



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1362

1. **Project Title** Empowerment Pathway Project: Strengthening Services for Domestic Violence Survivors

2. **Senate Sponsor** Stan McClain

3. **Date of Request** 2/13/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Now in its second year, CASA Marion remains a vital resource for domestic violence survivors in Marion County, which ranks third in Florida for domestic violence-related calls. Despite the growing need, funding for domestic violence shelters has not increased in over a decade and continues to decline, making it increasingly difficult to sustain operations.

Running a shelter requires substantial funding for staffing, facility maintenance, utilities, security, and essential services, yet current state funding falls short. Without additional support, CASA Marion will be forced to cut staff, limiting its ability to serve victims in one of Florida's hardest-hit communities.

To prevent these cuts, the Marion County Hospital District (MCHD) is requesting \$1,000,000 to bridge the funding gap. As in the first year, MCHD will oversee the distribution of funds and monitor program outcomes to ensure CASA Marion remains a lifeline for survivors in need.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	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	1,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	1,000,000	318A	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 1,000,000



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

There are no other sources available at this time.

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	This amount to cover shared services personnel including the programs team, grants team, finance team, HR team, as well as direct service personnel.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	This amount to cover various operational costs including basic needs supplies, cleaning supplies, equipment, furniture, repairs and maintenance, utilities, etc.	770,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	This amount to cover audit and other consultant services as contractually required.	30,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance



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

In its second year of operation, CASA Marion remains an essential lifeline for survivors of domestic violence in Marion County, which continues to experience an alarming rate of 300 domestic violence-related calls per month and has already seen three related homicides this year. To sustain these critical services, we urgently seek \$1,000,000 in funding to cover operational expenses, including staffing, food, and facility operations. While initial funding helped establish the shelter, ongoing support is necessary to maintain full operations and ensure that survivors have a safe haven. Without this funding, the shelter will face staff reductions, limiting its ability to respond to the growing crisis in a county that ranks third in Florida for domestic violence-related calls. Continued investment is essential to protecting lives and providing the support survivors need to rebuild their futures.

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

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) allocates limited funding to domestic violence shelters across the state. The organizational costs associated with operating a domestic violence shelter in Florida encompass various elements. These include personnel salaries, facility maintenance, utility expenses, program coordination, training, security measures, outreach efforts, and administrative functions. These costs contribute to the overall functioning, safety, and effectiveness of the shelter in providing critical support and resources for individuals facing domestic violence.

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

The Marion County Hospital District is dedicated to utilizing the designated funds to guarantee that the certified domestic violence provider offers crucial services directly to citizens in Marion County facing domestic violence. These services comprise a 24-hour or longer Emergency Shelter, counseling, a 24-hour Marion County hotline, assessment of children, information and referral for direct services, case management, non-residential outreach services, community education, and professional training.

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

Marion County's growing population and high domestic violence rates—ranking third in Florida with over 300 calls to law enforcement each month—have increased the number of individuals in need of support. This project specifically serves survivors of domestic violence, providing them with safe shelter, essential resources, and the stability needed to rebuild their lives. As the county expands, so does the vulnerable population, making sustained funding critical to meet rising demands for survivor services.

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

The expected benefit of a domestic violence shelter is providing a safe and secure environment for individuals and families affected by domestic violence. This outcome involves offering temporary housing, protection, and support to survivors, allowing them to escape immediate danger and work towards rebuilding their lives. Measuring outcomes for a domestic violence shelter involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to assess the effectiveness of the services provided. Key elements of the methodology include case management data, client surveys, collaboration with other agencies, safety planning, and participant participation rates.

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?

1. Warning & Rectification Period: Formal warning with a chance to correct minor issues within 30 days of notice
2. Financial Deductions: Percentage-based deductions from future payments for continued non-compliance.
3. Withholding Funds: Delay or withhold future disbursements for significant breaches.
5. Scaling Penalties: More severe breaches incur larger penalties.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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)



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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#:

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	Curt	Last Name	Bromund
b. Organization	Marion County Hospital District		
c. E-mail Address	Curt@mchdt.org		
d. Phone Number	(352)789-5416	Ext.	

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization	Marion County Hospital District
b. Municipality and County	Marion
c. Organization Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> For Profit Entity	



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- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify) Dependent Special District

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

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.