



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1534

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The UF Forensic Interview Center will be the center for advanced forensic interviewing education in Florida. It will work with the Department of Health (DOH), to train CPT forensic interviewers; to develop a first of its kind credentialing test and help with its administration; to train on advanced forensic interviewing. The Center will work with FDLE, law enforcement agencies, and Child Advocacy Centers. The goal is to have a center of excellence that assures the most advanced techniques.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

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)	500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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	500,000	152	No

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

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

No other source is available.

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	1 - PI \$78,300 National and international child abuse pediatrician expert.	78,300
Other Salary and Benefits	1 FTE- \$107,000 Program manager. Expert forensic interviewer. .05 FTE \$17,000 National and international child abuse pediatrician expert.	124,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Computer \$1500 Rent \$600/month Supplies \$7000 Travel \$10,000	25,700
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Jay Howell JD - led two state committees on Forensic Interviewing and issued a comprehensive report to DOH, the legislature and governor's office Carleen Taylor PhD Expert with support animals, and related to interviewing Amy Binder EdD Expert with support animals, and related to interviewing	70,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	\$15,000 Credentialing lead and CPT forensic interviewer. - 3 forensic interview assistants \$5,000 each Danielle Hughes. \$15,000. Initial contact lead and CPT forensic interviewer - 2 forensic interview assistants @\$5000 each	55,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Seminar with national experts - 2 days \$20,000 Website \$15,000 Supplies \$2000	37,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	David Corwin MD, Julie Keniston, Patti Toth JD. \$60,000 Out of state national experts and reviewers of the program, They will conduct 2 conferences in addition Credentialing agency for interview testing \$50,000	110,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The UF Forensic Interview Center will be the center for advanced forensic interviewing education in Florida. It will work with the Department of Health (DOH), to train CPT forensic interviewers; to develop a first of its kind credentialing test and help with its administration; to train on advanced forensic interviewing. The Center will work with FDLE, law enforcement agencies, and Child Advocacy Centers. The goal is to have a center of excellence that assures the most advanced techniques.

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

1. Advanced training with national experts.
2. Test implementation and dissemination with accrediting agency.
3. Initial contact training education disseminated to state Attorneys, DCF, some police and others who have contact with children.
4. Animal assistance "how to" for CPTs and other agencies.
5. Website.

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

The training Center will help front line professionals who do the actual forensic interviewing throughout Florida.

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

At-risk youth, developmentally disabled, and victims of crime. >800

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

1. Two Seminar with national experts. Define the next generation forensic interviews. Enduring materials generated. Time frame: By May 2026 Conferences occur and recorded material available
2. Forensic interview test development and dissemination with accrediting agency. Time frame: June 2026 Test in use and at least 50 test takers
3. Initial contact training. State Attorneys, DCF, teachers, some police. Time frame: June 2026 - number of trainings
4. Therapy Dogs. Therapy dogs have proven useful to help calm children who may be in distress. Rules about their use in Florida vary. A model procedure, supported by legal and psychological research, will be developed for use by jurisdictions in Florida for forensic interviews. Time frame: June 2026

**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?**

Return of unused funds if deliverables are not met.

**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):**



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**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**  **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)



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- 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.*