



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2199

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Center for Strategic Military Excellence (CSME), in partnership with the Monument to Women Veterans, will develop an education and resource center for all veterans who seek guidance, mentorship, and direction after their career in the military. This center will serve as a veteran welcome and information center and will provide resources from local entities, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and state and federal Veteran support services. The CSME will also offer career and educational guidance via fast-track certifications and apprenticeship programs within local partnered companies and organizations. With the goal of eliminating shortages in critical trade industries, the CSME will focus on programs within the construction, hospitality, culinary, and information technology fields. The CSME's primary mission is to assist all veterans with finding and utilizing the local, state, and federal resources needed to ensure their successful transition back into the civilian workforce.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	159,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	100,000
Total State Funds Requested	259,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	259,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	40,000	8%
Other	220,000	42%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	519,000	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.



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The request is for initial start-up costs for the construction of the monument itself, but are confident in the strong economic impact of the project and major growth it will bring to the area after year three.

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

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Annual project management fee for CEO	20,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Annual fee to chief of operations	15,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for meetings/planning/miscellaneous	9,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel fee for artist to come and construct a maquette (preliminary model)	5,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Monument construction- artist Elizabeth McQueen to come and complete construction of miniature maquette allowing the organization to begin next phase of fundraising and to begin full-scale monument construction in the next phase.	110,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Initial build-out of national veteran's resource visitor's center, including display cases and set-up inside building.	100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		259,000

12. Program Performance

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

The fund requested will achieve two main purposes: The first half of the funds will cover administrative costs incurred from assisting the the start up of the center for strategic military excellence and help supplement local funds that have been paid to cover the cost to complete the construction of the miniature 3-5" maquette" of the monument to women veterans which, once completed, will create a boost in tourism to the downtown Pensacola area. In addition, the additional funds will provide for the launch of the veteran's visitor center, which is to be located inside the museum to women veterans (located on the same property as the monument), which will allow all veterans to access the resources they need to re-enter civilian life through local partnerships. The first 500 toolboxes will be prepared for distribution to veterans who visit the resource center.

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

The CSME plans to utilize the museum's conference spaces to offer a national training program for returning veterans in construction. The City of Pensacola will be creating a labor pool in much needed construction skills and industry; undoubtedly this will benefit the city tremendously as they set to build 500 houses in the next 5 years. This project will also serve as a recruiting tool to increase the pipeline of veterans wanting to make the City of Pensacola their home. The goal is to serve all industries from construction and IT to hospitality, thus, further adding to city and county's revenues without having to increase individual's taxes.

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



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The Pensacola-based museum and monument will serve as a veteran welcome and information center. Resources will be provided from local entities, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and state and federal veteran support services. The goal of the visitor center is to give all veterans the assistance they need to access their benefits and critical resources such as healthcare, career, housing, and financial support. CSME work one-on-one with veterans to evaluate their unique needs, source necessary documents, and set them up for a successful transition back to civilian life.

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

The target population are veterans who are recently exiting from military life. The expectation is to serve up to 2,000 veterans per year.

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

CSME plans to measure the effectiveness of the visitor's center by the number of toolboxes/welcome kits given out per month, as well as per year. CSME also plans to follow up with partners at the Department of Veteran's Affairs and other agencies to see how effective efforts are with exit surveys via email.

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?

If a contractor fails on their deliverables and/or performance, the CSME would have the option to make it right and fix the issues or use other vendors that will be able to fulfill the project in its entirety and continue serving the community. Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

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.

The City of Pensacola owns the property and facility that will be restored and remodeled for the museum and monument. The city is leasing the property through a 100-year lease to Monument to Women Veterans, Inc.



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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