



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2240

1. Title of Project: K9s For Warriors

2. Senate Sponsor: Aaron Bean

3. Date of Submission: 02/23/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

K9s For Warriors, Inc. (K9FW), the nation’s largest provider of Service Dogs to veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST), is constructing a two-story, multipurpose Warrior Resource Center at its headquarters in Ponte Vedra, Florida. This facility will support the organization in our goal to help warriors return to civilian life with dignity and independence and prevent veteran suicide by providing space for additional housing, training, certification, education, wraparound services, advocacy, public policy, and research. K9s For Warriors provides trained and certified Service Dogs, the associated warrior training, and wraparound services to program participants free of charge.

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

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,100,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,100,000

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)	2,100,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	2,100,000	100.0%

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? No

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



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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:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Includes all labor, material & equipment. Exterior/Structural Interior/Finishes *please see attached budget proposal*	2,100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,100,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The Fixed Capital Outlay funds requested will be used to construct the Warrior Resource Center, a two-story building located on the campus of Camp K9 in Ponte Vedra, Florida. K9s For Warriors will break ground for this facility in 2019. Once constructed, the Warrior Resource Center will allow K9s For Warriors to expand and scale its life saving work. The Warrior Resource Center will support K9s For Warriors' core mission to prevent veteran suicide by providing Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI, and MST.

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

With this Fixed Capital Outlay, K9s For Warriors will construct the Warrior Resource Center, a multi-level facility located on the K9s For Warriors campus in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

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

Once constructed with the Fixed Capital Outlay funds, the Warrior Resource Center will include veteran housing/dormitory space, veteran training space, and office space/facilities for staff delivering the direct services that include warrior re-certification/re-training with their Service Dogs and wraparound services in the form of emotional, educational and legal support. The Warrior Resource Center will also be the primary site for Service Dog advocacy, public policy, and research projects.

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

The Warrior Resource Center built with the Fixed Capital Outlay will provide direct services to our primary population: post-9/11 veterans from our home state of Florida and across the United States who have been diagnosed with PTSD, TBI, and/or MST. We have learned that our graduating 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 our program will serve 100 warriors in 2019.



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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?

The anticipated outcome of receiving the FCO funds is the construction of the Warrior Resource Center, which will house program services, enabling us to expand and scale our life-saving program. Graduating warriors report a statistically significant decrease in PTSD symptoms, a decrease in suicidal ideation, a reduction or elimination of their multiple medications and other benefits. Additionally, K9FW has partnered with Purdue University to conduct scientific studies evaluating the therapeutic efficacy of a K9FW Service Dog on the mental health and wellness of our warriors. One of the peer reviewed published studies measured the physiological response to stress and arousal using the hormone Cortisol from warrior saliva samples at the baseline and after receipt of a Service Dog. Those with a K9s' Service Dog had Cortisol levels returning to normal. The studies showed a direct/objective link between having a K9s Service Dog and a reduction in PTSD symptoms.

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?

Should the Warrior Resource Center not be built, the fixed capital outlay would be returned 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.

K9s For Warriors, Inc. has sole ownership of the property and will be the recipient of the Fixed Capital Outlay funds.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Rory Diamond
- b. **Organization:** K9s For Warriors, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** rory@k9sforwarriors.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (904)686-1956

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** K9s For Warriors, Inc.
- b. **County:** Saint Johns
- 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:** Patricia Dodson
- e. **E-mail Address:** patty@k9sforwarriors.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (904)686-1956

15. Lobbyist Contact Information



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- a. **Name:** Monica Rodriguez
- b. **Firm Name:** Ballard Partners
- c. **E-mail Address:** monica@ballardfl.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)577-0444