



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1909

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

4. Project/Program Description

Calhoun-Liberty Hospital, a critical access facility located in rural Blountstown, FL was significantly damaged by Hurricane Michael and must rebuild their facility back to current standards. The hospital operates at 40% capacity and has a roof that is fixed to a deteriorating understructure and is held on by 625 sandbags. The hospital remains vulnerable to any wind event including afternoon thunderstorms and the upcoming hurricane seasons. The hospital has received significant funding from the state and federal government through existing grant programs, however continues to have a short fall. The original cost estimate completed in March of 2020 came in at \$306/sq ft, and has now escalated to \$793sq/ft based on the sealed bid received in Oct. of 2022. This is 2.7 times greater than originally estimated. With the original design being out of reach, the hospital design has been scaled back and we are requesting 2 million which will assist to construct Phase I of the new hospital.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	6%
Matching Funds		
Federal	26,590,000	68%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	4,000,000	10%
Local	6,290,000	16%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	38,880,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	3,000,000	180A	Yes

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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We are exploring all funding sources including federal grants and congressional appropriation to support the funding shortfalls of the hospital. We feel that a state appropriation is our best option as it would allow us to remain on schedule and not jeopardize other federal funding that has been secured.

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.

The hospital received \$5,517,573.59 funds for covid relief dollars in 2020 and 2021 that were separate from the requested construction cost and were utilized for hospital operations. These funds were used for Covid relief contingency staffing, Personal Protective Equipment and supplies, necessary equipment to assist patients with Covid and Covid 19 related illnesses, and to assist with lost revenues the hospital experienced due to Covid 19.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☒ Design ☐ Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

August 18th, 2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

August 25th, 2025

12. List 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.

Calhoun Liberty Hospital Assoc. Inc. is a stand alone 501C3. There is no ownership of the hospital by any of the members of the Board of Directors.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Other Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	NA	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	NA	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	NA	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	NA	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	The construction of an 12 bed inpatient facility, 11 emergency treatment rooms and two out-patient procedure rooms.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

The funding is critical to providing essential healthcare throughout Calhoun-Liberty Jackson and Gulf Counties. As the only hospital serving these 4 counties and with the unprecedented construction cost escalation, the requested funds are imperative to the hospitals ability to fully restore services to this area. Calhoun Liberty Hospital is currently operating at 40% capacity with marginal services requiring a large number of local residents to travel extended distance to receive previously provided treatments and services. In 2018, Hurricane Michael destroyed an estimated 60% of the hospital triggering codes and standards that requires us to rebuild a new hospital. This funding accompanies additional state and federal funding awarded prior to construction costs escalation. The funds would accompany previously awarded state and federal funding.

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

To restore healthcare services throughout the hospital primary service area, funding from this request will offset the actual construction costs. In October of 2022, the hospital was astounded to receive a reconstruction bid for more than 2.7 times the anticipated costs estimates provided by both FEMA, and local architects and engineers. Even with cost saving measures including a reduction of bed capacity and removal of two operating rooms, the hospital is still facing a 8,000,000.00 funding short fall. The new hospital design will feature 12 inpatient care rooms and 2 scaled down out-patient procedure rooms. The newly designed emergency room will better accommodate a broader range of patients needs including limited mental health, pediatric populations, and extended tele-medicine services. The new facility will allow for enhanced safety measures and that take into account HIPAA privacy and patient confidentiality.

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

Funding for this project will provide improved access to extended healthcare services that patients are currently seeking outside of the hospitals primary service area or electing to not seek services when unavailable in the community. These services include diagnostic and procedural treatments that will improve the morbidity and mortality rates substantially through early detection and prompt intervention. Services such as Physical, Speech and Occupational therapy will allow for residents to receive continued care to reach optimal level of health post injury or illness. Advanced radiology exams provide for early detection of disease and improving outcomes. The new facility supports chronic care management, wound care, infusion and other critical services requiring the frequent follow up to be provided locally.

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

The composition of the area consists of multiple socioeconomic factors and challenges found with its rural population such as an 18.9% population over the age of 65, 20.3% of individuals living in poverty, and a median household income of \$38,568. As with most rural counties, access to healthcare is one of the primary challenges that bring further complication to this problem. The existing healthcare resources in Calhoun and Liberty County are frail due to the damage sustained by the hospital which is only able to continue operations at a 40% capacity.

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

Historically, the percentage of deaths in Calhoun County due to modifiable or even preventable diseases, such as chronic lower respiratory disease (50% higher), diabetes (14% higher), heart disease (43% higher), and stroke (11% higher) are drastically higher than the State of Florida average. Many of these residents faced the challenges of transportation issues due to poverty, and are unable to leave the area for healthcare. Without a hospital in this area, the disparity of care will drive these morbidity and mortality rates even higher. Utilizing the census data and Community Health Needs Assessment we will indirectly track the death rates for Calhoun and Liberty Counties year over year. The new hospital has plans for a community room for community health and wellness education reducing the effects of chronic disease as measured by the CHNA and the department of health annual data.

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?



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If the appropriation is granted as fixed capital outlay with a three-year contract period, we do not anticipate any delays. We suggest a reasonable monetary amount as a penalty for any delays encountered with the option to amend the contract when needed to account for delays that are outside of the control of the hospital. We suggest non-payment of any work left incomplete after the 3 year period of this appropriation.

15. Requester Contact Information

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

16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

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