



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1053

1. Project Title Faulk Center for Counseling: mental health services for low income families

2. Senate Sponsor Tina Polsky

3. Date of Request 10/30/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

For over 50 years, the Faulk Center for Counseling has provided low-cost/no-cost mental health services to economically disadvantaged and uninsured individuals, families, and children in Palm Beach and Broward Counties (and statewide via telehealth). Serving approximately 2000 clients annually, the Center utilizes doctoral interns and graduate students to deliver personalized counseling and mental health services. To meet the community demand for our services, in light of a well-documented public mental health crisis and concurrent shortage of qualified mental health professionals, we seek funding -- with matching dollars from the City of Boca Raton and Palm Beach County -- to support two full-time Registered Mental Health Interns (RMHIs) and a part-time Qualified Supervisor. This appropriation will support our capacity to provide individual, couple, family, and group therapy, all supervised by licensed clinicians following American Psychological Association (APA) standards.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? Yes

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

| Type of Funding                    | Amount         |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Operating                          | 235,500        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>235,500</b> |

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding                                      | Amount           | Percentage  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)       | 235,500          | 14%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal                                              | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local                                                | 86,414           | 5%          |
| Other                                                | 1,370,815        | 81%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b> | <b>1,692,729</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
| 2025-26                  | 0         | 235,500      | 363                         | No     |

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

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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## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction ☐ N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List 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.

### 12. 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                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0       |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0       |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0       |
| <b>Operational Costs</b>                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |         |
| Salary and Benefits                                 | The Faulk Center employs 2.0 FTE Registered Mental Health Interns (RMHIs) at a total cost of \$135,000, including salaries and benefits. These RMHIs will provide direct counseling and mental health services to underserved populations. Additionally, this funding will support 0.75 FTE Qualified Supervisor at a cost of \$75,000. This investment ensures high-quality oversight of student clinicians who provide evidence based clinical services. | 210,000 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0       |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study               | The Faulk Center allocates \$15,000 for travel and supplies to support the RMHIs and Qualified Supervisor. This includes reimbursement for travel to partnering schools and senior facilities, as well as essential materials for counseling sessions. Additionally, \$10,500 is designated for operational expenses including management, training, background checks, and compliance reporting.                                                          | 25,500  |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |         |



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|                                                                 |  |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Construction/Renovation/Land/<br>Planning Engineering           |  | 0       |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) |  | 235,500 |

#### 13. Program Performance

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

For years now, Florida has been suffering from a well-documented mental health crisis and an alarming shortage of qualified mental health professionals. The APA has also found that economically disadvantaged populations suffer from poor mental health outcomes at much higher levels due to inaccessibility of mental health care services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, and overall lack of awareness. With a primary focus on low-income children, adults, seniors, and families, the Faulk Center serves those with the highest need. We provide personalized treatment for a variety of mental health issues with the goal of improving the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of individuals, children, and families in our community.

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

Clients who receive counseling services are provided a treatment plan based on their individual needs and approved therapies. Progress is measured based on improvements from baseline assessments of symptomatic and functional impacts, identified during the initial intake and early sessions. Issues being treated are often the result of many underlying and intertwined dynamics. Clinicians are aware of this and are trained to adjust their approach, strategies, and timeline for progress to match that of the issues being presented by the client.

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

Clients work one-on-one with a mental health clinician in a safe, caring, and confidential environment. Weekly group counseling and support groups provide opportunities to reduce isolation, receive peer support, and collectively heal. Services to vulnerable populations, including uninsured and economically disadvantaged individuals, families, and children, are targeted through on site programs. Regular education and outreach events supplement the care of those who utilize our services.

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

The target population for counseling services is economically disadvantaged, uninsured, and/or underinsured clients in need of mental health services who reside in Palm Beach County and/or Broward County (or statewide via telehealth). The Faulk Center provides mental health and counseling services to approximately 2,000 individuals, families, and children each year, with funding from the City of Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, and a network of private grants and supporters.

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

Progress is measured by the reduction or leveling off of symptomatic impacts and increases in self-esteem, self-worth and/or functional improvements such as better self-care, control of negative/disrupting behaviors, or increased engagement in community, home, school and/or work life, as measured by clinical notes, clinical observation and client feedback.

##### 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?

Failure to meet deliverables without notification of good reasoning will result in financial penalties as described in the contract.

#### 14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

##### a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)



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- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization**

**b. Municipality and County**

**c. Organization Type**

☐ For Profit Entity



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- ☒ 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  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*