

PROTECTING TOGETHER

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE GRANTS Call for Proposals

Below is general information about the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) grant funding opportunity.

Any information submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will become a public record, subject to disclosure in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and Article 1, §24 of the Florida Constitution. Please note that submittal of a proposal does not create an agreement, nor does it guarantee funding.

ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Florida's 35 coastal counties and municipalities within their boundaries that are required to include a coastal element in their comprehensive plan. Public universities/colleges, regional planning councils, non-profit groups, and national estuary programs also may apply provided that an eligible local government agrees to participate as a partner and sign the application.

TIMEFRAME FOR SUBMITTING A PROJECT PROPOSAL

Applications for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will be open from August 1, 2020 to September 25, 2020. Proposals for projects that may be eligible for CPI funding will be forwarded to the CPI coordinator for follow-up.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

Financial awards are limited to no more than \$60,000 and no less than \$10,000 for construction projects, habitat restoration, invasive exotic plant removal or land acquisition; and no more than \$30,000 and no less than \$10,000 for planning design and coordination activities. Total anticipated annual funding available is approximately \$250,000.

LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED

Recipient must provide 100% match for this funding. Match can be cash or in-kind. No more than half of the match can be provided by a third party. Matching funds cannot come from another federal funding source or be used to apply for or receive other federal funds.

TYPES OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE

The CPI was developed to promote the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources in four specific priority areas:

- **Resilient Communities:** The goal of this priority area is to help coastal communities prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change, natural hazards and disasters. Project examples include conducting vulnerability analyses and risk assessments; developing post-disaster redevelopment plans and strategies; restoring coastal wetlands; developing energy strategies; and improving community' resiliency to coastal hazards.
- **Coastal Resource Stewardship:** To promote stewardship and appreciation of fragile coastal resources, applicants may request funds for community-based projects that involve residents, volunteers and the local government. Project examples include dune and wetland restoration; exotic plant control; coastal clean-ups; and environmental awareness initiatives, events and field trips.



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- **Public Access to Coastal Resources:** Communities are encouraged to accommodate public access to coastal and marine resources while protecting fragile and overused environments. Access projects could include developing plans for land acquisition and management; developing site plans for nature trails; developing recreational surface water use policies; exotic species removal and restoration of native species; and small-scale capital improvements such as dune walkovers, boardwalks, and canoe/kayak launches.
- **Working Waterfronts:** Waterfront communities may propose to revitalize, renew and promote interest in their waterfront districts. Some examples of projects include: developing and implementing a vision plan for a waterfront district; developing architectural standards for waterfront areas; small construction projects such as a boardwalk, observation platform, welcome center or information kiosk; restoring shorelines and wetlands; or implementing other measures that mitigate the effects of natural hazards.

KEY FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Project must benefit coastal resource management
- Project meets purpose of at least one CPI priority
- Project scope and budget are feasible, and the project can be completed in 12 months
- Project must be located on publicly-owned or leased land, or land held in perpetuity under a conservation easement. Projects on federally-owned lands are not eligible for CPI funding.
- Local commitment to project (match funding and public support)

FUNDING PROCESS STEPS

Once information is received through the project suggestion sheet, DEP will evaluate the project. If the project is selected to move further, the CPI application form and 306A questionnaire (if applicable to the project) must be completed by the applicant. Both forms are available on the **Florida Coastal Management Program** grants webpage. All CPI applications are reviewed and ranked by a technical evaluation committee with knowledge of coastal resource management, and the highest ranked projects will be considered for funding, subject to the availability of funds from NOAA.

Applications for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will be open from August 1, 2020 to September 25, 2020. Project awards will be announced in early 2021. Scoring for all proposals will be published in the Florida Administrative Register.

SELECTED PROJECT NEXT STEPS

If your project is selected for funding, you will receive an email requesting a scope of work for the project including tasks to be accomplished, detailed budget information, timelines and deliverables. The funding is provided as a cost-reimbursement grant with the department.

For questions about the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) grant program, please contact:

Tiffany Herrin
Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Coastal Management Program, MS 235
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
Phone: 850-245-2953
Email: Tiffany.Herrin@FloridaDEP.gov

