



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1070

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

We are in the process of fortifying the infrastructure of our nonprofit organization to better cater to the needs of widowed individuals in Florida. Our objective is to empower dedicated leaders with the necessary resources to bring about improved well-being for a broader spectrum of widows. We offer support for immediate needs as well as short- and long-term programs, which equips us to effectively address the multi-faceted challenges of primary and secondary loss. Our services are extended to widowed women who have experienced the primary loss of a partner and are grappling with the subsequent waves of secondary losses. Our widows come from diverse backgrounds, encompassing various ages, ethnicities, beliefs, faiths, partner statuses, gender identities, and circumstances of loss. Some have been caregivers, while others have experienced the sudden loss of a spouse. Our widows are seeking a forward-looking healthy approach to life after loss, a means to better comprehend their grief.

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	25,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	25,000

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)	25,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	25,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	50,000	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.

Grant funding, individual and corporate charitable donations.



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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	Leadership for our nonprofit organization to maximize sustainability of the pilot project.	10,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Full access to all Modern Widows Club programs and services both in person and virtually.	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Implementation of research software and oversight of analysis.	5,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		25,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Our specific objective is to empower as many widows as possible, enabling them to not only navigate their grief but to flourish with compassionate support, transitioning from mourning to personal growth. To gauge their progress, we employ a two-step approach: (1) Widows take our Widow Empowerment Quiz at the commencement of our programs. (2) One year later, after actively participating in our diverse widow-focused programs and services, they retake the quiz. This comparative analysis allows them to see their journey along the path of hope, healing, growth, and leadership in healthy widowhood. It provides valuable insights into where they started, how far they've come, and what additional steps they can take to reconstruct their lives as widows. This process serves to activate resilience, fostering overall health, well-being, and self-sufficiency.

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

We are committed to extending our current initiatives beyond Orlando, Tampa, and Melbourne to encompass communities throughout the entire state of Florida. Our objective is to provide a diverse array of resources aimed at fostering community development and empowering widows to become leaders in those communities. Furthermore, we are dedicated to offering virtual support groups for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide. We will host empowerment events in both physical and virtual formats, establishing a mentoring program to connect experienced individuals with those in need, and conducting educational health webinars that are firmly rooted in well-researched studies.

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

Our vision is to broaden the scope of our direct services, making them accessible across the entire state of Florida. In our expanded efforts, we will provide a comprehensive array of resources, including educational e-courses, videos, in-person and virtual support groups conducted in both English and Spanish. Moreover, we are committed to offering virtual support groups for those who have lost loved ones to suicide. We will organize empowerment events in both physical and virtual settings, establish a mentoring program, and present educational health webinars that draw from rigorously researched studies.

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

Our primary focus is on solo mothers, widowed women, and their dependent family members. Given that there are over 914,000 widows in Florida, our initial efforts will be directed towards serving this demographic in key regions where we presently have established communities led by trained widow leaders, specifically in Orlando, Tampa, and Melbourne. Our aspiration is to leverage the expertise and capabilities of our existing leadership teams to mentor and empower future leaders in regions yet served.

We serve widowed women who experienced the primary loss of a partner and are struggling with the barrage of secondary losses. They are of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, beliefs, faiths, partner statuses, gender identities, and loss circumstances. Some were caregivers, some lost their spouse suddenly. Diversity and inclusion are a core focus and are represented at all levels of the population we serve.

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

Our overarching goal for Florida widows is to provide them with the support and resources they need to not just cope with grief but to thrive. What sets us apart from other widow support organizations is our unique approach, which hinges on the use of inputs, outputs, and outcomes, all guided by our proprietary research data. This data informs our decision-making, program development, evaluation processes, goal setting, and progress tracking. Our methodology for assessing impact integrates both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data is primarily acquired through surveys. Since 2018, we have surveyed a multitude of widows, both within our organization and those outside our membership, ensuring a broad and comprehensive reach. These surveys utilize closed-ended, standardized questions, which typically include multiple-choice and rank-order scales, providing us with valuable quantitative insights.

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?

Return of funding.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**



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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