The Florida Senate
Local Funding Initiative Request
Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1244

1. Project Title Enhancing 407-Recover Helpline: Expanding Access to Peer-Led Recovery Support in Central Florida

2. Senate Sponsor Jason Brodeur

3. Date of Request 11/11/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Recovery Connections of Central Florida is a locally governed Recovery Community Organization providing multiple pathways to long-term recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). All services are delivered by Certified Recovery Peer Specialists (CRPS) with lived experience, uniquely equipped to offer hope, guidance, and nonjudgmental support. RCCF plans to expand the 407-Recover helpline to meet Central Florida's urgent SUD needs. A new Customer Relationship Management (CRM)/Electronic Health Record (EHR) system will improve referral accuracy, follow-up, and client records. Phone-based peers will use our 200+ resource database to assist callers in crisis, schedule stabilized individuals for in-person support, develop recovery plans, and connect them to wraparound services. These upgrades will streamline operations, strengthen care across all stages of recovery, and support future statewide expansion.

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	471,954
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	**471,954**

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)	471,954	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 2026-2027	**471,954**	**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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 471,954

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

In lieu of state funding, funds can be requested from other sources, including other government and private sector sources.

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.

N/A

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits for a Call Center Recovery Support Services Manager responsible for overseeing information and referral services, recovery support services strategy, partnerships, and supervision of Certified Recovery Peer Specialists who are on the phones. Additionally this will a cover a portion of Executive Director's, Chief Operating Officer and Outreach Director's salary.	117,599
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	Call center manager desk, chair, cubicle outfit, printer, rent & utilities, EHR license, dial pad softphone, desktop/software, ancillary tech	22,414
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for four full time Certified Recovery Specialists (CRPS) for 12 months. Our CRPS team members are the most critical component of our recovery support services, using their lived experience to guide people on their recovery journey. The CRPS team facilitates provides information and referrals and sets up callers for in person recovery support services.	242,278
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	CRPS desk, chair, cubicle outfit, printer, rent & utilities, EHR license, dialpad softphone, desktop/software, ancillary tech	89,663
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)		**471,954**

13. Program Performance

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

Our 407-Helpline receives 6,000+ monthly calls, creating bottlenecks and limiting timely SUD support. We plan to establish a dedicated Call Center, separating Helpline calls from participant calls. We plan to purchase furniture, equipment, and an EHR system for this center. This will strengthen our 24/7 services across our existing service area as well as allow for expansion in the future.

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

Funds will support the creation of a dedicated Call Center, including equipment, workspace, and a CRM/EHR system to improve Helpline operations. Activities include triaging callers, scheduling in-person support, providing recovery planning, and connecting individuals to treatment and essential wraparound services.

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

Phone-based peers will use our 200+ resource database to support individuals in crisis and schedule stabilized callers for in-person visits where they can create Recovery Management Plans and access wraparound services. Strengthening call-in operations eases pressure on in-person staff and streamlines RCCF's ability to support all stages of recovery.

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

The target population served by this project is people in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Brevard counties who are seeking recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). As SUD affects people from all backgrounds, the population includes elderly persons, persons with poor mental health, persons with poor physical health, jobless persons, economically disadvantaged persons, homeless, physically disabled, drug users (in health services), currently or formerly incarcerated persons, and drug offenders (in criminal justice). We expect to serve 1,500 - 2,000 individuals annually through this project.

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

Recovery Connections anticipates that the enhanced Call Center will improve mental health by increasing completion of timely Peer appointments, and improve physical stability by increasing successful connections to peer support and wraparound services (transportation, food, clothing, and treatment services.) Economic self-sufficiency will be strengthened through more completed workforce-related referrals, while recidivism is expected to decrease as justice-involved callers maintain engagement and avoid re-arrest. Substance use outcomes will improve through higher rates of follow-up Recovery Support sessions. All outcomes will be tracked through the new EHR/Call Center system, which will record call disposition, referrals, service completion, and follow-up results, with regular reporting compared to baseline performance.

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?

Deliverables will be measured regularly throughout the funding contract time period. If off track, Recovery Connections will proactively communicate and work with appropriate parties to course correct as needed.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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 infastructure)

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	George	**Last Name**	Margoles
b. Organization	Recovery Connections of Central Florida		
c. E-mail Address	georgem@rccfhelp.org		
d. Phone Number	(407)670-9295	**Ext.**	

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization	Recovery Connections of Central Florida
b. Municipality and County	Orange

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	George	**Last Name**	Margoles
e. E-mail Address	Recovery Connections of Central Florida		
f. Phone Number	(407)670-9295	**Ext.**	

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	Kimberlee Ann Strong
b. Firm Name	McKinnonStrong LLC
c. E-mail Address	kim@mckinnonstrong.com
d. Phone Number	(407)619-1711

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