



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3426

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

4. Project/Program Description

Friends of Strays is expanding their physical space. Two buildings were purchased in 2020 becoming our new cat and dog adoption centers. These funds will complete our capital campaign to renovate both buildings and our original shelter that will become our medical and intake building when the adoption centers open. This will allow us to bring our annual adoptions up to 2500+ and help us save more lives of dogs and cats in Pinellas County and throughout the state of Florida.

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

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)	2,000,000	35%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	3,665,050	65%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	5,665,050	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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 08/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 03/31/2026

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

Friends of Strays has a strong history of community support. We will raise funds from individuals, corporations, and via grant requests for ongoing operations.

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.

Friends of Strays Board of Directors and CEO
 Dara Eckart, CEO
 Maureen Eppley, Board Chair
 Ben Kirby, Board Vice Chair
 Alison Barlow, Board Secretary
 Sarah Penner, Board Treasurer
 Arin Greenwood, Board Member
 Cathy Unruh, Board Member
 Michael McKenney, Board Member
 Barry Rubin, Board Member
 Eve Epstein, Board Member

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	Architectural drawings with MEP engineering plans, fire sprinkler plans, permitting, and construction for Cat Box building \$1.3m. This building was completed and open to the public on July 1, 2024 using reserve funds. Currently engaged with architects and engineers for Dog House building and site plan. Construction to begin July 1, 2025. Estimated costs \$1.4m to complete.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000



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13. Program Performance

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

Friends of Strays is the first no kill animal shelter in St. Petersburg, FL. The expansion of our facilities is necessary to address the growing crisis in Florida of overcrowding in animal shelters. Friends of Strays currently partners with almost 40 shelters throughout the state to transfer animals at risk of euthanasia due to lack of resources and adopts them out after treating any medical or behavioral issues. By expanding our facility, we will be able to help even more dogs and cats throughout the state at risk of euthanasia.

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

We have already completed construction on our new cat adoption center and are currently working with architects, engineers, and contractors to plan the renovation of 3055 46th Ave N, St. Petersburg to transform it into a new, innovative dog adoption center that will more than triple the space we have to hold dogs until they are adopted. Construction on this building is expected to begin August 1, 2025.

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

Adoption services will be provided to individuals and families looking to add a dog or cat to their family.

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

Pinellas County residents. Pinellas County population 961,596

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

By increasing our capacity to transfer animals in from low-resource animals shelters throughout the state, Friends of Strays hopes to increase our adoption numbers from roughly 1800/year to more than 2500/year, thereby reducing the number of animals euthanized in our state due to lack of time, space, or resources

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?

Revert funds back to state

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
- No
- No, but intends to apply



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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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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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.