service impact.

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?

Veterans Alternative will work with the department on a corrective action plan to improve service delivery as outlined in state contract.

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



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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