



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3710

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

4. Project/Program Description

The National Association of Veterans and Families (NAVF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2008. The first part of our mission is to educate the veteran community on their wartime & other benefits. The second part is keeping our veterans off the street, in a protected environment, by assisting qualifying senior veterans, their spouses, and widows in obtaining their promised Wartime VA Benefits (from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Gulf Era Wars to-the-present). We provide all of our services at no charge to the veteran. Last year we had over 120 workshops in Florida. We filed over 1200 claims and recovered over \$36,000,000 in benefits for the veteran and family members. Over a three-year period, equating to \$108,000,000 in Medicaid savings to the state. NAVF takes great care in filing claims with a 98% success rate. Our funding comes from our corporate community and from individuals.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	280,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	280,000

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)	280,000	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 2024-2025	280,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	360,000	593A	Yes

9. Is future 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.

In addition to state funds, the National Association of Veterans and Families (NAVF) is raising funds through private & corporate donations. Note: Donation funding from private individuals & corporate sponsors is significantly down due to impact of COVID and inflation.



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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.

2019 Payroll Protection Plan (\$7,634.60). This represents 2.5 months of employee salary provided by the Payroll Protection Plan.

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	Executive Director does not take a salary	0
Other Salary and Benefits	Hire two (2) additional Claims Officers to work one-on-one with FL's Senior Wartime Veterans. Claims Officers perform the critical function of working as the advocate for Sr. Veterans & families to gather all the military records, financial & medical documentation necessary to qualify for the benefit. The Claim Officer works to ensure the Claim is submitted accurately per VA requirements.	85,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expand and upgrade our office computer network with 4 new computers which includes 1 laptop needed for travel and seminars. Continue improving our computer security systems to protect our Sr. Veteran's private and protected information following HIPPA regulations. Plus make any changes needed in our offices to accommodate the 2 new Claims Officers.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Aging Veteran literacy/education program.	20,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Community Liaison Director and Seminar Speaker. This individual conducts seminars with citizens in various FL community settings to educate Wartime Veterans and their families about the Federal VA Pension Plus Aid and Attendance Benefit and other benefits. Working with Care Referral Placement Organizations, Assisted Living, Rehab & Nursing Homes facilities, for those Veterans needing the benefit.	75,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel Expenses of the Community Liaison & Seminar Speaker plus equipment, printing & supplies to conduct statewide seminars. 100-120 seminars planned for 2024.	45,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Outside Consulting Computer Services for network security enhancements.	35,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		280,000

14. Program Performance

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

Funds will be used to help Veterans who need assistance obtaining benefits for the VA Pensions Plus Aid & Attendance program, the VA Directed Care program and other little-known programs. Without these VA benefits, many veterans, spouses & widows are forced to go on FL's Medicaid program or even worse become homeless.

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

First of all is to educate the veteran community through seminars, either in-person or by zoom. Further, serving senior veterans and spouses/widows in need of additional VA benefits. We help them navigate a process that can be difficult and confusing. NAVF's unique team approach & expertise evaluates each Veteran's information & eligibility; we assist them in securing required documentation such as military service records, medical documentation & signatures needed to prepare each Veteran's fully developed and Documented VA Claim—each claim averaging 50-60 pages in length. If the VA has claim questions/issues, NAVF works to solve the problem. All without charging them.

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

Direct services consist of phone, in person, and zoom calls with adult children of the senior veteran/spouse. This is especially important as we currently see 7 to 10 dementia cases a day. These veterans are unable to navigate the system and many times children reside in another state. NAVF's unique team approach & expertise evaluates each Veteran's information & eligibility. We assist them in securing required documentation such as military service records, medical documentation & signatures needed to prepare each Veteran's Fully-developed and Documented VA Claim—each claim averaging 50-60 pages in length. If the VA has claim questions/issues, NAVF works to solve the problem. All without charging them.

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

Florida currently has the 3rd largest population of any state with a large number of veterans moving to Florida. Based on our current data, we predict over 20,000 phone calls, 200 seminars, 2,000 claims, and 1,500 claim approvals. That will produce over 37 million in benefits annually for the veterans costs of care. That will reduce Medicaid claims for the state.

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

The expected benefit to the veteran and/or spouse is that they have the additional funds to choose the level of care that they require without having to go to a nursing home and rely on Medicaid. The VA money is federal money-not Florida state money.

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?

Loss of funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization



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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