



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1463

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 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 Clerk's Pandemic Recovery Plan provides funding to the 67 elected Clerks of Court to provide supplemental assistance to support the State Court System's effort to reduce the backlog of cases as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This appropriation provides clerks with additional personnel and operational dollars that allows the clerks to complete case processing, collect and distribute revenue, and respond to requests for records and reports.

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	6,250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	6,250,000

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)	6,250,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	6,250,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	6,250,000	737A	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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No

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	As part of the year two funding for the State Court System, The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) requested general magistrates, court program specialists, trial court staff attorneys, and additional dollars for senior judge days. These adjudicatory resources require support from the clerks. The request will fund temporary staff and overtime for existing staff to keep the flow of cases to the state court system steady.	6,250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		6,250,000

12. Program Performance

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

The goal is to address the significant pandemic-generated workload in the trial courts. This funding will provide a consistent level of additional resources to help ensure the clerks can support the state court system to dispose of new and existing cases quickly, given space and time capacity constraints that exist with the extraordinary number of anticipated additional pending cases. Without additional funding, it will limit the clerks' ability to support the trial courts' ability to resolve cases promptly, which ultimately places a burden on the litigants and the state, as well as delays the recovery of Florida's economy. 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?

The clerks will provide 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; determinations of indigent status; and paying reasonable administrative support costs.

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



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Process statements of claim - Small Claims
Process posting of motor vehicle repair bonds
Enter data elements into Case Maintenance System required to satisfy reporting requirements established by statute
Send Lis Pendens to Recording
Send certified copy of Foreign Judgment to Official Records to be recorded; after recording prepare and send Notice to Judgment Debtor
Create bar codes, labels and jacket for paper documents
Prepare and/or issue initial and subsequent summons and subpoenas
Process and issue notice of action
Timestamp, verify, docket, and image subsequently filed paper documents
Verify and docket documents subsequently filed through the ePortal or return to the Portal Correction Queue
Protect confidential information in court records; publish order determining confidentiality as necessary
Process counter/cross claims and 3rd party complaints
Schedule court event and prepare and provide notices to all parties, parents or guardians, attorneys and/or bondsman

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

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 the next two 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 expected benefit of this initiative is the working of and completion of cases that are currently backlogged in the state court system. Working to eliminate this backlog will directly benefit the citizens of Florida and the law enforcement community. A reduction from the backlog of cases is 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 clerks will work directly with its partners in the state court system to effectively and efficiently work these cases. The penalty will be not renewing the funding for year 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.

n/a



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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