



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1370

1. Project Title Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association Fellowship

2. Senate Sponsor Darryl Rouson

3. Date of Request 02/02/2023

4. Project/Program Description

This project seeks to promote volunteer legal services to indigent and homeless Florida residents by providing legal representation to traditionally underserved clients in matters related to family law, housing, domestic violence, and other civil/non-criminal matters to those in greatest need and limited resources.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Legal Affairs and Attorney General

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	250,000	1304A	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 500,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Various partnerships throughout the state.

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

No

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



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1370

CARES Relief - Orange County Government - We qualified to receive up to \$48,500. for additional services provided specifically for COVID-19 relief efforts for the calendar year of 2020.

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

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	Supervises contract attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants in the execution of their duties; Reviews and assigns pro bono cases to attorneys based on case type and attorney workload; carries out legal actions in accordance with grant. Attends community events/legal forums.	91,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel is to attend Virgil Hawkins board training conferences to learn best practices for boards and to assist them in running a Pro Bono legal organization in order to better serve the homeless and/or indigent communities.	5,424
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Three attorneys/paralegal, 3 legal assistants- maintain case load, client support, drafting pleadings, attending hearings, handling cases from intake to trial or settlement.	329,440
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Insurance, telephone, supplies, marketing, CLE training, court administrative fees and costs.	62,136
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Accounting/Audit	12,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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LFIR # 1370

Providing access to legal resources and services to the underserved population and those with limited resources. The program will assist this demographic with all non-criminal matters, from filing pleadings or responses to assistance at trial or administrative matters.

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

Community based initiatives, bringing attorneys and resources to the underserved communities, providing panels and discussion forums to educate and inform residents, offering flexible schedules to ensure persons of varying needs are accommodated, offering multiple access points via social media, video/teleconference and in person support, and assisting with legal matters and litigation.

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

Attorneys and staff will provide legal services to the citizens assisting them in all legal matters within the scope of the program at no cost to them. Offering counseling and legal support by a trained attorney in the practice of law. Citizens will have an advocate for their pending matter and access to services and resources of the organization.

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

The targeted population to be served are elderly persons, persons with poor mental health, persons with poor physical health, jobless persons, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, homeless, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, and university/college students.

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

Objective is to provide legal services and representation to those with limited resources and access to said services. Part of the program requires measurable deliverables as relates to clients served, cases resolved, and community-based programs/ training sessions that have been provided throughout the year, per quarter.

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?

Should any deliverable not be met within the specifications of the agreement, funds are withheld and or reduced from the total allocation. Should the program not deliver on any deliverable, potential repayment penalty is also available at the discretion of the contracting agency.

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)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1370

☐ 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