



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1163

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

To provide meaningful access to justice through "ON DEMAND" pro bono legal services in civil cases to the escalating number of under-represented, low income individuals who do not have the financial means to hire an attorney or the knowledge to assert their own defense, and are at risk of losing their homes in foreclosure, eviction and other civil legal matters that endanger the health and well-being of children and families in the community.

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

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="150,000"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="000"/>
Total State Funds Requested	150,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="150000"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="100.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	150,000	100 %

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="2017-18"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="75,000"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes No

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Funds will be used to pay for 1-2 attorneys to provide direct services and offer additional clinics to expand services	125,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds to be applied to operational expenses such as rent, telephone, parking and mileage, office supplies and additional computer and support	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		150,000



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11. Program Performance

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

SALAD's Pro Bono Legal Assistance Project was created to preserve and ensure equal access to justice by providing quality ON DEMAND legal services to indigent and low income individuals seeking urgent, immediate legal assistance in civil cases. The program has become an essential part of the community especially with the escalating number of under-represented, low income individuals who are at risk of losing their homes in foreclosure, eviction and other legal matters that endanger the health and well-being of children and families in the community.

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

To address the widening gap between the needs of our community seeking urgent, immediate legal assistance and the limited availability of free legal resources, SALAD has collaborated with Miami Dade County Law Library to build a program to ensure equal access to justice for all. SALAD's program provides an essential civil service regardless of where the case may fall in terms of the litigation timeline. The ON DEMAND legal services include but are not limited to: providing advice and counsel to individuals seeking information; providing assistance in preparing legal documents; providing legal assistance in a limited scope; and in some cases, providing full legal representation, when necessary. In addition to the walk-in litigants seeking assistance, SALAD has developed a solid reputation in the community for accessibility of the public. We have "on-site" working relationship with the Clerk of Courts and routine referrals from the judiciary and local government offices.

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

Direct services involve "ON DEMAND" legal assistance and informational clinics to help individuals understand the legal process, help preserve their rights and affirmative defenses, and help with their self-determination to decide what is in their best interest. SALAD's ON DEMAND program includes but is not limited to the provision of legal advice and counsel to individuals seeking information; providing brief legal services in preparing necessary legal documents; providing legal assistance in a limited scope; and in some cases, providing full legal representation, when necessary. In short, "ON DEMAND," services function as triage, resulting in the efficient allocation of legal resources and judicial economy.

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

SALAD's target population is any self-represented resident of Miami-Dade County whose income falls under 275% of Federal Poverty Guideline and express a legal need. We do not impose any other eligibility criterion. The meaningful access to justice is a critical component for people in our community regardless of race, gender, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, or other protected characteristic who are unable to afford a lawyer, and that many of our constituents that fall under a certain financial threshold remain under-served due to limited resources. Currently, SALAD is assisting 8-10 people on a weekly basis in any listed capacity. With project funding, SALAD can expand its outreach to serve up to 16-18 people each week. The need for "ON DEMAND" services is absolutely necessary to afford individuals with the same opportunity and rights as their litigation counterpart, and the Law Library receives the foot traffic to fulfill these goals.

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

During the 2017-18 year, SALAD represented over 383 individuals with positive resolutions. Comparing the number of people we assisted during the first quarter of this year (2019), to this date, the numbers progressively increased. We've helped people who were being evicted from their homes to find funding assistance for alternative housing. SALAD has worked with the Florida Elderly Mortgage Assistance (ELMORE) Program to help the elderly in foreclosure secure funding assistance to comply with Housing and Urban Development guidelines for Reverse Mortgages when property taxes or insurance requirements were in default. We assisted with loan modifications and secured all but two due to their limited income. And where the individual did not or could not qualify, we helped them find a loss mitigation alternative. Our focus is on self-determination and a collaborative effort between the SALAD lawyer and the individual.

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?

SALAD's pro bono program has always met its obligations under the contract terms and agrees to be subject to monitoring through quarterly performance reports and audit reviews in order to ensure that program outcome reference measures are being reasonably met. The program agrees to comply and cooperate with any monitoring procedures/processes deemed appropriate including any inspections of intake and file records. SALAD's Pro Bono Legal Assistance Project is a well established, reputable project in the community and is confident in its success. Should there be a minimum outcome/results that are not met, SALAD is agreeable to a return of any overpayment of funds.



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12. **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.**

No fixed capital outlay funding requested.

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.