



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1993

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

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The Pandemic Recovery Plan for the Clerks of Court is a project to ensure Floridians have access to the courts. The goal is to address the significant anticipated pandemic-generated workload in the trial courts. The purpose is to provide a consistent level of additional resources to ensure the timely disposal of new and existing cases.

The pandemic caused the shutdown of courts across the state and clerks continued to intake cases through the E-Filing Portal. Like the foreclosure and economic crisis, the clerks and the courts expect to see a significant backlog of cases. Without additional nonrecurring funding, the clerks' ability to keep up with the court's resolution of issues promptly will be limited, which ultimately places a burden on the litigants and the state and delays the recovery of Florida's economy.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	6,843,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>6,843,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	6,843,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>6,843,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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No

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

n/a

#### 11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	The funding will provide salary and benefit dollars to hire 102 deputy clerks statewide. The average salary and benefits statewide is \$67,000. $102 * \$67,000 = \$6,834,000$	6,843,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>6,843,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

The goal is to address the significant anticipated pandemic-generated workload in the trial courts. The purpose is to provide a consistent level of additional resources to help ensure that new and existing cases will be disposed in a timely fashion, given space and time capacity constraints that exist with the extraordinary number of anticipated additional pending cases. By June 30, 2021, the Office of State Court Administrator projects there will be almost 1.2 million cases pending above normal. These funds will help ensure timely resolution of cases by the courts and clear out this backlog. These funds will assist clerks in their service to the state and ensure Floridians will not have their day in court delayed.

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

Case maintenance; records management; court preparation and attendance; processing the assignment, reopening, and reassignment of cases; processing of appeals; collection and distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs; processing of bond forfeiture payments; data collection and reporting; determinations of indigent status; and paying reasonable administrative support costs.

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

Maintain custody of all evidence and exhibits entered by the court  
Assist in completing paperwork required to file a Small Claims action  
Assist in completing paperwork required to file petitions for protective injunctions (domestic, repeat, sexual, and dating violence)  
Issue process service documents  
Maintain court registry  
Audit guardianship reports  
Audit child support payments

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



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The target population is all Floridians that have business before the court or need services provided by the Clerks of Court. The goal is to work through the backlog within three years, serving several hundred thousand people per year.

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

The timely resolution of cases and services to the public is the benefit. A reduction from the projected backlog of cases will be the performance measure.

**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?**

The penalties will be not renewing the funding for year two and three of this three-year plan.

**13. 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.**

None



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. 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) Clerk's court-related duties are State functions pursuant to the Article V of Florida's Constitution

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number