

Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: Tallahassee Area Veterans Legal Clinic
2. Date of Submission: 12/17/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Alan Williams

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
If answer to 4a is ?NO? skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 <i>(If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 <i>(If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)</i>			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)</i>	Recurring Base Budget <i>(Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A)</i>	INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested	TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested <i>(Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)</i>	Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)</i>
Input Amounts:					100,000	0	100,000

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Dan Hendrickson
- b. Organization: Big Bend Mental Health Coalition
- c. Email:
- d. Phone #: (850)570-1967

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Florida Veterans Foundation/Patriotic Partners, Inc.
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

More than a dozen local agencies, veterans' organizations, and attorney associations and services have initiated an organizing project to provide co-ordinated legal services to Veterans and their families in the Capital area. The overwhelming need has been documented over the last three years, as the Legal Program of the North Florida Homeless Veterans Standdown provided legal consults and representation for scores of Veterans on a variety of civil, administrative and criminal problems. Other area legal services and Veterans programs have been responding to a backlog of legal crises, often preventing Veterans from jobs, drivers' licenses, benefits and housing, among other common scenarios.

The Tallahassee Area Veterans' Clinic will combine and co-ordinate these patchwork efforts and recruit invaluable ADDITIONAL resources from students, paralegals, investigators, and pro bono attorneys. Inspired by Veterans' Legal Clinics in dozens of university communities around the nation, including several in Florida, the organizing committee includes area non-profits, existing legal and veterans' service organizations, and representatives from universities and the federal VA Clinic in Tallahassee, which provides outreach to tens of thousands of Veterans in area communities.

The efficient use of paralegals, student investigators, and legal interns and researchers has been a proven resource in Veteran Clinics throughout the country, with the recent awarding to Stetson University School of Law top nationwide honors for its Veterans Clinic in Pinellas County.

The annualized budget requested will cover administrative overhead, providing a Clinic Co-ordinator (80,000), and part of the costs of a storefront office (20,000) for confidential consultations with Veterans serviced through sponsoring organizations. Recruiting the legal service providers and pro bono services will include seconded staffing, sharing of promotional and research materials, and no-cost legal consultation and representation by supervising attorneys. (\$100,000 in pro-bono representation alone, @ 30 hours per month). Students and other volunteers will conclude services to a total of 120 veterans, @ 10 new consultations per month. Based on the success of the Standdown Legal Program, we expect to exceed these goals in both intake numbers and cases resolved.

The outstanding complications for individual Veterans include both local and out-of-area legal cases, often out-of-state and years or even decades old and overdue. The most commonly identified cases are Civil or administrative, and therefore cannot be addressed in Leon's newly established Veterans' Treatment Court, which is limited to criminal cases. Drivers License suspensions from various and multiple jurisdictions, as well as out-of-date child support orders and enforcement proceedings, are the most time-consuming cases for which there are no current, co-ordinated advocacy, and programs identifying these problems are back-logged, often limited in expertise, and unable to address the increasing number of cases. The Clinic will utilize students and volunteers to aggressively address the backlog, as well as promote and organize an ongoing system of timely response for Veterans returning, moving into the area, retiring, or losing jobs or housing, and in need of crisis legal resources.

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

Federal: 0

State: 100,000 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 10,000

Other: 100,000

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes