



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1736

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

K9 Partners for Patriots, Inc. is seeking state funding to implement and expand a comprehensive mental health counseling, animal assisted therapy, and service dog training program for veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Military Sexual Trauma (MST). The goal is to restore independence and freedom by improving mental health, reducing suicide rates, sustaining recovery from substance abuse, and empowering veterans through enhanced emotional regulation and vocational integration, fostering self-sufficiency, and long-term success in civilian life.

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	251,073
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>251,073</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)	251,073	58%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	180,286	42%
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>431,359</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		
2022-23	0	175,000	576A	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.**

Federal funding through USUHS-Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program will partially fund our mental health program for FY2025-2026. Additional years of funding through USUHS are available after competitive bidding process and selection.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1736

### 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administrative Costs fund leadership to ensure strategic management, compliance, and efficiency. The CEO (0.10 FTE) oversees planning, sustainability, and regulatory adherence. The COO (0.15 FTE) manages daily operations, logistics, and program execution. Executive oversight ensuring adherence to service standards and financial accountability.	23,935
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Operational Personnel funds skilled staff for counseling, instruction, and veteran engagement. The LCSW (0.35 FTE) provides therapy and assessments. The Veteran Specialist (0.65 FTE) recruits and coordinates support. Instructors (1.25 FTE) implement animal-assisted therapy and service dog training, ensuring structured interventions and long-term recovery outcomes.	135,871
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program Materials, Travel, and Aftercare funds essential resources, technology, transportation, and post-program support. It covers training materials, biometric tracking devices, and telehealth tools for therapy. Travel assistance ensures rural veterans can attend sessions. Aftercare includes service dog recertification, counseling, and peer support, promoting long-term stability and resilience.	91,267
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1736

<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>251,073</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------

**13. Program Performance**

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

The funds will support Operation Resilience, which offers mental health counseling, animal-assisted therapy, and service dog training to veterans with PTSD, TBI, and MST. The goal is to restore independence and freedom by improving mental health, reducing suicide rates, sustaining recovery from substance abuse, and empowering veterans through enhanced emotional regulation and vocational integration, fostering self-sufficiency, and long-term success in civilian life.

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

The activities provided include trauma-informed mental health counseling, animal-assisted therapy, service dog training, and biometric tracking. Veterans will engage in weekly counseling and therapy sessions, service dog training that enhances emotional regulation and social mobility, and real-time biometric monitoring for long-term symptom management.

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

The funding will provide veterans with PTSD, TBI, and MST access to mental health counseling, animal-assisted therapy, and service dog training. Services include individual and group therapy, biometric symptom tracking, telehealth access, veteran travel assistance, and aftercare programs, ensuring long-term stability, crisis prevention, and improved quality of life.

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

The target population served will be U.S. Military Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD, TBI, and MST, including rural and low income veterans. We expect to serve up to 800 Veterans. We currently have 782 active Veterans enrolled in our program and our program grows every month.

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

Expected Outcomes: Reduction in symptoms of PTSD, TBI, and MST among participating veterans, as measured by standardized assessment tools. Increased engagement in mental health care, with high levels of satisfaction reported by veterans and their families. Strengthened familial bonds, leading to better reintegration into civilian life and improved quality of life for veterans and their families. Reduced suicidal ideation among program participants. Reduction in symptoms of PTSD, TBI, and MST among participating veterans, will be measured by standardized assessment tools and tracked by researchers with the University of Central Florida.

**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?**

If the contractor fails to meet key performance benchmarks, they must submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) within 30 days, detailing deficiencies, solutions, and a timeline for correction. If issues persist, the agency may withhold 10-20% of the next payment until improvements are verified. Continued noncompliance may result in contract termination for cause, ensuring funds are redirected to providers who can meet deliverables and maintain program integrity.

**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):**



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1736

**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)



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1736

- 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.*