



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2264

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

NAMI Florida is the state organization of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest grassroots mental health organization in the nation. NAMI Florida's vision is that those who struggle with a mental health condition can recover and lead productive and meaningful lives within their community of choice. Expanding NAMI Family Support Groups, strengthening our state's and our affiliates' infrastructure and expanding NAMI Florida's reach would go a long way towards making that vision a reality. NAMI Family Support Groups will help participants find hope and support by connecting participants with others who face similar challenges. The participants will become a part of a community that understands, and they will learn from the knowledge and experience of other participants, and gain support in a confidential setting. Families, when supported effectively, will provide the first line of intervention and bridge the gap while the individual waits for care.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	77%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	300,000	23%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,300,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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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We have current donors, contracts and grants. We also bring in an income from our state conference, and we have developed a donor engagement plan to increase the amount of donations we receive.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

13. 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: Other		
Salary and Benefits	4 FTE NAMI Florida Regional Family Outreach Support Specialists. These specialists will be located in the regional areas they will support. These regional areas will be Northwest Florida, Northeast Florida, Central Florida, and South Florida. 2 FTE staff members. Includes a Director of Community Engagement & Outreach and a Director of Affiliate Support.	600,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment/Technology Costs for new staff and affiliates' computers. IT Support, phone, statewide travel for current NAMI Florida Staff. Website support for NAMI Florida and NAMI Florida affiliates without full-time staff. Travel/Mileage Outreach costs for 24 affiliates related to NAMI Florida Family Support. Group Community Listening Sessions, Stakeholder and Resource Mapping, to guide the expansion of NAMI Florida Affiliates resulting in an increase in NAMI Florida.	300,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Stakeholder/resource mapping and costs related to the development of additional NAMI Florida Affiliates in communities/counties that are currently without a NAMI Affiliate Organization especially in rural underserved communities, to expend NAMI Family Support Groups in those areas. Consultant for Data Collection and Management. Consultant costs for NAMI Florida Board Development, and other specialized training to increase NAMI Florida Staff development.	100,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

Our goal is to engage family members in family support. It is estimated there is an eight to ten year wait between symptom onset and when a person receives treatment. The NAMI Support Groups are led by trained family peers who increase family resilience, give family members a safe place to receive support, while offering hope and belonging. The NAMI Family Support Groups help family members identify concerning behavior, empower family members to de-escalate/reduce Baker Acts, and provide support for families in the best way to support their loved ones. The NAMI Family Support Groups will also share resources and help families navigate the behavioral health landscape. In 2021 it was estimated that 20% of high school students seriously considered ending their life. When their family members learn the warning signs, learn how to talk to their children, and learn how to work with school staff, lives are saved. The more support family members the less situations that will escalate to crisis

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

Access to Family Support Groups is increased and offered by our 24 affiliates. These funds would strengthen our statewide operational infrastructure allowing for continued growth, expansion, and accessibility to meet the increased need for family education and Family Support Services. Florida is facing a Behavioral Health Workforce shortage. Family support does not replace clinical care, but it can be a life changing enhancement to clinical care. Individuals' outcomes are improved when their families receive support, and the individual is more likely to be more compliant when they have a support system supporting them.

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

NAMI Family Support Groups allow individuals to see family members who are successfully managing their loved ones' condition. Individuals gain insight from trained family peers who guide them to better understand the catastrophic stressors that untreated symptoms present. Through role-modeling of recovery concepts, the individuals gain useful strategies that support their loved one while maintaining their own, and their family's well-being. NAMI Family Support Group certified facilitators guide individuals to resources on various topics including: estate planning, insurance, health care surrogacy and/or Power of Attorney, SSDI, SSI, Medicaid/Medicare, HIPAA Laws, FACT Teams, treatments, medication assistance programs, nutrition and weight management, complementary and/or Alternative Therapies (i.e. massage, yoga), crisis management, contacting Law Enforcement/Requesting CIT Officers, Job Opportunities, and training resources.

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

The target population is any individual who needs support and seeks better coping skills to empower a loved one who may be experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition. This target population includes family members of veterans, first responders, teachers, students, those living in rural and underserved communities, the elderly, youth, young adults, and those in low-income areas. Outreach to Medical Professionals, hospitals, and other clinical treatment sites will be critical because of the number of individuals and families they serve. Based on how pervasive mental health symptoms are and the population of the state of Florida, we expect to engage with over 100,000 families throughout the state.

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



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NAMI Florida expects to engage 100,000 families and 1,000 volunteers through social media, outreach events, hospitals, provider outreach, community events, our 24 affiliates and through presentations with businesses, school staff, first responders, and faith leaders. These family members will bridge the gap and create pathways for care for their loved one. This project will support the family and help build family resiliency. The increased operational infrastructure will produce an outcome where citizens throughout Florida are well equipped to meet the needs of their loved ones when they experience behavioral health symptoms. The individuals will be connected to the natural support in their community and will experience the strength found in sharing their experiences. This appropriation project will increase the reach of our affiliates and help create sustainability. The affiliates without staff are run completely by volunteers, which impacts the organization's effectiveness.

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 the contract?

If we fail to deliver services as described in this application in the contract with DCF, we will return the funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number