



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2479

**1. Title of Project:** Hillsborough Veterans Court

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Janet Cruz

**3. Date of Submission:** 03/15/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

The Hillsborough Veterans Court is a problem solving court that is set up to offer treatment rather than the incarceration for veterans whose mental health appears to have contributed to their arrest. Hillsborough County is home to nearly 100,000 veterans. The 13th Judicial Circuit seeks to provide assistance to eligible participants through a diversion away from the traditional criminal justice system with support and rehabilitation. That rehabilitation includes treatment, education, vocational programs, community referrals and transportation.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds :** State Court System

State Agency Contacted? No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	150,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>150,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	150,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**8. Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

**9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 100000

**10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**



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Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits	1 Administrative Assistant to provide assistance in managing the daily operations and support functions of the program	43,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	1 Case Manager to develop case plans and conduct needs assessment to determine treatment	55,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Urinalysis drug testing contractual services to ensure best practices (\$50,000), Risk and Needs Assessment tool which screens and places veterans in tracks and ensures the population is being served (\$2,000)	52,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>150,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

Funds requested will assist the Hillsborough Clerk of Courts fund case management services for the Hillsborough County Veterans Court.

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

These funds will assist with case management with a dedicated employee for that role. Additional staff will assist in coordinating the treatment court. Additional funding is to be used for testing and risk assessment to make sure veterans are being served and compliance is determined.

**c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

The Veterans Treatment Court in Hillsborough County will be supplemented by funding in order to serve more Veterans - as the Court currently receives no state funding. The funding will allow more Veterans to access rehabilitation rather than incarceration. The Veteran population of Hillsborough County is the largest in the State.

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

Veterans residing in Hillsborough County, Florida with eligible charges (ordinance violations, misdemeanor offenses other than DUI, and nonviolent third degree felony offenses). Generally, veterans treatment court helps treat veterans with honor and respect and is modeled after principles of therapeutic jurisprudence.



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

With such a large population of Veterans in Hillsborough County (nearly 100,000), the program that already exists will be able to streamline operations to assist more citizens in need. Numerous studies have show that treatment is far more cost effective than incarceration, saving State and local funding. The methodology (which would be assisted by dedicated staff paid through the allocation) would include tracking the success of the program. Keeping track of the number of participants who successfully complete the program, assessing employment status of veterans in the program, and ability to manage their basic needs. Additionally, avoidance of further law enforcement incidents is another parameter to be considered.

**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?**

Return of funds to the State

**12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

N/A

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Michael Scionti
- b. **Organization:** 14th Judicial Circuit
- c. **E-mail Address:** publicinfo@fljud13.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)262-5894

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** 14th Judicial Circuit
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- c. **Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Michael Scionti
- e. **E-mail Address:** publicinfo@fljud13.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (813)262-5894

**15. Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. **Name:** None



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- b. Firm Name:** None
- c. E-mail Address:**
- d. Phone Number:**