



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2702

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

For several years law enforcement has requested that Safe in the Panhandle open an emergency shelter for victims of human trafficking instead of placing them in jail as they are victims not criminals. In response to this request, we have purchased a six-bedroom home and property to meet this need. This request is for a matching grant to provide two years of operational expenses as Safe in the Panhandle has met their portion of the match.

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	487,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	487,000

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)	487,000	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	487,000	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



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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	The director will provide leadership, strategic direction, and management for all activities of the emergency intake center. This role is responsible for overseeing implementation of national programs, ensuring financial and legal compliance, driving local fundraising efforts, and managing staff/volunteers.	75,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	The center staff will include 10 team members rotating 24-hour shifts. An emergency intake center manager oversees operations, while a care coordinator facilitates therapeutic and life-skills classes. The case manager handles medical, psychiatric, and program needs. Resident assistants provide care during nights and weekends, addressing emergencies and ensuring a trauma-informed environment.	270,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Covers 100% of survivor care, including residential services, medical and psychiatric appointments, travel to long-term programs, therapeutic materials, utilities, staff technology, and nutritious meals, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for healing and growth.	142,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		487,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Requested funding will be used to establish an emergency intake center for exploited women in the Florida Panhandle. The priority is to provide a compassionate and therapeutic environment where survivors can experience a sense of safety. The intake center will close a gap in services between rescue and long-term residential placement for survivors.

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

Survivors of human trafficking require a specialized trauma informed care program. This plan is designed specifically for them and establishes a foundation to build trust, respect and privacy while building relationships. The center will provide an environment that fosters stability, peer support and the optimum conditions to begin the healing process.

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

Women in trafficking situations have little or no access to health care. Upon entry into the emergency intake center, each person will be screened for medical, dental and mental health issues that need immediate care. Improving physical and mental health will empower survivors to shift from survival mode to using their voice in decisions directly affecting their future. Traffickers control their victims through various means: drugs, starvation and physical abuse. Drug addiction requires expert intervention and will also be evaluate during the intake screening process.

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

The target population served by the center are women who are being exploited and trafficked in the counties that comprise the Florida Panhandle. There is not an emergency intake center in the seven counties that make up the Panhandle. The center will be the only one of its kind and will meet a critical need and impact multiple communities. We estimate 200-400 women per year will find freedom as well as a new beginning at the Emergency Intake Center.

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

The Emergency Intake Center will not only benefit the victims of human trafficking but will provide law enforcement with a critical resource. The judicial system will be impacted by fewer cases before the bench and recidivism can be reduced. The center will be a link in the collaborative network needed to eradicate exploitation in the communities where we work, live and play. The methodology will begin with data collection on all clients as they progress from survival mode to self-sufficiency. Data collection will be done at pre-determined times frames for evaluation and program effectiveness.

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?

Safe in the Panhandle could incur financial penalties and suffer damage to our organization's reputation.

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?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No



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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

University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**



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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.