



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1726

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Develop a strong training module for new guardians, and importantly to effectuate the supervised hands-on training program as has been recommended by two separate task force groups. Will assist with alleviating the waitlists many of the Public Guardians maintain in accepting court appointments to new cases. The training program will prioritize undertaking these very cases on the waitlists, and all work performed will be for those pro-bono cases in each of the 20 Judicial Circuits. And fostering a mechanism to improve best practices related to guardianship.

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	174,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	174,000

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)	174,000	81%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	40,000	19%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	214,000	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		

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.



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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	Project Director, contracted services, to coordinate and supervise all deliverables, ensure quality standards.	30,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Audiovisual technical support for initial and on-going trainings, web online content technical assistance, cooresponding training physical venues as needed, and travel, supplies, and materials.	46,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Audiovisual technical support for initial and on-going trainings, web online content technical assistance, corresponding training physical venues as needed, and travel, supplies, and materials.	98,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		174,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Project can be traced to the Florida's Dept. of Elder Affairs and its previously called Statewide Public Guardianship Office SPGO (now OPPG) since 2010. The special training and mentoring program which has not been available is still referenced in the State's official training manual up front in its first chapter. Continues to be strongly supported by the DOEA and the Courts.

A strong hands-on training and mentoring program will now be implemented, and also provide cost-savings to the State by assuming pro-bono cases on the wait-lists of Public Guardians.

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

Will develop and fully implement an education and training program targeting newly registered practitioners in guardianship from the outset. Qualified instructors/supervisors in good standing will be enlisted, also qualified guardians. And will partner with various related organizations and interested parties such as licensed social workers, disability advocacy groups, the Alzheimer's Association, mental health groups, and judges.

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

Though seemingly indirectly for the intended beneficiary, those most vulnerable, these individuals will assuredly gain in general nonetheless. Practitioners will be better prepared and qualified to assist having had additional training and critical individual supervision. The added responsiveness to the individual situation contributes directly to better person-centered care and attention.

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

Those that are among the most vulnerable, range from frail elderly to younger mentally ill adults. (200-300)

- Elderly
- Persons with poor mental health
- Persons with poor physical health
- Developmentally disabled
- Physically disabled

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

The special and enhanced training program will provide precisely the on-point training recommended by the Florida Clerk's Guardianship Improvement Task Force led by Pinellas Clerk Ken Burke. Enhanced Education of Professionals and Parties in Guardianship was one of the top 9 areas recommended for needed focus as outlined in its 2022 report. Provide reports of all those receiving the enhanced education and training, and by professional categories as well to in order at a minimum indicate the level of participation.

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 unused funds if unable to perform deliverables as presented in contract and/or proportionate reduction in funding if unable to complete all deliverables planned.

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?



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- 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)
- Local Entity



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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.