



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1445

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Research shows that anti-human trafficking programs incorporating peer mentors are highly effective in building social capital and improving participant outcomes. Peer support is closely linked to enhanced psychological well-being, resilience, and the prevention of re-victimization and recidivism. Peer-led approaches foster meaningful connections and provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed support that complements traditional professional services. The Anti-Human Trafficking Survivor Mentor Certificate Program directly addresses the need for survivor mentorship by equipping mentors with the skills and knowledge necessary to support trauma recovery, empower mentees, and practice self-care. This ensures that mentors are not only effective in their roles but are also protected from the long-term effects of vicarious trauma. Florida ranks 3rd in the nation for reported human trafficking cases, highlighting the critical need for awareness, prevention and support for survivors.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	330,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	330,000

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)	330,000	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	330,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

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	CEO of SAMH, plays a critical role in ensuring the program's alignment with the organization's mission, compliance with state and federal regulations, and the effective use of resources. Oversee financial management, reporting, and overall program evaluation to ensure long-term sustainability and success. High-level leadership helps to navigate any challenges and ensure statewide implementation.	15,500
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries, taxes and health benefits for 20% allocation of 4 Full-time staff Training Department, 20% of 1 Full-time Sr. Training Director to provide statewide expertise and training implementation of evidence based model, Data and Finance staff support (5%) each allocation.	92,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel and outreach for staff travel to conduct in-person training sessions, stakeholder engagements and community outreach efforts. Technology and Software purchase for statewide online training platform, virtual meeting tools and database management for participant tracking. Office operations shared office expenses, including utilities, phone, and internet services.	63,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Curriculum Developer responsible for designing engaging materials, such as lesson plans, presentations, case studies, role-playing scenarios, and multimedia resources (e.g., videos, infographics). Develop assessments (e.g., quizzes, knowledge checks) to evaluate participant understanding and retention.	20,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Human Trafficking Program Advisor(s) from Deloris Barr Weaver Policy Center to serve as an expert consultants to enhance the program's effectiveness. Advising on curriculum design and alignment with best practices and Florida specific needs. Evaluation expertise to will provide strategic insights and specialized expertise to strengthen the training for Certified Recovery Peer Specialists and other professionals.	138,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		330,000

13. Program Performance

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

Research shows that anti-human trafficking programs incorporating peer mentors are highly effective in building social capital and improving participant outcomes. Peer support is closely linked to enhanced psychological well-being, resilience, and the prevention of re-victimization and recidivism. Peer-led approaches foster meaningful connections and provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed support that complements traditional professional services. The goal is to create and deliver a comprehensive anti-human trafficking statewide certification for survivor peers and provide community training.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Survivor Mentor Certificate Program directly addresses the need for survivor mentorship by equipping mentors with the skills and knowledge necessary to support trauma recovery, empower mentees, and practice self-care. This ensures that mentors are not only effective in their roles but are also protected from the long-term effects of vicarious trauma.

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

Funds will support creating and implementing a statewide certification program for survivor mentors. This includes developing a specialized curriculum co-authored by survivors. Training topics will include: Identifying trafficking indicators, trauma-informed care for survivors, legal frameworks, victim rights and coordinated response strategies. Ongoing support to trainees post-training, evaluation to monitor and measure impact. The curriculum will be piloted with a cohort of survivors, with adjustments made based on feedback before finalization.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services including: 1.Trauma-Informed Peer Mentorship: Certified survivor mentors will offer trauma-informed support to trafficking survivors, helping them feel heard and foster resilience. 2.Specialized Training for Mentors: Mentors will receive training to provide consistent, high-quality support, improving care quality and standards for mentorship. 3.Support for Vulnerable Populations: Survivors will gain access to structured peer support, addressing their unique challenges and bridging existing service gaps. 4.Community Awareness and Education: The project will enhance community awareness of trafficking and promote education on trauma-informed care. 5.Improved Community Safety: By supporting survivors, the program contributes to overall community safety and well-being. 6.Empowerment Through Skills Development: Survivors and mentors will develop essential skills, promoting long-term recovery and independence.

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

The target population served by this project includes survivors of human trafficking who have exited the life and wish to give back to the community as survivor mentors. These trained mentors will, in turn, serve 150 other victims/survivors, community partners, and stakeholders of human trafficking helping to support and connect them with resources. The project is expected to create approximately 15 statewide trainers seeking certification in the first year, plus the survivors they will each support as part of the training requirements.

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



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Reduced Incarceration Costs: Incarcerating one individual costs \$24,000 annually, compared to \$3,000–\$5,000 for community-based services. Workforce Development: Certified mentors contribute to the economy through higher employment and productivity rates. Improved Quality of Life: 80% of clients served by certified Survivor mentors will experience an increase in quality of life as measured by the Therapeutic Alliance Tool. Improved Survivor Outcomes: Participants report better housing stability, education enrollment, and employment rates. This will be measured by pre and post surveys given to training participants prior to the training and one year post training. Employment Boost: Certification can increase survivor employment rates by 30% within two years.

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?

Suggested penalties for failing to meet deliverables provided for in the contract will result in a reduction in the amount of the monthly payment after finding substantial evidence of non-delivery of services as required by the contract. The suggested penalty for failing to meet performance measures provided for in the contract is a review of the deficiencies to determine if it is critical, major or minor. If the deficiency is minor, the opportunity to work with DCF staff to correct and closeout the deficiency. If it is a major or critical deficiency, an Outcome Based Corrective Action Plan will be created and submitted to the DCF for review and approval. LSF will meet requirements of the Corrective Action Plan within an agreed upon timeline.

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)
- 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



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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

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.