



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2169

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

4. Project/Program Description

Volusia Recovery Alliance (VRA) is a recovery community organization that helps those seeking recovery through multiple pathways. Freedom To Change (FTC) is a voluntary recovery coaching program provided by the VRA. Peer Specialist are people with lived experience and practical knowledge because of their long-term recovery from substance use disorder. They share these experiences for the benefit of the women served by FTC. The recovery peer specialist utilizes WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan), an evidence-based practice to work with the incarcerated women. The recovery peer specialist uses the WRAP to provide the needed support to reduce or eliminate jail recidivism and to enhance the participants' independence. The peer promotes recovery, empowerment, self-direction, and decision-making. The current program has a waiting list of 20-30 women at a time and the expansion will increase the capacity those served at the womens jail and would add this program for the men's jail.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	96,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	96,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	96,000	77%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	28,000	23%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	124,000	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.

Volusia Recovery Alliance will continue to do outreach to our faith-based communities and other community partners for 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

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	Add two full-time certified recovery peer specialists at \$17.00 per hour + 26% fringe	90,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Wellness Recovery Action Plan work books: 10 @ \$15 = \$150 Votran Monthly Bus Passes for 100 participants for 2 months upon release 100 x \$46.00 per pass = \$4,600 Lyft rides for release transportation to a sober residence: 100 x \$12.50 per ride = \$1250	6,000
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)		96,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Volusia Recovery Alliance provided a pilot program called Freedom To Change (FTC) in the Volusia County Women's Jail pre-Covid which was disrupted by Covid precautions and then relaunched in May 2022. The program is designed to reduce recidivism and help the women achieve long-term recovery from substance use disorder. We teach them recovery tools and how to apply the evidence-based Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) curriculum to their lives. Our goal is to expand the FTC program to help more women in the jail and to add participants from the men's jail. Outcomes will be measured, and the program can be replicated in other facilities.

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

The Freedom to Change program provides WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) services in a group format twice weekly. These services are provided by recovery peer specialist. The recovery peer specialist will meet with the individual on an individual basis so that they have a recovery plan on how to maintain recovery upon release. They utilize their lived experience to give the individual hope that recovery is possible. The recovery peer specialist links the individual to the necessary support services in the community. These services could include housing, mental health support services, childcare, clothing, and items for their basic needs.

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

Group and one-on-one coaching are provided to assist the individual in setting recovery goals that help the person sustain recovery from substance use disorder and mental health challenges. Areas of need are identified by utilizing assessments that define the specific services needed before and after release.

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

Our target population is the men and women who are incarcerated in the Volusia County Jail suffering from substance use disorder and mental health challenges. With these additional funds, the program could increase the amount of people served to a minimum of 120 people per year.

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

The expected benefit is to increase the number of those incarcerated persons who, when released will continue their sobriety by utilizing the services of our recovery peer specialists to gain life skills and achieve success. Additionally, this program while helping the inmates be successful upon release also benefits the corrections officers and society at large because the program emphasizes respect. Outcomes are measured on a monthly basis utilizing recovery assessment tools and are tracked in a database by program leaders.

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 agency's standard penalties are sufficient, and loss of future funding would impact our jail participants who lack access to resources that help them not re-offend.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number