



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3151

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

4. Project/Program Description

We have a rapidly increasing population and the high number of veterans and retired military in our area, many of which have pre-existing conditions such as PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), that can predispose them to behaviors prompting run-ins with law enforcement. This will allow a jump start of a Veterans' Treatment Court in Santa Rosa County, enabling the First Judicial Circuit to have a two-year lead time to budget and secure long-term permanent funding for this much-needed problem-solving court which has the following objectives:

1. Reinforce the importance of following the rules set by the Veteran's Treatment Court judge and stakeholder team.
2. Reduction of depression, anxiety, learning new techniques to deal with PTSD, triggers and suicidal ideation.
3. Reduction in suicides.
4. Re-establish financial independence and self-sufficiency.
5. Reduce recidivism and eliminate substance abuse.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	150,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	150,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	150,000	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 2024-2025	150,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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?

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

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

13. 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	Veterans' Treatment Court Coordinator	65,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Laptop, monitor, printer and scanner for the Vet Court Coordinator Training - NADCP Conference - Vet Court Coordinator Mileage - Vet Court Coordinator - travel in county to jail, etc. Office Supplies - Vet Court Coordinator	5,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Veterans Care Coordinator/Mentor Salary (part-time), general liability insurance, cell phone, office supplies, mileage, training, shipping, administrative expenses, treatment services and assessments, drug testing and laboratory testing, community control GPS setup/admin fee, and bus passes.	80,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		150,000



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14. Program Performance

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

This will allow a jump start of a Veterans' Treatment Court in Santa Rosa County, enabling the First Judicial Circuit to have a two-year lead time to budget and secure long-term permanent funding for this much-needed court. We have a rapidly increasing population and the high number of veterans and retired military in our area, many of which have pre-existing conditions such as PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), that can predispose them to behaviors prompting run-ins with law enforcement.

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

The VTC Coordinator will provide case management for each participant and will work hand in hand with the veteran as well as VA mental health counselors and addiction personnel if substance abuse is involved. Individual and group sessions, day treatment, medication evaluation and management, in-patient treatment, hyperbaric medicine, weekly drug testing, and community control monitoring GPS setup/admin fee are included.

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

The Veterans Treatment Court will assist in reducing individuals incarcerated at the county jail and diverting offenders from the state prison system which will provide a cost savings at the local and state level. A contractor will coordinate treatment services for 30 participants which include substance use, individual treatment sessions, drug and laboratory testing. All of this will be coordinated for the Veterans and shared with the respective stakeholders.

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

Veterans who have crossed with the law who may have pre-existing conditions which contributed to the aberrant behavior which without intervention may be repeated in an escalating fashion. Frequently, self-medicating behaviors such as substance abuse exacerbate and predate the unlawful behavior.

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

Cessation of substance abuse. Reduction of depression, anxiety, learning new techniques to deal with PTSD, triggers and suicidal ideation. The benefit of this initiative is the opportunity to learn how to eliminate self-medicating behavior by the veteran. This also applies to alcohol abuse. Weekly substance abuse testing is a part of this program to eradicate these unhealthy behaviors to deal with past trauma and military experiences. Objective is to have the veterans secure employment and re-establish financial independence and self-sufficiency. Data will be gathered to identify recidivism. Typically, Veteran's Treatment Courts reduce this.1. If the veteran graduates from the 12- to 18-month diversionary court, their record can be expunged. This alternative problem-solving court's benefit is in reducing jail time and prison time 2. Saves the families of the veteran from additional emotional and financial hardships as a result of the arrest.

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 First Judicial Circuit has been managing Veterans' Treatment Courts in Okaloosa and Escambia counties for years and will correctly administer this funding, if approved. Accordingly, it has experience with tried-and-true contractors which assist on a dependable basis with these programs. This appropriation will allow sufficient lead time for the First Judicial Circuit to obtain funding to continue to administer a Veterans' Treatment Court in Santa Rosa County over the long term.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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) State - First Judicial Circuit

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number