



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1702

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Project TALKS - Talk, Act, Listen, Know, Support - is to create a "Talkable Community" in Northeast Florida leveraging the power of 5 Behavioral Health agencies across 6 counties. Our project creates a trauma informed community that will encourage healthy conversations, activities and interventions leading to a focus on mental well-being and healthier lives. It creates a co-response team who will partner with local law enforcement to reduce incarceration, a care coordination team to reduce Emergency Department diversion and support for families through comprehensive mental health training programs across multiple organizations.

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	600,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	600,000

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)	600,000	45%
Matching Funds		
Federal	125,000	9%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	313,375	24%
Local	102,897	8%
Other	191,000	14%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,332,272	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		
2024-25	0	550,000	377	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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1702

Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare leverages funding from federal and private grants, local support and a contract with the managing entity to support activities in Project TALKS including mental health awareness training, care coordination, co-response, and trauma informed therapy. Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare is in need of continued funding to support and expand co-response teams and care coordination within the community due to the completion of our Florida Blue Foundation Grant

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	Partial funding for organizational leadership salaries including CEO, COO, Director of Grants Management, Project Director, Finance Coordinator, and Fringe benefits include the cost of taxes, workers compensation insurance, medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, health savings plan, unemployment insurance, and retirement plans.	100,664
Other Salary and Benefits	This covers the costs related to Human Resources and related hiring costs, Accounting and Finance, Information Technologies, employee development, well-being, and essential operational needs.	54,596
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses related to project for staff identified above including Occupancy, Professional services, travel, supplies, insurance, license fees, subscriptions, etc.	45,268
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Partial funding for salaries of Team Leader and two Suicide Prevention Training Coordinators. Full funding for Emergency Department Diversion, Co-responder, and Peer Support Specialist. Fringe benefits include the cost of taxes, workers compensation insurance, medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, health savings plan, unemployment etc.	177,178



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1702

Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses related to project for staff identified above including Occupancy, Professional services, travel, supplies, insurance, license fees, subscriptions, etc.	182,294
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds will support trainers and liaisons through the Northeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to prioritize comprehensive training, effective coordination, and robust communication channels to maximize the impact of the program across participating agencies.	40,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		600,000

13. Program Performance

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

The goal of Project TALKS- Talk, Act, Listen, Know, Support- is to create a "Talkable Community" in Northeast Florida leveraging the power of 5 Behavioral Health agencies across 6 counties. Our project creates a trauma informed community that will encourage healthy conversations, activities, and interventions leader to a focus on mental health and well-being. It will enhance co-responder teams partnering with local law enforcement to reduce incarceration and connect offenders with community-based mental health services, emergency department diversion and supports for families and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. With the enhancement of the care coordination and co-response teams includes face-to-face follow-ups to increase access to and engagement in supportive services for those in the community.

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

1. Create talkable communities throughout Northeast Florida to increase the number of individuals with the ability to respond to mental health crisis.
2. Expand care coordination activities at Baptist Nassau Crossing to connect with those experiencing mental health crisis through connection to necessary direct services, connection to community resources, and providing face-to-face follow-up until the person is stable.
3. Expand our partnership with local law enforcement to integrate mental health professionals within their response teams and provide trauma support to their first responders.
4. Provide comprehensive behavioral health services and trauma support to family and friends who have lost someone due to suicide and/or overdose.
5. Provide face-to-face follow-up services within 72 hours of emergency department visit or interaction with law enforcement through peer support to increase access to services.

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

1. Training in Mental Health First Aid and QPR throughout 6 counties in Northeast Florida.
2. Care Coordinators expanding to the Baptist Nassau Crossing location on-site will allow for the individuals needs to be met during a mental health crisis, baker act and/or overdose. This allows the Care Coordinator to assess the individuals needs, develop a care plan, provide direct services, connect to community resources, and provide face-to-face follow-up until the person is stable.
3. The new Co-Responder team will partner with law enforcement to intervene and provide direct intervention to those identified as having a mental health crisis following a 911 or 988 call as well as face-to-face follow-ups with the individuals 72 hours after the call.
4. Continue providing Crisis Counselors who are trained in trauma informed care to provide individual and group support to families and first responders after a death by suicide.

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

The target population for this project includes individuals with mental illness, individuals and families experiencing a mental health crisis, individuals who commit crimes with an identified mental health concern, families and friends who have suffered loss due to suicide/overdose, community members in need of training for youth and adults on the awareness of mental health. Training will be tracked through measuring the number of community members who received the training and the number of trainers available to provide the training.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1702

The integration of MH professionals with LEO will reduce incidences related to arrests and trauma. This project will look at those who are baker acted and the number of mental health interventions that led to reduction in arrests. Care Coordination has been shown to increase individuals engagement with comprehensive behavioral health services through follow up care. Care coordinators who complete follow-ups will focus on individuals needs, improved access to care in the community, and a decrease in the costs associated with high utilization of emergency departments. This project will measure the % of individuals enrolled in care coordination, % of individuals who engage in care coordination, and % of individuals who refuse care coordination. This project will also measure the recidivism rate of individuals in the emergency department by looking at the % of individuals who have a readmission to the emergency department within 30 days.

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?

Penalties for this project include loss of contract and funding if deliverables are not met.

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#:

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):



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1702

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.