



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1446

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

4. Project/Program Description

Our goal and purpose is to prevent veteran suicide and to help veterans heal from PTSD, TBI and MST. Our program includes a complete 24 week service dog training program that includes the acquisition of a dog, and all necessary equipment at no charge to the service member or veteran. Life skills and mental health counseling are also provided to the veterans and service members at no cost. A new training facility will better enable our organization to serve the veterans in our state and provide them with the tools they need to survive and thrive. The funds requested will assist with construction and materials for our new 15,000 sq. ft. building to house our service dog training program for veterans and service members to include training, staff offices, mental health counselor office, scenario rooms and storage rooms. Our program currently has over 700 active Veterans from 46 different counties throughout the State of FL.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,750,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,750,000

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)	1,750,000	36%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	900,000	18%
Local	2,250,000	46%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	4,900,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	900,000	569A	No

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.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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Yes

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

PPP-\$72,413.00 Utilized for Payroll and Utility Payments in 2020.

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

04/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

02/2025

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.

K9 Partners for Patriots, Inc.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction and Materials for our 15,000 sq ft building to house a service dog training program for veterans and service members to include training floor, staff offices, scenario rooms, mental health counselor office, conference room, elevator, lobby and storage rooms built to State of FL Bldg. code.	1,750,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,750,000

14. Program Performance

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



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A larger training facility will allow us to increase the number of veterans receiving the assistance they need throughout the state. We will be able to expand our reach to others outside of our demographic market, including the underserved. Having and owning our own training facility will allow us to reduce overhead costs from our lease and allow us to serve a higher number of veterans in the State of Florida. A new training facility will allow us to hold all training, mental health counseling and aftercare events under one roof.

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

Our program includes a complete 24 week service dog training program that includes the acquisition of a dog, service vest, crate and car harness, certification record, patches and all other necessary equipment at no charge to the service member or veteran. Life skills as well as mental health counseling are offered to the service member or veteran as well as the spouse and family. Having a larger facility will also allow us to have aftercare events at our facility to further support and evaluate our veterans continuing plan of care and support.

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

Direct Services include Veteran/K9 Training; basic, graduate and advanced levels, lifetime support to all veterans including their K9's and families. Services include access to our professional staff for any training assistance during their training sessions as well as after graduation, quarterly aftercare events for veterans and their families, free mental health counseling by our on site Licensed Clinical Social Worker for both private and group counseling sessions. Life skills to assist veterans with laws pertaining to them and their service dog as well as working out real life scenario training in our scenario rooms located in our training facility to help prepare them for public outings.

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

Veterans and Active Duty Service Members who have been diagnosed with PTSD, TBI and/or MST from all eras, (Not just Post 9-11). Also included, are the spouses/caregivers, children and other family members as well as the Florida communities in which the veteran resides all of whom benefit with the help of a service dog allows them to break through the invisible wounds of war and rejoin society. The Tampa Bay area is home to over 320 thousand veterans and the state of Florida has the 3rd largest population of veterans in the country. We currently serve 46 different counties within the State of Florida and wish to expand our services to all 67 counties in the state.

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 for program veterans that have graduated from our program after receiving training of their own service dog is a statistically significant improvement in the post test scores of all clinical surveys that are conducted and administered by our in house Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The results of our training program are then independently researched and evaluated by PhD, LCSW Professors at the University of Central Florida with over 8 years of empirical data. The result is that our program allows graduates to become productive members of their communities as they transition from a life of isolation to one of socialization.

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?

In the event K9 Partners for Patriots fails to meet the contractual deliverables, the financial consequences would be to refund any unused monies after the completion of the project.

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



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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)

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