



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1296

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council was formed in Nov 2019 by Baker, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns and Duval to coordinate local efforts to end veteran suicide. State funding last year helped successfully launch an early intervention network of Gatekeepers trained to direct at-risk veterans to the resources they need - the Watch Stander program.

Now, in partnership with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and as part of the Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide, a new 501(c)(3), The Fire Watch Project Inc., will now launch the Watch Stander program statewide, to all 67 Florida counties. This project directly supports this effort and helps focus the development of the Watch Stander support network in areas of Florida it is needed most.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	540,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	540,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	540,000	85%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	40,000	6%
Other	54,000	9%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	634,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	200,000	567A	No

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



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Yes

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

\$52,000 of CARES Act funding awarded by the City of Jacksonville in 2020 and spent on community outreach to reach isolated Northeast Florida veterans due to COVID and help them get the resources they need.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director leads the organization and coordinates the implementation of the Watch Stander program and other selected veteran suicide prevention initiatives statewide. The Executive Director coordinates closely with the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs (FDVA) and the Governor's Challenge to End Veteran Suicide. Half the ED's cost is Administrative and half is Operational.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Payroll, Accounting for additional employees: \$12,000.	12,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Two Regional Coordinators, located in veteran suicide hotspots Santa Rosa and Hillsborough counties, will launch and grow our early intervention network of Gatekeeper volunteers trained to direct at-risk veterans to the resources. They will also coordinate with county VSOs. Note that this amount includes \$50k for ED operational costs.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment for Regional Coordinators: \$12,000 Statewide travel for Regional Coordinators and the ED: \$24,000	36,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing Services, including planning, implementation, event coordination, digital, social media: \$120,000 (based on NE Florida spend of \$80k) Collateral, Printing and Advertising, Event Calendar upgrades: \$80,000 (based on NE Florida spend of \$40k) Website and App Maintenance and Upgrades, Resources Guide Development: \$42,000	242,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		540,000

12. Program Performance

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

End veteran suicide in Florida. Our programs are focused on "Promoting Connectedness" and "Strengthening Access to and Delivery of Suicide Care Resources", consistent with the CDC's suicide prevention logic model. Short term goal (1 year) is to increase our early intervention network of community members by 2,000 Watch Standers. Long term (3 years) goal is to reduce veteran suicides in Florida by 20%.

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

State funding will support the Fire Watch effort to build a statewide early intervention network of Gatekeeper volunteers trained to direct at-risk veterans to the resources they need. This is a fundamental part of FDVA's Governors Challenge to end veteran suicide.

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



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Direct services will be the development and communication of an enhanced ecosystem of veteran resources and the creation and implementation of a trained network of volunteers to identify risk signs of veterans in crisis and direct those veterans to the help and resources they need. This program will be available in all 67 counties in Florida.

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

1.5 million U.S. Military veterans residing in Florida

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

Short term (1 year) is to increase our early intervention network of community members by 2,000. We maintain records of every trained individual. As of 12 November 2021, we have 1,500 Watch Standers. The goal is 3,500 at the end of the fiscal year. Long term (3 year): To be measured against the baseline 2019 Florida veteran suicide data (by county and by census tract) we collected in partnership with NLP Logix.

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?

Performance measures would be quarterly milestones tied to veteran suicide prevention program deliverables, including ROI reports toward specific 1-year measurables. Funding could be provided in quarterly increments and discontinued or withheld unless progress reports are submitted.

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.

No fixed capital funding requested.



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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)

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