



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1054

1. Project Title Rales Jewish Family Services Immediate Need Triage Line (INTL) for Individuals and Families

2. Senate Sponsor Lori Berman

3. Date of Request 10/28/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Serving approx. 4,500 households annually, the Immediate Need Triage Line for Individuals and Families, by Rales Jewish Family Services is a centralized intake and referral program that provides a free initial psycho-social assessment to identify needs and quickly connect callers with recommendations for services at Rales JFS and/or other community resources. Licensed and/or experienced Geriatric Care professionals provide customized referrals within 48 business hours for mental health counseling, psychiatry, financial assistance, food assistance, Pediatric Occupational, Physical and/or Speech therapies, specialized care for vulnerable populations and emergency situations.

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	298,839
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	298,839

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)	298,839	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	10,000	2%
Other	288,839	48%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	597,678	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1054

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Indirect Admin Fee of 10%; Rent and occupational fees, general office expenses, Grant Management Fee of 5%; Post-award administration, compliance, management, reporting, and operational tracking.	38,979
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Five (5) Master's-level, Florida licensed mental health professionals (LCSW, LCSW QS, and Psy. D) Two (2) Intake Clinical Care Managers (Master's-level; LCSWs or LMHCs and/or Geriatric Care Manager)	259,860
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)		298,839

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1054

Funds will support a single point of entry for residents in immediate need, ensuring they receive timely, coordinated access to behavioral health care and wrap-around supports. The goal is to stabilize individuals and families, reduce the impact of urgent crises, and improve household well-being.

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

INTL will operate as a centralized intake and referral program staffed by licensed and experienced professionals. Each caller will receive a no-cost psycho-social assessment by phone to identify and triage immediate needs. Based on the assessment, individuals will be connected with appropriate Rales JFS services—including mental health counseling and psychiatry, pediatric therapies (OT, PT, Speech), summer camp scholarships, financial assistance, food pantry, Meals on Wheels, and senior services—or referred to vetted community partners. Calls are triaged within 24–48 hours.

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

Through INTL individuals gain direct access to a system of triage of needs including an initial psycho-social assessment, followed by tailored connections to services that address their immediate needs. Direct supports include access to counseling and psychiatry, food assistance, emergency financial aid, summer camp scholarships for children, and specialized care for seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. When appropriate, the program also provides referrals to external community resources, ensuring residents facing urgent circumstances receive timely and effective support to stabilize their lives.

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

INTL serves all demographics, including but not limited to all socio-economic populations: children, adults, seniors, Holocaust survivors, all religious affiliations, persons with disabilities, and, in many cases, working families with constraints of limited household income and personal assets. Anticipated impact is 9,000 individuals.

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

INTL provides swift connections for individuals facing urgent situations, linking them to Rales JFS' services and/or essential community supports. Nearly 90% of callers will receive follow-up and referral information within 24–48 hours. Additionally, at least 85% of callers connected to the INTL financial assistance/ counseling will report increased ability to pay household expenses as well as reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression evidenced by client report and PHQ9/GAD assessments. By promptly addressing immediate needs, the service helps ease anxiety, and related challenges while equipping callers with a clear, solution-focused plan of action. Access to Rales JFS' broad network of services and resources leads to immediate improvements in individual and household well-being and mental health. To ensure accountability and effectiveness, Rales JFS operates a rigorous Quality Assurance program designed to measure success and drive continuous improvement. Tracking will include the vo

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?

Penalties for not meeting contracted deliverables may warrant decreased funding.

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)
- ☐ 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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1054

- ☐ 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

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1054

☐ 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.