



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2991

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

This interventional problem-solving Veterans Treatment Court diverts the Veteran from the Criminal justice system, reduces recidivism (with the accompanying Mentor program) and substance abuse, saves incarceration money and lives, enhances the individual's economic self-sufficiency which carries over to the family, while decreasing suicidal ideation, improving physical and mental health and creating specific immediate job opportunities while improving public safety. This program provides a Second Chance at life for both the Veteran and the associated family.

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	150,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>150,000</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)	150,000	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>150,000</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	150,000	3307	No

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.

**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
<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	Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator	65,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Laptop, monitor, printer, and scanner for the Vet Court Training-NADCP Conference- Vet Court Coordinator Mileage- Vet Court Coordinator- travel in county to jail, etc. Office Supplies- Vet Court Coordinator	5,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Veteran's Care Coordinator/Mentor Salary (part- time) General Liability Ins., cell phones, office supplies, mileage, training, shipping, administrative expenses; Treatment services for 30 participants which include assessments psychosocia/biopsychosocial/substance abuse, individual treatment sessions, outpatient group sessions, mental health counseling sessions, day treatment, medication evaluation, medication management, inpatient treatment and hyperbaric medicine. Drug/laboratory testing	80,000
<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>150,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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This will allow a jump start of a Veterans' Treatment Court in Santa Rosa County, enabling the First Judicial Circuit to have an additional year lead time to budget and secure long-term permanent funding for this much-needed court. We have a rapidly increasing population and the high number of veterans and retired military in our area, many of which have pre-existing conditions such as PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), that can predispose them to behaviors prompting run-ins with law enforcement.

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

The VTC Coordinator will provide case management for each participant. A VTC coordinator will work hand in hand with the Veteran as well as VA mental health counselors and addiction personnel if substance abuse is involved. Individual and group sessions, day treatment, medication evaluation and management, in-patient treatment and hyperbaric medicine and weekly drug testing, and community control monitoring GPS setup/admin fee are included.

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

The Veterans Treatment Court will assist in reducing individuals incarcerated at the county jail and diverting offenders from the state prison system which will provide a cost savings at the local and state level. A contractor will coordinate treatment services for 30 participants which include assessments-psychosocial/biopsychosocial/substance use, individual treatment sessions, drug and laboratory testing. All of this will be coordinated for the Veterans and shared with the stakeholders.

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

Veterans who are drug offenders in the criminal justice system and those Veterans who have crossed with the law, depending on the severity of the crime.

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

Improved physical health with cessation of any substance abuse. Improved mental health equals reduction of depression, anxiety, learning new techniques to deal with PTSD, triggers and suicidal ideation. Methods: Drug and laboratory testing, individual treatment sessions, outpatient group sessions, mental health counseling sessions, day treatment, medication evaluation & management, in-patient treatment if needed. Mental health counselors will gauge improvement. Reduction in suicides.

**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?**

The First Judicial Circuit has been managing Veterans' Treatment Courts in Okaloosa and Escambia counties for years and is will correctly administer this funding, if approved. It has managed the Santa Rosa County VTC for one year. This appropriation will allow sufficient lead time for the First Judicial Circuit to obtain funding to continue to administer a Veterans Treatment Court in Santa Rosa County over the long term. Any problems with testing subcontractor failure will result in termination of the contract and reissue with a functioning contractor.

**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



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- 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)
- Local Entity
- University or College



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Other (please specify) The First Judicial Circuit of Florida which administers Veterans' Treatment Courts in the District

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.*