



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3242

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel were created by the Florida legislature in 2007 to save the taxpayers from the rapidly rising and unpredictable costs of the state's obligation to pay for court appointed counsel. Since then, the Regional Counsel's offices have saved the state over 400 million dollars while providing constitutionally required and quality representation to indigent people. They have become as vital to the justice system as the Offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender yet unlike those agencies most of the attorneys who work for the Regional Counsel's offices do not get the benefit of Senior Management Services retirement. This appropriation will move some of those attorneys closer to parity with the Public Defenders and State Attorneys by allowing supervising attorneys at the Regional Counsel's offices to participate in Senior Management Service Class Retirement.

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	1,400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,400,000</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)	1,400,000	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>1,400,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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?**  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)?

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	Providing the funds to fund senior attorneys with the Senior Management Retirement that they could be making at any other judicially related office will help to ensure the longevity of the Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel and ability to continue saving the state money.	1,400,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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>1,400,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

Providing the funds to fund senior attorneys with the Senior Management Retirement that they could be making at any other judicially related office will help to ensure the longevity of the Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel and ability to continue saving the state money.



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

The funding will be added through FRS to the salaries and benefits of the state employees that qualify.

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

Not applicable at this time

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

Approximately 62 attorneys within the Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel that serve as Assistant Regional Counsel -Supervisors (Class code 9903). These are highly experienced attorneys who would already be receiving this benefit if they were doing similar jobs for the State Attorney or Public Defender.

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

Please see the response to 13 a.

**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?**

Not applicable at this time.

**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
- 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



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- 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**

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**



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*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*