



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3024

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Convert and expand an unused building into a 6000 square foot transitional housing facility on Refuge House property. It will offer two kitchens, a communal living area, two dining areas, two large family dorms, and six bedrooms with shared bathrooms. The building will be designed to meet the trauma related mental health concerns of women and children who have experienced violence. The program will be designed to address symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and will provide a therapeutic environment for children with trauma induced sensory processing disorder. All aspects of the architecture provide for special need children and a sensory calming room will be available for those with Autism and ADHD. There will be a designated group counseling room for adults and a play therapy room children. We will construct a new playground for outdoor recreation. This project will serve residents in Leon, Jefferson, Taylor, Madison, Gadsden, Wakulla, Liberty, and Franklin Counties.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	74%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	25%
Other	30,000	1%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	4,030,000	100%

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

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 Yes

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?

04/30/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

04/30/2027

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

Local, state, and federal grants as well as private donations. Funding for operations, including staff salary, has been secured for this 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.

Owners and entities are one in the same, the 501c3 non-profit Refuge House.

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	Land clearing and soil boring: \$15,000. Renovating 3000 square feet of interior space: \$985,000. New construction 3000 square feet: \$2,000,000.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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To increase the availability of emergency transitional housing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence who are fleeing abuse. By converting and adding onto an existing building on Refuge House property, 40 additional beds will be available for women and children who have experienced violence and who are at high risk of homicide by their abuser. The goal is to decrease the risk of future victimization and prevent homelessness for women and children. Specialized care for victims experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder will be available to children and the non offending parent.

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

Renovation and expansion of a residential building that will add 40 new beds for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Building design will be trauma informed and will meet the needs of neurodivergent children with sensory friendly accommodations throughout. The building will offer counseling rooms, living areas, and shared bathrooms. There will be a new play ground for outdoor recreation.

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

Safe shelter for 3-6 months. Wrap around support services for families who have experienced violence. Special focus on the needs of children who have witnessed and experienced abuse and to provide extensive resources for the parent to improve the well-being of the family. Therapy, counseling, case management, job readiness, vocational assistance, parenting support. On-site tutoring for children.

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

The target population is women and children who are at risk of harm and homicide while fleeing from domestic violence. We anticipate that 160 people will receive safe housing and supportive services annually.

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

Outcome is to provide safe transitional housing with expanded intake availability. Outcomes will be measured by completion of renovating an existing building to include dorm style sleeping areas for large families and women without children, an additional kitchen and eating area, and expanded living area, and the addition of six new bedrooms with shared bathrooms. The building will be designed with the needs of adults and children who are experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and will be sensory friendly for special needs and neurodivergent children.

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?

Delay or loss of funding tied to deliverable objectives and timelines.

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.