

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 17, 2023	() Consent	(X) Regular
	() Workshop	() Public Hearing
Department		
Submitted By:	<u>County Administration</u>	
Submitted For:	<u>Office of Resilience</u>	

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

- A.) ratify the signature of the Resilience Director on a Resilient Florida Program planning grant application submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on August 31, 2023, requesting \$1,267,000 to conduct flooding and sea level rise vulnerability assessments for seven (7) Palm Beach County municipalities and end after three (3) years; and
- B.) delegate to the County Administrator, or designee, the signatory authority on additional forms, certifications, contracts/agreements and amendments thereto, and any other necessary documents related to the FDEP Resilient Florida Program grant that do not substantially change the scope of work, terms or conditions of the application.

SUMMARY: The Office of Resilience (OOR) submitted a planning grant application to the FDEP Resilient Florida Program for funding to conduct flooding and sea level rise vulnerability assessments for seven (7) small Palm Beach County municipalities with limited staff capacity. These municipalities include City of Atlantis, Town of Cloud Lake, Town of Glen Ridge, Village of Golf, Town of Haverhill, Town of Hypoluxo, and Village of Palm Springs. This project will result in Section 380.093 F.S. compliant vulnerability assessments for each municipality and make them eligible for implementation funding from the Resilient Florida Program.

The emergency signature process was utilized to meet the grant application deadline because there was insufficient time to submit this application through the regular agenda process. In addition, the County Administrator delegated signing authority to the Resilience Director. Due to future grant-related items requiring timely execution by the County, staff is requesting Board of County Commissioners approval for the County Administrator or designee to approve grant documents and act as the project's designee and liaison. No match is required for this grant. Districts 2, 3, 4, 7 RM

Background and Justification: Continued on Page 3

Attachments:

- 1. Emergency Memo with Application
- 2. Delegation of Authority Designee Memo

Recommended by:	<u><i>Mary S Houston</i></u>	<u>10/3/2023</u>
	Department Director	Date
Approved by:	<u><i>Paul</i></u>	<u>10/3/23</u>
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Is Item Included in Current Budget?			Yes _____	No <u>X</u>	
Does this item include the use of federal funds?			Yes _____	No <u>X</u>	

Budget Account No.:

Fund 0001 Department 261 Unit 2101 Object 3401 Program _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item. If a final award letter is received from the FDEP, an agenda item will be prepared in which the budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual award.

C. Department Fiscal Review: _____ *Amberh Dec 19/19/23*

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Lisa Monte 9/21/2023
 OFMB *JA 9/20* *MD 9/21* *AMF 9/21*
9/28/23
9/29/23
 Contract Development and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] *10/3/23*
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

Background and Justification:

The FDEP Resilient Florida Program aims to effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces. The Resilient Florida Program funds planning grants for standardized vulnerability assessments that provide a common framework for the development of a statewide assessment, as well as implementation grants that fund resilience projects that are identified in the local governments' compliant vulnerability assessments.

This project will identify or address the risks of flooding and sea level rise on critical and regionally-significant assets owned or maintained by seven (7) Palm Beach County municipalities and ensure that they have standardized vulnerability assessments that are compliant with Section 380.093 F.S. and the Resilient Florida Grant program. This project builds upon and is compatible with the County's ongoing effort to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment in unincorporated Palm Beach County and Western partner municipalities and ensures compliance with Section 380.093 F.S.



DATE: August 28, 2023
TO: Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor, Board of County Commissioners
THRU: Patrick Rutter, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: Megan S. Houston, Director, Office of Resilience
SUBJECT: Authorization to Submit FDEP Resilient Florida Program Planning Grant Application

Office of Resilience
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 West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743
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 FAX: (561) 233-2414
 www.pbcgov.com/resilience

**Palm Beach County
 Board of County
 Commissioners**

- Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor
- Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor
- Maria G. Marino
- Michael A. Barnett
- Marci Woodward
- Sara Baxter
- Mack Bernard

County Administrator
 Verdenia C. Baker

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Pursuant to Section 309 of the Administrative Code, Office of Resilience (OOR) staff request your approval to delegate authority to the County Administrator or designee to act as an Authorized Organization Representative on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the online submittal of, and electronic signature on, a grant application for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Program planning grant, which will begin at grant execution and end three (3) years after grant execution.

FDEP Resilient Florida Program aims to effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces. OOR aims to apply for \$1,267,000.00 to fund vulnerability assessments to identify or address the risks of flooding and sea level rise on critical and regionally-significant assets owned or maintained by 7 Palm Beach County municipalities. This project builds upon and is compatible with the County's ongoing effort to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment in unincorporated Palm Beach County and Western partner municipalities and ensures compliance with Section 380.093 F.S.

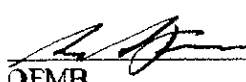

There is no match required for this grant. The grant application must be submitted through the Resilient Florida Grant Portal no later than September 1, 2023. The emergency signature process is being used due to insufficient time to submit this item through the BCC agenda process. Staff will submit this item at the next available BCC meeting.

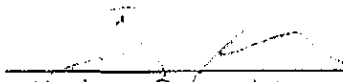
Please contact me at (561) 681-6812 with any questions.

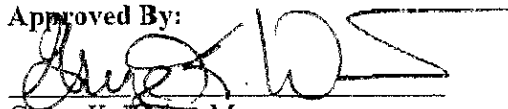
Attachments:

1. Grant Application
2. Resilient Florida Program Planning and Implementation Project Application Q&A

Reviewed By:


 OFMB

 County Administration


 Assistant County Attorney

Approved By:

 Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor



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RAN-00633

State Agency	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Peril of Flood Listed	✓
State Program	Resilient Florida	Letters of Support Authors	
Disaster Number/Year	N/A	Letters of Support Number	
Critical Infrastructure			
Project located in a Coastal Zone?			
SLIP Study Required?			
Local Project Phase			
Source of Match			
Funding Mechanism			
Estimated Project Duration			
Total Evaluation Score			
▼ Applicant Information			
Grant Funding Type	Funding for Resilient Florida – Planning Projects	Status	Submitted
Applicant Account	Palm Beach County	Applicant Contact	
Applicant Authorized Signee	Megan Houston	Applicant Fiscal Agent	Laura Thompson
Regional Resilience Entity Account		Applicant Grant Manager	Natalie Freundberg
▼ Project Information			
RPG Project Type		Project Title	Central Palm Beach County Collaborative Municipal Vulnerability Assessment
Entity Category		Project Location	
Resilient Florida Grant Program Types	Vulnerability assessment compliant with s. 380.093, F.S.	Project Geo Location Narrative	
List the City(ies)/Town(s)/Village(s)	Atlantis, Cloud Lake, Glen Ridge, Golf, Haverhill, Hypoluxo, Palm Springs	State Lands Lease Agreement No.	
State Lands or State Parks Utilized		Project Geo Location	
Area Served	Palm Beach	Project Geo Location Metadata	
Sponsor City/County		Percent of Population	2
Total Population	1,500,000	Total Grant Match Amount	\$0
Prior Vulnerability	Yes	Total Grant Funding Amount Requested	\$1,267,000
Prior Vulnerability Share	No	Prior Vulnerability Entities	Palm Beach County is currently undergoing a vulnerability assessment of unincorporated areas of the County. This will be shared with DEP once completed.
Project Critical Assets	N/A	Funding for Regional Resilience	

▼ **General Information**

Project Need The municipalities included in this grant application do not yet have flooding and sea level rise vulnerability assessments that are compliant with Section 380.093, F.S. They all are located along the east coast of Palm Beach County, Florida. They are already experiencing inland flooding during heavy rains and tropical storm events, and sunny-day flooding in coastal areas due to king tides. This flooding is expected to increase as sea level is projected to increase between 2.17 feet (NOAA 2022 Int-Low Projection) to 5.28 ft (NOAA 2022, Int-High Projection) by 2100 locally. Storms are expected to become stronger, with heavier precipitation in the coming years. According to the Palm Beach County Local Mitigation Strategy, coastal PBC receives more rain than the western portion of the County, and, historically, PBC tends to have at least a minor flooding event at least once annually. The proposed project will address these needs by inventorying critical and regionally significant assets, identifying local impacts and risks, performing exposure and sensitivity analysis of the various flood impacts on the municipalities' assets, and ultimately creating a vulnerability assessment for each municipality that is compliant with Section 380.093. These vulnerability assessments will be added to FDEP's Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Data Set. These vulnerability assessments will help each municipality address current flooding and prepare for future flooding by identifying the assets that may require adaptation efforts. The vulnerability assessment will also make them eligible to receive funding through the FDEP program to implement those adaptation projects.

Project Fit The proposed project is a vulnerability assessment that will identify and address risks of flooding and sea level rise in accordance with the guidance and requirements in Section 380.093, F.S.

Flood risk in VA	Flood risk in VA explanation
Compound flood risk in VA	Compound flood risk explanation
Regionally significant asset	Regionally significant asset explanation
Percent CA Vulnerable	Percent CA vulnerable explanation
Existing flood mitigation project	Existing flood mitigation project expln
Flood frequency	Flood frequency explanation
Current flood severity	Flood severity explanation
Project design status	Project design status explanation
Permit & easement status	Permit & easement status explanation
Local cost share available	Local cost share available explanation
Habitat enhancement or NBS	Habitat enhancement or NBS explanation

Critical habitat	Critical habitat explanation	
Cost effective	Cost effective explanation	
Cost share available	Cost share available explanation	
Previous state funding	Previous state funding explanation	
Exceeds FBC/local floodplain regs	Exceeds FBC/local floodplain regs expln	
Innovative tech	Innovative tech explanation	
Community financially disadvantaged	Comm financially disadvantaged expln	
GI Benefit Spring	GI Benefit Spring Explanation	
GI Protect Water Sources	GI Protect Water Sources Explanation	
GI Facilities Waste Treatment	GI Facilities Waste Treatment Explanatio	
GI Convert Septic To Sewer	GI Convert Septic To Sewer Explanation	
GI Green Stormwater Infrastructure	GI Green Stormwater Infrastrure Expl	
GI Applied Other Programs	GI Applied Other Programs Explanation	
GI Community Population		
▼ Information		
Agency Contact	Amount of Funds Awarded	
GI Critical Assets Served	Amount of Funds Requested	
GI Critical Assets Served Explanation	Lands, Easements, Rights of Way	
Permitting	Metric Assigned	
Planning Section Lead	Metric Value	
Project Follow Up	Metric Value Units	None
Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise		
▼ Additional Funding		
Additional Function Applicant Entity	Additional Funding Current Grant Number	
Additional Funding Current Grant	Additional Funding Request	
Additional Match Secured	Additional Funding Request Justification	
▼ Project Work Plan		
Project Summary	This vulnerability assessment will identify or address the risks of flooding and sea level rise on critical and regionally significant assets owned or maintained by the 7 Palm Beach County municipalities listed. This project builds upon and is compatible with the County's ongoing parallel effort to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment in unincorporated Palm Beach County and	Project Description Palm Beach County is partnering with 7 municipalities to identify or address the risks of flooding and sea level rise on the critical and regionally significant assets owned or maintained by the municipalities. These municipalities do not yet have a Section 380.093 F.S. compliant Vulnerability Assessment and do not have the staff capacity to undertake one. The Palm Beach County Office of Resilience (OOR) is

Western partner municipalities and ensures compliance with Section 380.093 F.S.

partnering to support these municipalities with this effort, by serving as the grant applicant and grant manager, procuring contractors, managing contractors, and providing GIS support to the project. Municipal representatives will support the project by serving on the steering committee, assisting with data collection, and helping with community outreach efforts. This project will result in Section 380.093 F.S. compliant vulnerability assessments for all of the municipalities to be included in the Statewide Vulnerability Assessment. Palm Beach County has previously partnered with 7 municipalities in Southeastern Palm Beach County to support their vulnerability assessments and is currently conducting a vulnerability assessment for unincorporated Palm Beach County and the Glades communities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay.

▼ Project Need and Benefit

Project Feasibility The County has previously partnered with local municipalities to complete a vulnerability assessment in Southeast PBC, which included Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Highland Beach, Lake Worth, Lantana, Ocean Ridge, and a few small areas of unincorporated PBC within the collective utility areas shared by these municipalities. This assessment was completed in 2022. PBC OOR was awarded funding from the Resilient Florida Grant Program in 2022, and is currently performing a vulnerability assessment for unincorporated PBC, and the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay. This vulnerability assessment is scheduled to be completed by September 2024. With the prior and current experience of performing flooding and sea level rise vulnerability assessments, PBC OOR's leadership and expertise in this project will assist in streamlining the process for the municipalities, that otherwise would not have the staff capacity to undertake this project. PBC OOR is also familiar with scheduling requirements for contractor procurement, data, collection, and community engagement. PBC OOR will use this experience to plan accordingly with the project timeline.

Project Vulnerability This project will meet all of the outlined requirements for a Vulnerability Assessment as provided in Section 380.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), for the 7 Palm Beach County municipalities and their owned or maintained critical or regionally significant assets. The project will include a steering committee with at least 1 representative from each municipality included in the project. The project consultant, with the support of the Palm Beach County GIS team and municipal representatives, will acquire background data, including conducting an inventory of critical and regionally significant assets, utilizing the County's newly acquired LIDAR data as topographic data for this project, and collecting flood Scenario-Related data. With the data, the team will hire a consultant who will conduct an exposure analysis, sensitivity analysis, and focus area mapping for each of the municipalities. The project team will conduct public outreach meetings in each municipality at 2 key touch points during the vulnerability planning process. The first will take place during the initial data collection phase to present the project scope and goals, seek public feedback on assets being analyzed, and collect data from the community. Public outreach meetings will also take place during the draft vulnerability assessment phase to present the final draft of the vulnerability assessment and seek public feedback before it is finalized. The project will result in a final vulnerability assessment, which will include a vulnerability assessment report, with accompanying maps and tables, to be included in the State-wide Vulnerability Assessment.

Vulnerability Assessment include State

No

▼ Budget

Budget Narrative
Indirect Percent

Work Performed by

▼ Signature

Authorized Signers Signature Megan Houston

Certification Agreement ✓

▼ System Information

Created By	Natalie Frendberg, 7/25/2023 5:00 PM	ID	a195G000031gmSD
Last Modified By	Natalie Frendberg, 8/31/2023 7:59 PM	Preparer Type	Applicant
Owner	Natalie Frendberg	Preparer Account	Palm Beach County
EGR Application Name	RAN-00633	Preparer Contact	Natalie Frendberg
		Preparer User	Natalie Frendberg

Files

Palm Beach County_Municipal Boundaries Shapefile

Last Modified 8/31/2023 9:32 AM
Created By Natalie Frendberg

Palm Beach County_Map Series-7 Municipalities

Last Modified 8/30/2023 4:22 PM
Created By Natalie Frendberg

Palm Beach County_W-9

Last Modified 8/29/2023 11:30 AM
Created By Natalie Frendberg

Palm Beach County_Certificate of Insurance

Last Modified 8/29/2023 11:30 AM
Created By Natalie Frendberg

Palm Beach County_Letters of Support

Last Modified 8/29/2023 11:30 AM
Created By Natalie Frendberg

EGR Application History

8/31/2023 7:59 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Status from Draft to Submitted.

8/29/2023 12:30 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$872,000.00 to \$1,267,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:30 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$502,000.00 to \$872,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:30 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$182,000.00 to \$502,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:29 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$70,000.00 to \$182,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$0.00 to \$70,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg
Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$160,000.00 to \$0.00.

8/29/2023 12:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$740,000.00 to \$160,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$1,300,000.00 to \$740,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$1,760,000.00 to \$1,300,000.00.

8/29/2023 12:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$1,860,000.00 to \$1,760,000.00.

8/29/2023 9:08 AM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$1,880,000.00 to \$1,860,000.00.

8/24/2023 2:44 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$1,420,000.00 to \$1,880,000.00.

8/24/2023 2:44 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

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8/24/2023 2:44 PM

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8/24/2023 2:29 PM

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8/24/2023 2:28 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

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8/24/2023 2:28 PM

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8/24/2023 2:27 PM

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8/24/2023 2:08 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

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8/24/2023 2:08 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$720,000.00 to \$1,280,000.00.

8/24/2023 2:07 PM

User Natalie Frendberg

Action **Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$260,000.00 to \$720,000.00.**

8/24/2023 2:07 PM

User **Natalie Frendberg**

Action **Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$100,000.00 to \$260,000.00.**

8/24/2023 2:07 PM

User **Natalie Frendberg**

Action **Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested from \$0.00 to \$100,000.00.**

8/24/2023 1:23 PM

User **Natalie Frendberg**

Action **Changed Prior Vulnerability from No to Yes. Changed Prior Vulnerability Share to No.**

7/25/2023 5:21 PM

User **Natalie Frendberg**

Action **Changed Total Grant Funding Amount Requested to \$0.00.**

7/25/2023 5:10 PM

User **Natalie Frendberg**

Action **Changed Prior Vulnerability to No.**

7/25/2023 5:00 PM

User **Natalie Frendberg**

Action **Created.**

EGR Application Tasks

RTN-03795

Task Number **4**

Task Description **Perform exposure and sensitivity analysis for each municipality, in compliance with Resilient Florida program requirements.**

Total Task Amount Requested **\$370,000**

RTN-03797

Task Number **5**

Task Description **Create draft Vulnerability Assessment Report to be presented to stakeholder for feedback, a final Vulnerability Assessment Report which includes stakeholder feedback, and a Resilient Florida VA Checklist that is compliant with program requirements for each municipality.**

Total Task Amount Requested **\$395,000**

RTN-03807

Task Number **1**

Task Description **Project management tasks will include managing project activities, meetings, schedules, and records, maintaining project files and financial records related to project activities, providing necessary information to complete grant reports, and creating project management reports.**

Total Task Amount Requested **\$70,000**

RTN-03809

Task Number **2**

Task Description **Facilitate 2 community workshops and 2 governmental meetings for each municipality. The purpose of the first community workshop and governmental meeting is to allow the public and municipal representatives to provide input during the initial data collection stages, preferred methodologies, and data for analyzing potential sea level rise impacts and/or flooding, guiding factors to consider, and critical assets important to the community. The consultant will be responsible for preparing all social media notifications, meeting invitations, meeting materials, presentations, and graphics utilized during the meeting, based on prior approval from Palm Beach County and the representative from that municipality. The first workshops and meetings will be conducted during the data collection stages of the project.**

Total Task Amount Requested **\$112,000**

RTN-03811

Task Number **3**

Task Description **Complete data requests for each municipality, perform a gap analyses on data received from each municipality, and inventory the critical and regionally significant assets that lie within each municipality.**
Total Task Amount Requested **\$320,000**

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Resilient Florida Program Planning and Implementation Project Application Q&A

Helpful documents:

- [Standardized Vulnerability Assessment: Scope of Work Guidance](#).
- [Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook](#).

The following is a representation of questions and answers provided in discussions, webinars or via email that may assist future applicants to the Resilient Florida Program. Questions or answers may have been modified for accuracy and/or clarity.

Implementation Project Q&As

Are there defined amounts of funds that will be allocated for each project type? Are stormwater and drainage projects more likely to be funded?

There are no criteria in statute that direct the department to distribute funds based on resilience project type. Projects are reviewed for eligibility and then ranked in accordance with the criteria contained in statute. The department will submit a ranked list of all eligible projects in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 of each year.

For eligible special districts/entities given eligibility through the signing of HB 7053, has the application process through the portal/application materials been updated to accommodate these districts? Do these entities need to provide additional materials during the application process to verify their eligibility?

The application portal will accept applications from those entities. Documentation that supports the qualification and determination of the special district or entity can be uploaded in the application portal. The department is developing a guidance document to assist entities in determining eligibility and will make that available when complete.

Is utility undergrounding an eligible use for Resilient Florida Program funds?

Utility lines are typically more at risk of wind damage rather than from the impacts of flooding or sea level rise. A project must demonstrate that a critical asset is at risk of flooding or sea level rise and that the project mitigates that risk to be eligible for Resilient Florida grant funding.

Will the scoring system in the draft rule be used to score implementation projects this year (2022)?

Until the rule is fully adopted, the statutory language will be used to evaluate and rank projects.

What are the match requirements for the Supplemental Resilient Florida grants (federally funded projects)? Should applicants indicate on the application that they would like to be considered for the supplemental/federal grant funds?

The 2022 General Appropriations Act (GAA) for fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 funding requires that implementation projects funded with both state and federal funds be consistent with the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan (Resilience Plan) requirements in Subsection 380.093(5), F.S. Therefore, for the FY23-24 Statewide Plan, each project must have:

- A completed vulnerability assessment (VA) .
- 50% matching funds, unless the applicant is considered a disadvantaged small community in accordance with the statute.

Additionally, the department received the remaining fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 federal funds for implementation projects. The previous GAA oversight guidance for these funds did not specify the need for a vulnerability assessment or local matching funds. However, these funds are limited and the department has not finalized guidance for distribution.

The grant application does not allow the applicant to request the fund type for the project. Where possible, the department encourages applicants to submit all eligible implementation projects and to identify local matching funds for the project. This will benefit the project's scoring and ranking and will increase its chances of being funded.

Is there a limit to how early a match can be started/are there any rules to what is eligible for a pre-award of match funds?

There is no defined limit of how early matching funds can be started, but generally should be within one year prior to the fiscal year award date of the grant funds. Matching fund expenditure types and eligibility are subject to review and approval by the department.

Are wastewater plants impacted by flooding or inflow/infiltration eligible for a grant under this program?

Wastewater treatment facilities and lift stations are defined as critical assets in Subsection 380.093(2), F.S., and would be considered eligible based upon the demonstrated impacts due to sea level rise or flooding.

If applying for funds by Sept. 1, 2022, is there a deadline when the VA must be complete? Does the VA need to be formally approved by the local government?

Prior to Dec. 1, 2023, communities and eligible entities may submit projects for funding without a comprehensive VA completed, provided they demonstrate that the project mitigates the risk of flooding or sea level rise for a critical asset as identified in a locally approved assessment, mitigation strategy, adaptation plan or report that includes an analysis of existing and future sea level rise or flooding impacts. After Dec. 1, 2023, the project must address a risk posed by flooding or sea level rise as identified in a comprehensive vulnerable assessment consistent with statutory requirements listed in Section 380.093(3)(d), F.S. Typically these assessments would be completed by the local government or through contracting with a third party, so additional approvals are not necessary.

Are there rules or guidance regarding eligible match sources for implementation projects?
Eligible sources for match funding may be local, state or federal, but all matching funds are subject to review to ensure that the department's funding source and the match funding source do not have prohibitive language for their use.

Eligible expenditure categories for matching funds, pursuant to the department's grant agreements standard terms and conditions, include contractual services, salary/wages and fringe benefits, and land acquisition. Additional expenditure types may be eligible depending on the project. The documentation required for expenditures to be used as match and cost reimbursement are the same and are outlined in the standard terms and conditions document.

For additional information or to review any of the department's grant agreement documents, email Hanna.Tillotson@FloridaDEP.gov.

Is there a list showing the agencies that received awards?

Previous grant awards can be found on the [Resilient Florida grants webpage](#). There are four different award lists: the 2021-2022 Resilient Florida Program Implementation Grant Awards, 2021-2022 Regional Resilience Entity Projects, 2021-2022 Planning Projects and 2022-2023 Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.

Can you clarify the new language in the statute about special districts, especially the ones that are specifically mentioned? Are they the only types of special districts eligible?

House Bill 7053 (2022) was codified in Chapter 2022-39, Laws of Florida, and allows certain special districts that are responsible for the management and maintenance of inlets and intracoastal waterways or for the operation and maintenance of a potable water facility, a wastewater facility, an airport, or a seaport facility, eligible to apply for and receive Resilient Florida funding for projects that address risks of flooding or sea level rise. To be eligible, a special district must meet the definition of "special district" in Section 139.012, F.S.

Water management districts, drainage districts, erosion control districts, flood control districts and regional water supply authorities are also eligible to submit proposals for projects that mitigate risks of flooding or sea level rise on water supplies or water resources of the state.

Do projects need to be listed in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Plan to be considered for funding?

In accordance with statutes, eligible projects for the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Plan must be identified as a vulnerable critical asset or area in a VA or adaptation plan. However, for fiscal year 2022-23, it is anticipated that the program will receive additional federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that do not require that an asset be identified in a VA to be eligible. However, these funds are non-recurring and are not anticipated beyond FY 22/23. Although a VA should list the vulnerable critical assets, the program recognizes that assessments do not have fully developed strategies or projects for funding. It is encouraged through the adaptation planning process to create an adaptation plan to prioritize focus areas, develop adaptation strategies and recommend projects for funding.

How can projects be prioritized at a local level? How can a project rank higher for funding consideration?

The state recognizes that some local decisions must be made as to priority and cannot provide a prescriptive means for prioritization of projects by the local government. In our proposed rule language, if two or more projects score the same amount of points in the scoring criteria, the projects that are most ready to proceed will be prioritized by the state. The Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook provides a framework for determining adaptation strategies and in Section 4.1.1 some recommendations on prioritization.

Planning Grants

Do planning grants require an applicant match?

The planning grants do not require a match; they are fully funded through the Resilient Florida Program. If entities have local costs to support the project, then that will leverage Program funds and allow additional projects to be awarded.

How will planning project proposals be ranked and scored?

There are no scoring criteria in statute to prioritize Planning or Regional Resiliency Entity grants. Until July 2025, the program aims to support as many Florida communities as possible in completing statutorily compliant vulnerability assessments and updates to existing assessments. Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and cost effectiveness to ensure that state planning funds are available for as many eligible projects as possible.

Does the program prioritize project types?

The program is prioritizing the development of comprehensive vulnerability assessments for all of Florida's 67 counties and 410 municipalities

Is there a spending limit for hiring a consultant to perform the vulnerability assessment?

Proposals should demonstrate what costs are necessary to meet the VA requirements in statute. Costs may need to be justified on a case-by-case basis. The standard scope of work contains general costs estimates for common tasks

Where is the VA Scope of Work guidance document located on the website?

The comprehensive VA scope of work guidance document can be found on the department's [Resilience Resources](#) page.

Is the standard scope of work more attuned to the coastal communities, or does it cover both coastal and inland standards?

The scope of work will be largely the same for coastal and inland communities except for what the prominent future threats may be (i.e., rainfall, riverine, compound flooding and, if appropriate, sea level rise). The program is developing technical guidance that will assist all communities in assessing future conditions, especially inputs into the models that would be necessary as part of the standard scope of work. It will also contain sea level rise estimation methodology for coastal communities. This guidance will be available prior to award announcements.

If awarded planning funds, should entities use the VA guidance to direct the grant work plan? Or will that information be set as the Resilient Florida grant managers provide documentation for the work plan and scope?

Work plans are recommended to align with the department's comprehensive VA scope of work guidance to ensure consistency with statutes. Additional tasks relative to completing the comprehensive VA may be considered. If awarded, the department grant managers will work with the grantee to modify the standard scope of work tasks and deliverables as they best fit the project.

Is the \$20 million in preconstruction ONLY for small communities?

For the FY 23-24 Statewide Plan, an additional \$20 million will be available for the Resilient Florida planning grants and preconstruction activities for small, and small financially disadvantaged communities. Preconstruction activities are defined in CS/HB 7053 (2022) as "activities associated with a project that occur before construction begins, including, but not limited to, design of the project, permitting of the project, surveys and data collection, site development, solicitation, public hearings, local code or comprehensive plan amendments, establishing local funding sources and easement acquisition. Preconstruction activities from non-financially disadvantaged communities will be considered if included as part of the overall project scope and cost."

Our municipality received an email from DEP titled "Apply for a Resilient Florida Grant." The email states, "a statewide inventory of VAs indicated that your community has not prepared a VA or currently has one that is not in compliance with current statutory requirements." To clarify, DEP is requesting that entities submit an application to complete a VA?

The department's priority is to ensure that all Florida cities and counties conduct a VA compliant with Subsection 380.093(3), F.S. If your community has not indicated that you have a VA or has completed an assessment prior to the statutory enactment, the department assumes that your community does not have a statutorily compliant VA. Those communities who have been awarded Resilient Florida planning grants to either update an assessment or perform a full assessment are considered to be working toward statutory compliance.

If you have a VA that you believe meets the requirements in Subsection 380.093(3), F.S., you can submit it to the department with the compliance checklist in Appendix E of the Scope of Work Guidance document.

For VAs, is the Peril of Flood compliance only a requirement for coastal communities?

Yes, only local governments that are subject to the requirements of Paragraph 163.3173(2)(f), F.S., are required to prepare and adopt a peril of flood comprehensive plan amendment. The department, in coordination with the Department of Economic Opportunity, can help determine if a peril of flood amendment is required by your community.

Would a physical vulnerability assessment (VA) of seawalls and stormwater inlets/outlets (involving field data collection) be included within the eligible project types?

This would technically be considered an eligible project type as an "assessment that encompasses a smaller geographic area or a portion of critical assets," which is subject to approval by the department;

programmatically, we would like every community to have a baseline VA that meets our statutory requirements. That means including inventory of the critical assets and assessing their vulnerability for the entire jurisdiction.

Is a standard scope of work for adaptation plans being developed?

The department is currently working on a scope guidance document for adaptation plans based on the *Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook*, available on our website. Please refer to Chapter 3 in the Guidebook until the scope guidance document is complete.

Is developing an adaptation plan based on an existing VA eligible for this funding? How would it fit into the scoring criteria?

The current VA must meet standards according to F.S. 330.093(3)(d). If your current VA does not meet the standards, you may submit a project proposal that includes updating the VA in addition to developing the adaptation plan

In developing the grant work plan for planning grants, several of the deliverables are more expansive than those estimated in the original task budget. Can we omit the deliverables that go beyond what was originally budgeted? How strictly do we need to remain to the deliverables in the bank of tasks?

The bank of tasks and deliverables provided for work plans are suggested standard language to ensure that projects with similar tasks are consistently completed and documented. The bank of tasks is meant to provide options of tasks for applicants to pick and choose from based on their scope of work, and the language can be modified to best fit the project. Unnecessary tasks may be omitted if the applicant chooses. However, in performing VAs, applicants should make sure to include tasks that address all the statutory requirements.

Should counties and their municipalities jointly submit a planning application for a vulnerability assessment/adaptation plan or should they be separate applications?

The program encourages collaborating within your regional groups and or city/county work groups to not only maximize project funding but to ensure some scale of consistency in your area.

Can social and economic impact analyses be included in a vulnerability assessment?

Subject to available funding, the department may consider funding social and economic impact analyses. To be considered, they should be presented as line-item expenses in the project proposal. Social and economic impact analyses are not in the requirements of F.S. 330.093(3)(d).

What is the total amount of funding for planning grants this Fiscal year (22-23)? Is there a max an individual community can receive?

The program anticipates having \$20 million available for planning grants in the 2022-23 Fiscal year. There is not a maximum award amount at this time. Priority is given to communities that do not have a VA. Expenses beyond of the minimum requirements of 330.093(3)(d) are not guaranteed funding.

If we apply this round, when would award likely occur?

The program's goal is to select projects and execute grant agreements in advance of July 1, 2022, when the grant funding comes available. Grant execution dates will vary from project to project. Regional

resilience entity grants need to be completed and funds expended within a single fiscal year (July 2022 – June 2023). Planning grants have a three-year timeframe for project completion.

General Questions

Are consultants excluded from submitting on behalf of or working on projects they assisted in grant applications with?

We are unaware of any state limitations that would exclude a consultant preparing the application from bidding, competitively or otherwise, on the proposal. However, we defer to local procurement procedure, rules and requirements to ensure that a conflict-of-interest situation does not arise. Additionally, some funds are federally appropriated, and any federal procedures, rules or requirements will apply unless otherwise exempted.

Can a federal funding source be used as match funds for Resilient Florida Program grants?

Potential matching funds should be identified in the grant proposal. The program will determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis. While not required for planning grants, matching funds are beneficial to leverage program funds, provide additional support and achieve additional initiatives.

Does the program account for regional challenges facing communities when allocating funding?

Yes, the program understands there are differences across the state that create different challenges for assessing vulnerability such as the number of assets, the presence or absence of large water bodies and/or tidally influenced waters.

Will the regional resilience entity grants receive a grant award by July 1?

The program will execute grant agreements as quickly as possible. Comprehensive VAs will be prioritized for funding.

What types of projects will be prioritized for funding of the regional resilience entity grants?

Projects that assist counties and municipalities to complete a comprehensive VA or to update an existing VA to compliance with Section 380.093, F.S. will be prioritized for grant award.



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DATE: August 28, 2023
TO: Verdenia Baker, County Administrator
THROUGH: Patrick Rutter, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: Megan S. Houston, Director, Office of Resilience
SUBJECT: Designee Authority for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Planning Grant Application

Through the emergency memo process, the County Administrator or designee was given the authority to submit the application due to time constraints. The County Administrator is assigning the designee as the Director of the Office of Resilience to submit the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida planning grant application.

Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners

- Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor
- Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor
- Maria G. Marino
- Michael A. Barnett
- Marci Woodward
- Sara Baxter
- Mack Bernard

Approved By:


Verdenia Baker, County Administrator

County Administrator
Verdenia C. Baker

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