BISCAYNE BAY COMMISSION — FINANCIAL PLAN WATER RESOURCE FUNDING APPLICABLE TO BISCAYNE BAY

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Through legislative appropriations, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides loans and grants to local governments, utilities and other agencies for projects that improve the quality and quantity of the state's water resources as well as projects that improve community resilience. These projects provide a significant benefit to the environment and local communities.

DEP maintains a list of all active grant programs at <u>FloridaDEP.gov/Funding</u>. Please visit that site to learn more about upcoming grant opportunities and learn where and when to apply.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The <u>Florida Department of Commerce</u> (in collaboration with its partners) assists the Governor in advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, residents, businesses and communities.

The <u>Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant</u> (CDBG) Program is a competitive grant program that awards funds to units of local government in small urban and rural areas. Florida receives \$18-\$26 million annually from the U.S. Department
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of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to award subgrants to eligible units of local government.

The program provides an excellent opportunity for communities to obtain funds for projects that they cannot otherwise afford. CDBG funds can also provide administrative support for local governments that may not have the staffing resources necessary to administer their projects.

Examples of CDBG funded projects include water and sewer improvements; rehabilitation of substandard housing; street and sidewalk improvements; economic development activities that create jobs for low- and moderate-income people; downtown revitalization, including facade improvements, streetscaping, and underground utilities; park facilities and community centers; and drainage/stormwater improvements.

 The <u>Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program</u> (RCDRL) was created by the 1996 Florida Legislature to facilitate the use of existing federal, state and local financial resources by providing local governments with access to financial assistance to further promote the economic viability of rural communities. This program is intended to be highly flexible, and the loan amounts will vary depending on the need of applicants. It will provide term loans to local governments or to economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government; within counties with populations of 75,000 or fewer or a contiguous county of 125,000 or fewer as stated in <u>section 288.065</u>, Florida Statutes (F.S.) The long-term goals of the RCDRL include the creation of jobs for the residents of rural Florida and an increase in economic vitality and diversification for these areas.

For more information, visit the <u>RCDRL website</u> or contact Tina Grow at 850-717-8533 or <u>Tina.Grow@DEO.MyFlorida.com</u>.

• The <u>Technical Assistance Planning Grants</u> Program provides funding for Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grants for counties, municipalities and regional planning councils with the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, vibrant rural and suburban areas while meeting statutory requirements for planning and protecting environmentally-sensitive areas. Understanding that many Florida communities have been impacted by hurricanes, CPTA Grants may also be used for disaster recovery, resiliency and economic development planning.

The <u>Environmental Finance Center Network</u> (EFCN) is a university-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and improvement. The EFCN works with the public and private sectors to promote sustainable environmental solutions while bolstering efforts to manage costs.

Interested persons can visit their <u>Funding Sources by State or Territory</u> webpage and select Florida to see a list of water and wastewater funding sources in the state. For more information, visit the <u>EFCN's About Us webpage</u> or view the <u>Florida Water and Wastewater</u> <u>Funding Sources table</u>.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

The <u>Florida Legislature</u> may solicit applications directly for <u>Community Budget Issue</u> <u>Request</u> projects, including water projects, in anticipation of upcoming legislative sessions. This process is an opportunity to secure legislative sponsorship of project funding through the state budget. Interested parties should contact their local legislative delegation to determine whether there are opportunities available to fund projects. Information on contacting senators and representatives is available at <u>Leg.State.FL.US</u>.

FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

The <u>Florida Rural Water Association</u> (FRWA) is a nonprofit, nonregulatory professional association that assists water and wastewater systems with every phase of operations, including drinking water, wastewater, groundwater protection/source water protection and engineering services.

Active members include public water and wastewater systems such as counties, municipalities, associations, districts, mobile home parks, schools and authorities. For more information, visit <u>FRWA.net</u>.

 The <u>FRWA Loan Program</u> assists communities in obtaining competitive interim financing for construction projects. To assist borrowers across the state with financing capital construction projects, FWRA, in conjunction with a partner, created an interim construction loan program to provide construction funding for communities that have received a permanent loan commitment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) or permanent loan commitment from DEP's State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program and need construction funding. The program structure enables communities to access competitive fixed-rate loan funds at a very low cost of borrowing. Loan proceeds are utilized for the construction period only and are paid off with USDA-RD/DEP's SRF funds when the project is complete or funded. For more information, visit the <u>FRWA website</u> or contact Gary Williams at 850-668-2746 or <u>Gary.Williams@FRWA.net</u>.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The <u>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</u> (NRCS) offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs, the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement

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conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. For more information, visit the <u>USDA website</u>.

- USDA's <u>Regional Conservation Partnership Program</u> (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS co-invests with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address. For more information, see <u>How to Apply to RCPP</u> or visit the <u>USDA</u> <u>website</u>.
- <u>USDA-RD</u> offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. The program promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools, and it offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives to improve the effectiveness of their operations. For more information, visit the <u>USDA-RD website</u>.
- <u>USDA's Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs</u> (WEP) provide funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities and is proud to be the only federal program exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. WEP also provides funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to rural communities in relation to their water and waste activities. WEP is administered through national office staff in Washington, D.C., and a network of field staff in each state. For more information, visit the <u>Rural Development website</u>.
- <u>USDA's Rural Development Rural Utilities Service</u> (RUS) provides much needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services help to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents. For more information, visit the <u>Rural Development website</u>.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The <u>U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration</u> (EDA) provides economic development financial assistance to communities so they can encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in a way that works best for them. Through its network of regionally based staff and portfolio of <u>flexible grant tools</u>, EDA helps communities that are experiencing economic distress take control of their future and position themselves for economic prosperity

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and resilience. For funding opportunity information, visit <u>Funding Opportunities</u> on the EDA site.

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESOURCES

Division of Habitat and Species Conservation: Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) Commission's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation receives recurring annual allocations of Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Marine Resources Trust Fund funds to complete aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects on public lands throughout the state. Completed projects include ephemeral and forested wetland, lake, river, estuarine, and marine habitat restoration, providing ecological services to people and supporting fish and wildlife resources. These projects restore hydrologic connectivity between habitat types and along landscape corridors; improve water quality; and create productive structural and nursery habitat for fish and wildlife benefiting regional and local communities. FWC works with numerous partner organizations to identify, plan and implement aquatic restoration projects through procurement of engineering, construction, research and monitoring contractors. This program also matches state funding to amplify project impacts by seeking grants from federal programs by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Fish Habitat Partnerships and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For more information visit <u>Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration</u>.

Division of Law Enforcement: Boating and Waterways Section — Derelict Vessel Program

The FWC has programs to provide grants to reimburse local governments for removing derelict vessels from the public waters of the state. The program is funded by an appropriation from the Florida Legislature. The FWC's Derelict Vessel Grant Guidelines allow for the receipt of these grant applications on a continuing basis with no deadlines as long as funding is available. The FWC will pay 100% reimbursement to the grantee for all eligible vessels in the grant contract.

Rapid Removal Grant Program

This grant program is available for state, county, and local governments only. It is not available for private citizens or non-governmental organizations. Applications that meet the requirements for the Rapid Removal Grant Program may be submitted at any time as long as funding is available. Rapid removal cases must also meet the guidelines and due process requirements. All applications will require a law enforcement **Letter of Authorization** to remove and dispose of the vessel in the application submitted. Applications may be emailed to <u>DVGrant@MyFWC.com</u>.

Derelict Vessel Block Grant Program

The FWC is providing block grants to local governments for costs associated with removing from state waters, storing, destroying, and disposing of derelict and at-risk vessels that have become a public nuisance. Local governments may apply by <u>reviewing the</u>

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<u>guidelines</u> and <u>completing the application</u> (selecting the Block Grant option). Successful block grant applicants will be reimbursed for eligible derelict vessel removal costs. The block grant allows the approved and awarded entity to remove derelict vessels within their jurisdiction without the need to pre-apply for removals. Only those vessels meeting the requirements outlined in the guidelines are eligible for reimbursement. Awarded entities will have a specific amount of funding available.

For the application form and copy of the guidelines, visit the DV Grant Program site.

Division of Law Enforcement: Boating and Waterways Section — Marine Debris Program

The FWC Marine Debris Program oversees, coordinates, and facilitates statewide response, removal, research, and prevention projects, programs, and partnerships to reduce the presence of marine debris and its associated impacts to Florida's resources. We are working on improving the detection of marine debris and monitoring for removal and recovery impacts utilizing our newly established drone program. The Marine Debris Program provides a mechanism for intra- and inter-agency coordination of marine debris management efforts in Florida and throughout the Gulf region, thereby furthering FWC's capacity to lead, serve as a resource and partner in statewide and regional marine debris management.

The FWC Marine Debris Program is actively engaged in hurricane response and recovery as part of the debris task force, leads an environmental unit of agency members from impacted regions, oversees and coordinates best management practice updates, and provides resource protection trainings for resource advisors, contractors, and emergency managers. While the hurricane work is state-wide, much of the program's current non-hurricane work is focused on Gulf counties (Escambia through Monroe). This work is part of the Gulf Restoration Plan for Deepwater Horizon-impacted birds and sea turtles and focuses on a wide variety of habitats, from remote marsh shorelines and mangrove islands to coral reefs and seagrass beds. The program continues to provide capacity-building and project development support to partners statewide while also working towards expansion of research projects and partnerships.

Lost and abandoned spiny lobster, stone crab, and blue crab traps are a concern because they may spark user conflicts, "ghost fish" (continue to trap marine organisms), visually pollute, damage sensitive habitats, and become hazards to navigation. Traps may remain in the water during a closed season for many reasons. They can move during storms, making them difficult to locate; they may be snagged by passing vessels and dragged to another area; or they may be illegally abandoned by their owners. The FWC currently has two programs dedicated to removing lost and abandoned traps from state waters: the **Spiny Lobster, Stone Crab and Blue Crab Trap Retrieval Program** and the **Derelict Trap and Trap Debris Removal Program**.

Submit a volunteer group cleanup **<u>Debris Removal Application Form</u>** to <u>Cleanuptraps@MyFWC.com</u>.

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Division of Law Enforcement: Boating and Waterways Section — Boating Access and Improvement

The Florida Boating Improvement Grant Program (FBIP) offers competitive grants to counties and cities for reimbursement of costs to enhance public boating access, and, contingent upon available funding, will reimburse the local government up to 100% of their pre-approved costs. An executed grant agreement must be in place before the project work begins. No match is required, but it increases the score in the competitive selection process. Additionally, eligible projects with at least a 25% match that are not selected for FBIP funding may be eligible for federal Sport Fish Restoration funding, if available. This program will pay for a wide variety of facilities and amenities including waterway markers (signs/buoys, channel markers, navigation aids); ramps for motorized boats; piers and docks; surveys; dredging; parking; restrooms; design/engineering/permitting; informational kiosks; and educational items (e.g., brochures, guides and educational programs). A copy of the FBIP Guidelines as well as the Application form can be found online at Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP).

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP) offers nationally competitive federal grants to public and private applicants for reimbursement of a portion of their costs to enhance public transient recreational vessel boating access. Transient recreational vessels are defined as those 26 feet in length or greater and thatstay for 15 days or less. This grant program (contingent upon selection by FWC and award by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will reimburse the applicant up to 75% of their pre-approved costs. A minimum 25% non-federal match is required, and a higher match percentage increases the competitiveness of the application. This program will pay for a wide variety of facilities and amenities including directional waterway markers, slips, docks, breakwaters, parking, restrooms and showers, dredging as part of a project (not maintenance), mooring systems and dockside utilities. Please see the link below for a copy of the BIGP Guidelines as well as the Application form: Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP).

FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT RESOURCES

Waterway Assistance Program

The <u>Waterway Assistance Program</u> is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the Florida Inland Navigation District (district) for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments to increase public access associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the district. The program is authorized by section 374.976, F.S., and is administered under the provisions of Chapter 66B-2, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Eligible local governmental agencies include municipalities, counties, port authorities and special taxing districts within the 12 counties of the district.

Grant applications are posted to the district's website in January. Applications are due at the district office toward the end of March. Please see the application package for deadline dates. Funding is awarded in October.

Applications are initially reviewed by district staff for compliance with district rules. If the application complies, applicants present their application to the district's Board of Commissioners. The board then evaluates the application utilizing a rating form. Projects scoring the minimum number of points become eligible for funding, which are subject to statutory and budget limitations. For those projects that are approved for funding by the district board, funds become available on Oct. 1.

The limitation on funding has been established by the Legislature to be equal to the tax revenue that the district receives from the county in which the applicant is located. There may be several applicants from within a county competing for these funds.

Water-related projects must be located on natural, navigable waterways within the district. Eligible waterway-related projects include navigation channel dredging; channel markers; navigation signs or buoys; boat ramps; docking facilities; fishing and viewing piers; waterfront boardwalks; inlet management; environmental education; law enforcement equipment; boating safety programs; beach renourishment; dredge material management; environmental mitigation; and shoreline stabilization.

The district is authorized to provide up to 75% for public navigation projects, while all other project categories are eligible for up to 50% funding assistance. The district annually allocates approximately \$10 to \$12 million for the program. Cash and other grant funds may be utilized as the local match. <u>Waterways Assistance Programs (Grants for Local Governments).</u>

Cooperative Assistance Program

The <u>Cooperative Assistance Program</u> is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the district for the purpose of financially cooperating with federal, state and regional governments to alleviate problems associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the district. The program is authorized by section 374.976, F.S., and is administered under the provisions of Chapter 66B-1, F.A.C.

Eligible federal, state and regional governmental agencies seeking to develop waterway improvement projects within the 12 counties of the district (Miami-Dade to Nassau counties) can apply for funding assistance. Grant application packages will be available on the district's website in January and applications are typically due toward the end of March. Please see the application package for specific deadline dates. Funding is awarded in October.

Applications are initially reviewed by district staff for compliance with district rules. If the application complies, the applicant presents their application to the district's Board of Commissioners. The board then evaluates the application for funding that is subject to statutory and budget limitations. For those projects which are approved for funding by the district board, assistance funds become available on Oct. 1.

Waterway-related projects must be located on natural, navigable waterways within the district.

Eligible waterway related projects include the following:

- 1. Public navigation channel dredging.
- 2. Public navigation aids and markers.
- 3. Inlet management projects that are a benefit to public navigation in the district.
- 4. Public shoreline stabilization directly benefitting the district's waterway channels (ICW or OWW).
- 5. Acquisition and development of publicly owned spoil disposal sites and public commercial/industrial waterway access
- 6. Waterway signs and buoys for safety, regulation or information.
- 7. Acquisition, dredging, shoreline stabilization and development of public boat ramps and launching facilities.
- 8. Acquisition, dredging, shoreline stabilization and development of public boat docking and mooring facilities.
- 9. Derelict vessel removal.
- 10. Waterway related environmental education programs and facilities.
- 11. Public fishing and viewing piers.
- 12. Public waterfront parks and boardwalks and associated improvements.
- 13. Maritime management planning.
- 14. Waterway boating safety programs and equipment.
- 15. Renourishment on beaches adversely impacted by navigation inlets, navigation structures, navigation dredging or a navigation project.
- 16. Environmental restoration, enhancement or mitigation projects.
- 17. Other waterway related projects.

There is no limitation on the amount of funding that can be requested. The district is authorized to provide up to 75% for certain types of public navigation dredging projects while all other project categories are eligible for up to 50% funding assistance. The district annually allocates approximately \$1-4 million for the program. Cash and other grant funds may be utilized as the local match.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESOURCES

Stormwater Utility Fees

The stormwater utility was established in 1991 to properly manage the environmental impact of stormwater pollution and to provide adequate flood protection.

The utility was created to help solve the problem of polluted stormwater and to improve the drainage capability of areas that are susceptible to flooding. Impervious areas create barriers to rainwater, limiting the ability of water to soak into the ground and recharge the aquifer. Special structures need to be built to drain these areas.

Fees collected by the stormwater utility go toward the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of stormwater management systems such as canal and drainage improvement

projects and secondary drainage systems in unincorporated portions of the county and within certain municipalities.

They also go toward reducing pollution caused by silt, oil, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides and litter carried by stormwater to the drainage systems and canals that have been developed to prevent flooding during heavy rainfall. Stormwater drains not only have to remove water from the streets as quickly as possible, but they also must deal with all the contaminants that get picked up along the way. The county utilizes stormwater utility revenue to issue revenue bonds to finance capital improvements to stormwater systems (secondary canals, local drainage infrastructure, etc.).

Water and Sewer Utility Fees

Customer billing by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) represents the cost of operating and maintaining existing assets (water and wastewater treatment facilities, pipelines, pump stations, etc.), as well as fund debt service for capital improvements. Capital improvements by the WASD are funded primarily through revenue bonds issued against water and sewer utility fee revenue. Proceeds from these bonds are generally used to fund projects intended to improve the existing system that will benefit all or most customers, both retail and wholesale.

General Obligation Bonds

General obligation bonds are issued by the county and are payable from ad valorem taxes on all taxable real and tangible personal property within the county (excluding exempt property as required by Florida law). The general obligation bonds are legally backed by the full faith and credit of the county, which has committed taxes over the next 40 years to repay the bonds. The issuance of general obligation bonds requires a voter referendum. Miami-Dade County voters on Nov. 2, 2004, approved the \$2.9 billion Building Better Communities Bond Program, which allowed the county to issue long-term bonds to fund more than 300 neighborhood and regional capital projects. Among these have been water, sewer and stormwater system improvements. Assignment of general obligation bond funds for this purpose must align with a county referendum and require approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Utility Service Fee

The utility service fee is a user fee that is assessed upon water and sewer bills throughout Miami- Dade County to fund regulatory activities necessary to protect drinking water supplies. The fee, which is assessed as 6% of the total bill, supports ground and surface water monitoring, monitoring of landfills and other solid waste facilities and other regulatory compliance functions necessary for source protection.

Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund

An ordinance (180-9) was adopted on Feb. 19, 1980, by the Dade County Commission creating the Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund. This fund consists of money from enforcement and damage actions, mitigation assessments, donations,

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appropriations, grants and allocations.

Funds are used for the express purpose of financing environmental enhancement of Biscayne Bay and its foreshore, with limited environmental enhancement activities in the coastal waters of the county beyond Biscayne Bay such as installation, maintenance or management of artificial reefs and mooring buoys. As per Section One of the ordinances, the prioritized list of enhancement activities, excluding studies, described in this overview qualifies for funding from this source.

- (i) Funds shall be disbursed for the environmental enhancement of Biscayne Bay or its foreshore or coastal waters of the county beyond Biscayne Bay strictly in accordance with terms and conditions of the grant, allocation, appropriation or donation and shall be earmarked accordingly.
- (ii) Any excess monies derived from such grant, allocation, appropriation or donation shall be disbursed or allocated in accordance with the terms and conditions, if any, of such grant, allocation, appropriation or donation. If no such terms or conditions attach to such excess, then such excess, if any, shall be disbursed for the environmental enhancement of Biscayne Bay or its foreshore or coastal waters of the county beyond Biscayne Bay as authorized and approved by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund is kept and maintained in trust by the board of county commissioners for the purposes set forth in this section in a separate and segregated fund of the county that is not commingled with other county funds until disbursed for an authorized purpose.

LEAGUE OF CITIES/MUNICIPALITY RESOURCES

Stormwater Utility Fees

The league is composed of 34 member cities, 31 of which border Biscayne Bay or a canal that drains to the bay. Villages, towns and cities have a variety of financial resources at their disposal, including general funds, stormwater utility funds, transportation plan funds, and homeowner assessments. Additionally, many members take advantage of the grant programs listed within this document to fund their priority projects affecting the health of Biscayne Bay.

Additional resources they listed that are not included in the document are the Florida Department of Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Beverage Association.

OTHER RESOURCES

Assistance Listings

Previously available through the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), assistance listings are detailed public descriptions of federal programs that provide grants,

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loans, scholarships, insurance, and other types of assistance awards. For more information, visit <u>https://sam.gov/assistance-listings</u>.

Congress — State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program

The <u>Congress-State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program</u> provides the opportunity to secure congressional sponsorship of project funding, including water project funding, through the annual federal budget process. The program's stated purpose is to strengthen state, local government and tribal abilities to address environmental and public health threats while furthering environmental compliance. To contact congressional members for assistance in pursuing funding, visit <u>GovTrack.US</u>.

Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau

Florida's <u>Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau</u> works to maximize disaster assistance to eligible public entities, individuals and families through various state and federal disaster assistance programs. These programs help to rebuild lives and communities that have been impacted by a major disaster and begin the recovery process. After being requested by the Governor, the U.S. President may sign a disaster declaration that includes both individual and public assistance programs as authorized by the <u>Robert T. Stafford</u> <u>Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act</u>. For more information, visit <u>FloridaDisaster.org</u> or call 850-815-4000.

Environmental Protection Agency

The <u>Environmental Protection Agency</u> (EPA) awards more than \$4 billion annually in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small nonprofit organizations to state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool to protect human health and the environment. For more information, visit <u>EPA Grants</u>.

Florida Resource Directory

The <u>Florida Resource Directory</u> is a one-stop source for learning about the latest state and many federal programs and resources to help local communities. The directory will help rural and distressed urban communities as well as community-based organizations find and access sources of assistance for any type of infrastructure project, housing, health services, training, small business and tourism development assistance, or help build a community park. For more information, review their <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> or call 850-717-8980.

Grants.gov

<u>Grants.gov</u> provides a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities, housing information on over 1,000 grant programs, and vetting grant applications for federal grant making agencies. For more information or to determine eligibility for federal funding opportunities, visit Grants.gov <u>Community Blog</u>.