



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2851

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Fire Watch is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. It is doing so by building an early intervention network of community gatekeepers trained to identify veterans in crisis and direct them to the resources they need. Based on CPR and funded largely by the State of Florida, the "Watch Stander" program reached 3,000 participants in 2022 and is on track for 5,000 by year end 2023. The program is implemented in partnership with FDVA and the Florida Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide.

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	560,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>560,000</b>

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)	560,000	71%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	40,000	5%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	146,000	18%
Other	49,000	6%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>795,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	540,000	576A	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.

The organization continues to work with local and federal partners to assist in programming funding as well as other donors.

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



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

## 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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director leads the organization and coordinates the implementation of the Watch Stander program and other selected veteran suicide prevention initiatives statewide. The Executive Director coordinates closely with the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs (FDVA) and the Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide. Half the ED's cost is Administrative and half is Operational.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Payroll, Accounting consultant costs \$10,000. Office Expenses: \$10,000	20,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Two Regional Coordinators, located in veteran suicide hotspots Broward and Hillsborough counties, are growing our Watch Standers network in those areas (\$80k each). One additional Regional Coordinator plus a Program Operator are in NE Florida and funded via local county contributions through Sept 2023 (\$40k). Also included is \$50k for ED operational costs.	250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment and Supplies for Regional Coordinators: \$4,000 Statewide travel for Regional Coordinators and the ED: \$16,000	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing Services, including planning, implementation, event coordination, digital, social media: \$120,000 Collateral, Printing and Advertising, Event Calendar upgrades: \$80,000 Website and App Maintenance and Upgrades, Resources Guide Development: \$20,000	220,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		560,000

#### 14. Program Performance

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

The Fire Watch is Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. It is doing so by building an early intervention network of community gatekeepers trained to identify veterans in crisis and direct them to the resources they need. Based on CPR and funded largely by the State of Florida, the "Watch Stander" program reached 3,000 participants in 2022 and is on track for 5,000 by year end 2023. The program is implemented in partnership with FDVA and the Florida Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide.

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

State funding will support the Fire Watch effort to grow our statewide early intervention network of Gatekeeper volunteers trained to direct at-risk veterans to the resources they need. This "Watch Stander" program is a fundamental initiative of FDVA's Governors Challenge to end veteran suicide.

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

The trained network of Watch Stander volunteers identify risk signs of veterans in crisis and direct those veterans to the help and resources they need. Based on CPR and with State funding from the most recent fiscal year, this program is available in all 67 counties in Florida and numbers more than 3,000 trained participants. The goal is 5,000 by year end 2023.

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

The target population includes our more 1.5 million U.S. military veterans residing in Florida. The project will serve 800+ people.

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

Our programs are focused on "Promoting Connectedness" and "Strengthening Access to and Delivery of Suicide Care Resources", consistent with the CDC's suicide prevention logic model. Short term measure (1 year) is to increase our early intervention network of community members by 2,000 Watch Standers. Long term (3 years) measure is to reduce veteran suicides in Florida by 20%. Short term (1 year) is to increase our early intervention network of community members by 2,000. We maintain records of every trained individual. As of 12 December 2022, we have 3,000 Watch Standers. The goal is 5,000 at the end of 2023. Long term (3 year): To be measured against the baseline 2019 Florida veteran suicide data we collected in partnership with NLP Logix.

##### 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?

Performance measures would be quarterly milestones tied to veteran suicide prevention program deliverables, including ROI reports toward specific 1-year measurables noted in section 19 of this document. Funding could be provided in quarterly increments and discontinued or withheld unless progress reports are submitted.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information



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**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**