



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1613

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline (FVLH) staff will provide direct legal assistance to low-income veterans to reduce civil law barriers that threaten the individual's employability, their individual or family financial stability and independence, their ability to gain and sustain employment, or their ability to build and sustain individual/family assets. FVLH attorneys will provide direct advice and assistance to low-income veterans over the phone, schedule appointments for extended services with full-time attorney who focus solely on veterans, and coordinate referrals to partners throughout the state of Florida. This FVLH will provide access to services for a population that would otherwise not have access to legal advice and representation.

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	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	73%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	366,466	27%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,366,466	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	602	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.

If state funds not available, some combination of LSC, local, and donations would be used but most of this funding has income restrictions which would impact client eligibility.



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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	Team Leader	91,104
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	6.5 full-time attorneys, 2 full-time administrative support, 1 part-time screener	548,896
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	1.5 attorney/paralegal* full-time equivalent, subcontract - 1.5 attorney/paralegal* full-time equivalent, subcontract - Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) 1.5 attorney/paralegal* full-time equivalent, subcontract - Legal Services of North Florida (LSNF) 1.5 attorney/paralegal* full-time equivalent, subcontract - United Way of Broward County (UWBC) *At least 1.0 of the 1.5 full-time equivalent will be filled by an attorney	360,000
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

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



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

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline (FVLH) attorneys will provide direct advice and assistance to low-income veterans over the phone, schedule appointments for extended services with full-time attorneys who focus solely on veterans, and coordinate referrals to partners throughout the State of Florida. This FVLH will provide access to services for a population that would otherwise not have access to legal advice and representation.

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

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline (FVLH) attorneys will provide direct advice and assistance to low-income veterans over the phone, schedule appointments for extended services with full-time attorneys who focus solely on veterans, and coordinate referrals to partners throughout the State of Florida.

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

Low-income veterans and their family members throughout the State of Florida.

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

Access to legal advice and assistance at no cost to eligible veterans to reduce civil law barriers that threaten the individual's employability, their individual or family financial stability and independence, their ability to gain and sustain employment, or their ability to build and sustain individual/family assets. Case management software will track the number of clients served, level of service, outcomes and more.

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?

No reimbursement if a failure to deliver.

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.