

PROTECTING TOGETHER

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY GRANTS Call for Suggestions

The information below is general information about the alternative water supply grant funding opportunity that is coordinated through water management district funding partners.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) partners with Florida's water management districts to identify and award alternative water supply grant projects. The water management districts' alternative water supply grant evaluation process begins as early as the fall before the beginning of the subsequent fiscal year (e.g. projects are evaluated in fall 2020 for potential funding that would be appropriated July 1, 2021). The formal AWS grant process document is available at: <https://floridadep.gov/water-policy>.

ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Governmental entities in Florida, as described in Subsection 287.012(14), Florida Statutes.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

\$40 million under line item 1622, General Appropriations Act fiscal year 2020-2021.

LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED

Match requirements are set forth in Section 373.707(6)a, Florida Statutes. The appropriation of state funding should:

- Not result in a reduction of existing budgeted District funding for this purpose
- At a minimum be matched equivalent to 100% of the state funding provided (does not apply SRWMD or NFWMD)

TYPES OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE

Reclaimed water, water conservation, stormwater, surface water, brackish groundwater, desalination, other non-traditional sources and other water quality issues.

KEY FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Projects that provide regional benefits
- Projects that benefit waterbodies with adopted Minimum Flows or Minimum Water Levels
- Projects that provide dual benefits to water supply and water quality
- Projects with complimentary efforts, such as AWS projects that also provide water conservation, flood protection or recreational benefits
- Readiness to construct
- Cost effectiveness
- Local commitment to project (match funding and public support)

FUNDING PROCESS STEPS

Project suggestions must be submitted to the water management districts for evaluation as part of their evaluation process. Each water management district will review project suggestions and make recommendations to their governing boards. The project lists approved by the water management districts' governing boards are routed to DEP in May of each year for funding consideration. DEP completes its project review and selection over the summer and notifies the water management districts in August of final project selections.

FUNDING PARTNERS

- Northwest Florida Water Management District <https://nwfwmd.com/Water-Resources/Funding-Programs>
- Suwannee River Water Management District <http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/373/Funding-Initiatives>
- St. Johns River Water Management District <https://www.sjrwmd.com/localgovernments/funding>
- South Florida Water Management District <https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding>
- Southwest Florida Water Management District <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/finance/cooperative-funding-initiative>

