



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1027

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

4. Project/Program Description

K9s United is a non profit organization based in Jacksonville, FL and is committed to supporting and honoring K9s who detect, protect and serve communities across the state by giving them the necessary equipment and quality of life during and after their service. Founder, Debbie Johnson, had the idea after hearing of the tragic death of Baron, a local K9. She felt moved to attend his funeral and consequently help. She enrolled in the Civilian Law Enforcement Academy, it was during a ride along, & subsequent meetings at the Sheriff's Office, that she learned of budgetary needs not being met by allocated funding. When a request is made we go directly to the vendor, negotiate a discount and donate the equipment directly to the agency.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	200,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	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 2025-2026	200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	400,000	1275	No

9. Is future-year 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

12. 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		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies & Equipment for K9 units Travel for instructors to 7 training seminars Lodging for instructors and K9's United representatives for 7 training seminars	159,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Instructor fees for 7 training seminars Program manager fees for administering training seminars & equipment purchases Grant manager fees for administering training seminars & equipment purchases	41,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		200,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Monies will be used to fund our program so that we can continue to provide much needed equipment not being met with agency budgets (heat alarms, bulletproof vests, bitesuits, tracking harnesses etc). Monies will also be used to provide much needed training seminars (such as tracking and decoy) for K9 Handlers throughout the state of FL.

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

Monies will be used to fund our program so that we can continue to provide much needed heat alarms, bulletproof vests, inserts for K9 vehicles, provide dogs for agencies in need in addition to hosting free advanced training seminars throughout the state of FL. Our goal is to continue to help supplement what is not being met due to agency budget constraints.

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

K9s Units are utilized to assist LE professionals in their community with crime prevention through education & presence. They also assist in criminal enforcement with dangerous suspect location & apprehension, narcotics & explosive detection, and evidence location & recovery. They also assist with locating lost children & adults, or adults who have walked away on foot due to mental disabilities.

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

Elderly, persons with poor mental health, at risk youth, developmentally disabled, drug users, preschool, grade school and high school students and victims of crime.

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

K9 Units will receive much needed advanced training through free seminars that we host along with training equipment to better serve their communities. We will be following up with handlers who we have directly helped in improving their skills to evaluate their progress, as well as seeing them the following year in training and observing the improvements they have made through evaluation in training.

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 in the contract?

Not allowed to apply for state funding for one year.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.