



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1552

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Veterans Foundation was created by the Legislature as a Direct Service Organization for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to be the lead veteran's organization and a safety net for veterans in crisis. From July, 2020 to June, 2021, the Foundation's Veterans Hotline received 1,200 emergency phone calls, emails and social media requests from veterans with financial crisis and other immediate needs due to COVID-19. In addition, the Foundation served over 12,000 Veterans and their families by outsourcing referrals.

The purpose of the funding request is to retain a caseworker and add a part time intern, who along with the Executive Director will field calls, emails and other requests, verify the needs of those veterans and either directly help or work in partnership with Project Vet Relief and other organizations and funds to provide the financial resources to those veterans.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	360,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	360,000

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)	360,000	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	360,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	245,000	567A	No

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

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

In addition to state funds, the Florida Veterans Foundation is raising funds through private donations.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1552

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

Yes

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

The Foundation received funds from two sources, 1) Leon County Cares Act for \$25,000 and Volunteer Florida Grant from \$20,000. These funds were used cover services and administrative costs.

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	Retain a military veteran caseworker to assist and verify individual needs of veterans in crisis. Hire a part time intern to assist caseworker. All work will be conducted out of Capitol Office and consist primarily of phone work.	60,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Emergency funds for direct services to veterans who are in danger of eviction, or loss of utilities, unable to afford necessary medical expenses, are homeless, or need necessary services to continue working. Examples of grants are to cover unpaid rent or utilities, uncovered necessary medical expenses, homeless veteran services,, emergency transportation costs.	300,000
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)		360,000

12. Program Performance

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

Because of the pressures from COVID-19, the Florida Veterans Foundation needs to better staff its Veterans Crisis Hotline and increase emergency funding to assist veterans out of crisis situations and stabilize their lives. \$45,000 would be allocated to retain our military veteran caseworker and \$15,000 for a caseworker intern to assist the Executive Director field calls and verify individual needs of veterans in crisis. The remaining \$300,000 would be used for direct services to veterans in temporary crisis. These funds are not intended to address veterans systemic long term issues. Rather to aid in short term issues that have the veteran and their family in crisis.

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

The Executive Director, caseworker and intern will work with Project Vet Relief and other organizations to vet the requested needs of veteran callers. \$300,000 of this funding will be expended in emergency payments for direct services to veterans who are in danger of eviction or loss of utilities, unable to afford necessary healthcare, are homeless, or need necessary services to continue working. Financial funding is intended to allow the veteran and their family to cover the cause of their crisis and allow them to move back on the road to stability.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1552

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

Examples of grants are to cover unpaid rent or utilities, uncovered necessary medical expenses, homeless veteran services, emergency transportation costs. Funds will be provided either directly from the Florida Veterans Foundation or partner veterans' organizations working with us.

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

Florida veterans who are in financial crisis. Florida has over 1.6 million veterans and represents the third-largest population of veterans in the nation. This correlates to 12% of Florida's population 18 years old and over, according to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Support is available for active-duty military and honorably discharged veterans (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reservists) and their immediate family members (spouse or child) residing in Florida. All requestors are vetted for their military service and that the financial assistance is for a legitimate claim.
For instance, we would directly contact a landlord over a case where the veteran caller states he or she is facing eviction. The project will serve approximately 300 veterans and their families.

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

The outcome is to provide emergency assistance to veterans in a time of crisis and work with them to secure benefits and return to stable life. We also work to provide them a support system of other veterans and resources to assist them with recurrence and for systemic problems outside this project.

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?

As the Direct Service Organization, we are under the direct auspices of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, with quarterly reporting of our activities. The Foundation is also routinely audited by the Inspector General and has received positive audits.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1552

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