



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1759

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

These funds will support the health of service dogs both during training and after pairing with their disabled recipients, overseen by our nonprofit veterinary teaching hospital. The request includes funding for veterinary staff who contribute to service dog apprentice training and provide practicum opportunities for FSU veterinary students.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	250,000	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.

Insufficient federal funding for Service Dogs creates a necessity for funding at the state level. No other funding sources have been identified as of yet, but we constantly mine for private donations, as well as Federal and local government 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Veterinarian and veterinary technicians	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Prescription supplements, foods, and pharmaceuticals	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Veterinary services throughout the state.	150,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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

The funds will ensure the health and well-being of highly trained service dogs, enabling them to perform their critical roles in supporting individuals with disabilities. This initiative provides comprehensive veterinary care beyond \$1,300 annually, covering routine, emergency, and specialized medical needs. Additionally, the funds will support the operations of a non-profit veterinary teaching hospital, addressing veterinary workforce shortages in Florida, improving animal welfare, and fostering the development of skilled professionals essential for the state's agricultural and animal health sectors.

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



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Comprehensive veterinary services will be provided for service dogs, including routine check-ups, vaccinations, emergency treatments, and specialized care, with costs exceeding \$1,300 annually covered by the program. Provide operating support for the on-campus non-profit veterinary teaching hospital. Provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and apprentices, contributing to improved animal welfare and access to high-quality veterinary care in underserved communities.

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

Funds will be used to pay for veterinary services in excess of \$1,300 for disabled recipients in Florida who rely on our service dogs and procure veterinary care throughout the state

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

The primary beneficiaries are service dogs and the animal health ecosystem, including veterinary students and service dog recipients. Approximately 500 service dogs and their handlers will benefit annually, with additional indirect benefits to the veterinary and agricultural industries.

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

Expected outcomes include improved health and longevity for service dogs, reduced strain on handlers due to veterinary costs, and an expanded pool of trained veterinary and service dog professionals to address workforce shortages in Florida. These outcomes will be measured through service dog health records, handler feedback, and employment data for program graduates.

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?

Standard contract penalties for failing to meet deliverables are sufficient.

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:



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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

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.