



Law Offices of

Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc.

Servicios Legales de Florida Rural, S.A.
Legal Servis Riral De Florida, Inc.

Leticia Medina-Richman
Executive Director

Chrystal Martin Thornton
President, Board of Directors

Respond to:

Toll Free Clients Only
1-888-582-3410

- Ft. Myers
6611 Orion Drive
Suite 201
Ft. Myers, Florida 33912
239-334-4554
239-334-3042 fax
- *Satellite Location***
Family Services Center
21500 Gibraltar Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
- Peter Dennis**
Regional Managing Attorney
- Immokalee
1504 Lake Trafford Rd.
Immokalee, FL 34142
Migrant Farm Worker Unit
1-855-771-3077
1-844-44FARMWORKERS
(1-844-443-2769)
- Tia Hagggar**
Managing Attorney
- Ft. Pierce
121 North 2nd Street, Ste 401
Fourth Floor
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950
772-466-4766
772-264-8145 fax
- *Satellite Location***
Children's Services Council
Of Martin County
101 S.E. Central Parkway
Stuart, FL 34994
- Iola Mosley**
Regional Managing Attorney
- Lakeland
1321 E. Memorial Blvd.
Lakeland, Florida 33801-2103
863-688-7376
863-683-7861 fax
863-683-7969 Admin fax only
- Monica Schomisch**
Regional Managing Attorney
- Palm Beach Area
Riviera Beach
2051 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Suite # 101
Riviera Beach, Florida 33404
561-820-8902
561-828-0546 fax
- Belle Glade
624 South Main Street
Belle Glade, Florida 33430
561-993-0003
561-828-0546 fax
- Kanisha Taylor**
Regional Managing Attorney
- www.frls.org

Ms. Natalie Hinger
Interim Sr. Financial Analyst
Board of County Commissioners Charlotte County
Budget & Administrative Services Dept.
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Date: April 30, 2025

RE: 2025-2026 Continued Funding Request

Dear Commissioners:

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to the provision of funding that we utilize to serve legal aid clients throughout Charlotte County. This letter serves to indicate our interest and letter of intent to continue this partnership in FY 2025-2026.

Florida Rural Legal Services (FRLS) is requesting FY 2025-2026 funding to support the current legal aid services we provide in Charlotte County. FRLS also requests consideration for a funding increase for 2025-2026 to increase the level of services we can provide or for consideration to maintain the current level of funding at a minimum if an increase is not possible for this cycle. The proposed increase in funding will ensure that FRLS can continue to provide free legal assistance to Charlotte County.

Between October 2023 and September 2024, FRLS closed 451 cases and opened 535 cases for residents of Charlotte County. FRLS currently has 73 open client cases. FRLS provided 2,745,47 hours of services to clients living in Charlotte County. FRLS assisted clients with obtaining needed public benefits, divorce and family protection, guardianships, housing and homelessness prevention. Many of our clients are faced with several obstacles and often have more than one legal issue. FRLS provides holistic legal services and community outreach services to address those needs.

Between October 2023 and September 2024, FRLS helped Charlotte County clients save or recover over \$298,333.57 dollars in lump sum recoveries and debt avoidances. FRLS also reached over 500 people through more than 200 outreach events conducted in Charlotte County in

the last year. The funding we receive is helping us to positively impact the lives of Charlotte County residents.

The economic climate low-income households are currently navigating has increased the need for legal aid services as indigent individuals and vulnerable families face economic hardships that result in food insecurity, risk of becoming unhoused, increased domestic violence, mental health issues, and a need for public benefits.

FRLS has been leading the war against poverty in Florida since 1966. We are the gateway for free civil legal assistance to low-income populations and the only provider of comprehensive migrant worker free civil legal aid statewide. FRLS will continue to provide free legal representation to the residents in need in Charlotte County through this partnership.

FRLS remains dedicated to the mission of serving low income and vulnerable populations. We are certain with the continued support of our partners and funders, we will continue to expand our high-quality legal services while also working with our pro-bono partners to expand our reach of service to those in need.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission that provides access to civil legal assistance at no cost to those who need us more than ever. Should you have any questions on our services please do not hesitate to contact FRLS Grants Manager Christine Davis at Christine.Davis@frls.org.

Sincerely,



Leticia Medina-Richman
Executive Director