



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 2021

1. **Project Title** K9s For Warriros

2. **Senate Sponsor** Aaron Bean

3. **Date of Request** 01/06/2020

4. **Project/Program Description**

K9s For Warriors provides Service Canines to Warriors suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. Our program pairs veterans with Assistance Dog International (ADI)-certified Service Dogs, 90-95% of which are rescued. The pair then participates in a 3-week residential training program that focuses on daily living skills, community integration, peer-to-peer interaction, coping skills, and veteran-dog bonding with skilled oversight. The entire program is provided at no cost to the veteran. K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of Service Dogs for disabled American veterans

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Veterans' Affairs

State Agency contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	612,271
Fixed Capital Outlay	000
Total State Funds Requested	612,271

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)	612271	100.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	00	0 %
Other	00	0 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	612,271	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		
2019-20	00	500,000		No

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

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 612,271



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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		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Other Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for kennel staff and warrior operations staff (\$7,025.59 per team x 25 teams = \$175,639.75)	175,640
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Service dogs: acquisition, veterinarian care, transportation, food & supplies, off-site training; Warrior training program: trainers' gear, screening/processing, meals, warriors' gear, supplies, transportation, office and facilities; Education (\$17,465.23 x 25 teams = \$436,630.75)	436,631
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		612,271



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11. Program Performance

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

To provide acquired dogs with clean and safe kennel housing, temperament testing, veterinary care, food and water, and training to become a certified Service Dog for twenty-five (25) Florida-based veterans who graduate from K9s For Warriors 3-week in-house training program to help mitigate the effects of their Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma and help prevent veteran suicide.

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

These funds will help us acquire, screen, and train dogs to become Service Dogs for twenty-five (25) Florida-based veterans and cover all costs associated with the 3-week, in-house training for the veterans. For 2019, it cost approximately \$25,000.00 for each warrior/Service Dog team to graduate from our program. Our warriors pay nothing out of pocket when they come through our program.

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

Receiving an ADI-certified Service Dog and the associated training, disability and public access law education, daily living and coping skills, human and animal bonding, community re-integration, and 3 weeks of housing and meals during on-site training.

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

The primary population served by our program are male and female post-9/11 veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma. We have learned that these veterans are not the only ones that benefit from what we do. Spouses and caregivers, children, other family members, and entire communities all benefit, because veterans, with the help of their Service Dog, are no longer solely focused on the debilitating symptoms of their invisible wounds of war. We anticipate serving 25 warriors with state funding.

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

K9s For Warriors has partnered with Purdue University to conduct studies which scientifically evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of K9s For Warriors' Service Dogs on the mental health and wellness of military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These studies measured the physiological response to stress and arousal using the hormone Cortisol, as well as the baseline following receipt of a Service Dog, but not while receiving usual care alone. Those with a K9s' Service Dog had Cortisol levels returning to normal. Both studies showed a direct link between having a K9s Service Dog and a reduction in PTSD symptoms. Please see attached studies published in the Psychoneuroendocrinology Journal and Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Additional studies are forthcoming.

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?

In the event K9s For Warriors fails to meet the contractual deliverables, the financial consequences would be that FDVA recover its actual administrative costs attributable to the failure or delay. In fiscal year 2019-2020, the FDVA estimated the daily costs of the financial consequences to be \$68.49.



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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.

N/A

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.