



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2537

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Roughly 20 veterans die by suicide every day, and K9s For Warriors is committed to change that. Determined to end veteran suicide, K9s For Warriors provides highly-trained Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma. With the majority of our dogs coming from high-kill rescue shelters, our innovative program allows the Warrior/K9 team to build an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery. During the three week training process, veterans learn and practice skills that allow them to regain their independence. The program goes further than handing over a leash and sending veterans on their way — K9s For Warriors' staff provides resources to veterans long before they walk through the doors, and the relationships formed during their stay remain long after they return home. For more information, visit [www.k9sforwarriors.org](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org).

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</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)	1,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
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>1,500,000</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		
2024-25	0	2,000,000	604A	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.

The lack of federal funding for PTSD Service Dogs creates a necessity for funding at the state level.



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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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for Warrior Operations Staff; Caregiver Support Staff; K9 Training Staff, K9 Care Taking Staff, and Veterinary Staff.	1,000,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Service Dogs: acquisition, vet. care, canine health insurance, transportation, food & supplies, off-site training; Warrior Training Program: trainers' gear, screening/processing, meals, warriors' gear, supplies, transportation, office and facilities; Caregiver Training Program: equip., facilities, utilities, office supplies, outreach materials.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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K9s For Warriors is committed to ending veteran suicide and returning veterans to a life of dignity and independence. This funding will be used to provide a trained service dog, housing, meals, equipment, veterinary care, training, and wrap around support services to Florida veterans, and wrap around support services and training for the spouses, children, or other family and friends who are the direct support-givers for the Florida veterans in our program.

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

K9s For Warriors provides a trained Service Dog, lifelong peer-to-peer support, suicide intervention, crisis intervention, family and spousal support, and assistance with any other issues that a veteran may need assistance with to maintain stability in their life. K9s also provides training and support focused on the unique needs of family members serving as Caregivers for our veterans.

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

K9s For Warriors trains and pairs veterans with a trained service dog and provides direct peer support, suicide intervention, crisis intervention, and family/spousal support. Additionally, K9s provides provides training and support focused on the unique needs of spouses, children, and other family members serving as Caregivers for our veterans.

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

Veterans of all eras diagnosed with PTSD, TBI, and/or MST and their caregivers. Over 200 are expected to be served.

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

Higher morning Cortisol output, indicative of healthier stress levels; reduced PTSD symptoms; better physiological well-being. Standardized PTSD assessments such as the PCL-5 will be used.

**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?**

In the event K9s For Warriors fails to meet the contractual deliverables, the financial consequences would be that FDVA recover its actual administrative costs attributable to the failure or delay. In fiscal year 2020-2021 the FDVA estimated the daily costs of the financial consequences to be \$71.83.

**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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LFIR # 2537

**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.*