



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2725

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Animal Shelter faces challenges that limit its ability to effectively serve both the animals and the community. This proposal seeks to enhance the facility by addressing critical infrastructure issues, expanding space, and upgrading key areas to create a safe, comfortable environment for animals in its care. Some key improvements include renovating the dog kennels and cat rooms; a new adoption center for meet-and-greets and adoption processing; a dedicated grooming area to ensure proper hygiene and care; expanding intake, quarantine, and storage space; and adding a vet clinic and pet food pantry for low-income families. These upgrades will enhance animal welfare, encourage responsible pet ownership, and promote healthier pets, leading to stronger community engagement and benefit public health.

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 | 0 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 2,280,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 2,280,000 |

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) | 2,280,000 | 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 | 2,280,000 | 100% |

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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?** No

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

09/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/01/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Agency budgeted funding through the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.

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.

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Animal Shelter is a constitutional office of Hernando County.

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 | | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | | 0 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | | 0 |
| Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation: | | |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering | All funding will be used for construction/improvements at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Animal Shelter. | 2,280,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 2,280,000 |

13. Program Performance

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



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This proposal aims to create a safe, comfortable, and efficient environment for all animals in the shelter's care by addressing critical infrastructure challenges and enhance its capacity to serve both the animals and the public. We also seek to educate and support the community by making veterinary services and adoption more accessible, while promoting responsible pet ownership and reducing pet abandonment. Ultimately, the goal is to modernize and improve the shelter, so it can better serve both the animals and the community, ensuring long term benefits for animal welfare and public health.

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

Our goal is to renovate and upgrade key infrastructure, including dog kennels, drainage, ventilation, pole barn, and cat rooms. We plan to add a new adoption center to better accommodate meet-and-greets and adoption processing, along with a dedicated grooming area to ensure proper hygiene and care. We will also increase space for intakes, quarantine, and storage, a veterinary clinic and pet food pantry for low-income individuals/families, and implement a Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program for stray cats in the community.

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

The new adoption center will enhance meet-and-greet sessions and streamline the adoption process, improving the overall experience for the public and reducing pet returns. The addition of a veterinary clinic and pet food pantry will support low-income pet owners who may not otherwise have access to essential veterinary care, promoting responsible pet ownership and reducing pet abandonment. Implementing a Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program will help reduce the stray animal population, promoting healthier, more sustainable communities.

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

The target population includes the animals as well as the staff and volunteers at the animal shelter, along with the 218,000 residents of Hernando County.

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

Improved well being of the animals, measured by observations or feedback from staff and volunteers. Higher adoption rates, measured by shelter data. Less adoption returns, measured by shelter data. Increased public engagement, measured by increased adoption rates, pet retention rates, and customer satisfaction surveys. Increased workplace engagement, performance, and mental well being for the employees and volunteers, measured by surveys and feedback.

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?

We are committed to meeting all deliverables and performance measures outlined in the contract, and if we're unable to do so, we believe the standard contract penalties will be appropriate.

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



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- 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
- University or College
- Other (please specify)



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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.