

Recommendations for Resilient Florida Grant Applicants (implementation projects)

This summary is intended to guide applicants submitting implementation project proposals to the Resilient Florida Program. These recommended best practices were developed by the year-one evaluation team based on notes and discussions of the team following the first round of evaluations conducted in October of 2021.

General Recommendations

- Start Early** Application acceptance will begin July 1 each year. Depending on your agency's fiscal calendar, you may need to begin thinking about projects, timelines and submittals in the previous year. Discuss potential projects with your project development team to begin seeking permit approvals, phasing the project and developing cost estimates.
- Get Engaged** The Resilient Florida team will hold webinars and trainings throughout the year about the program and how to best position your project for funding. [Subscribe for program updates.](#)
- Do Research** There may be a funding opportunity that is more appropriate for your project than Resilient Florida funding. Visit the [Resilience Resources](#) page to find information about other funding opportunities in the state.
- Plan Ahead** Projects that are designed and permitted will score higher based on [statutory tiered scoring](#). If your project is important to your community's resilience, develop a design today. Some pre-construction costs - such as design and permitting - for financially disadvantaged small communities may be funded through the program.
- Project Eligibility** Ensure your project addresses risks of flooding and sea level rise. The Resilient Florida Program does not fund projects to reduce impacts from windstorms, seismic activity, extreme heat, drought, weather events, radiological incidents, or cyber or transportation incidents.
- Local Plans** Projects that address risks identified in a local government vulnerability assessment will receive additional points in several categories. For a stronger proposal, submit projects that are included in a local plan, such as a Capital Improvement Plan or Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan, to demonstrate community preparedness and support.

Project Narrative

- Be Detailed** Be specific but concise in your responses. They do not have to be long to achieve the detail necessary. Make sure your project titles accurately reflect the type and location of the project, and check for typos and misspellings.

Avoid Copying	If submitting multiple applications for consideration, avoid copying and pasting answers across your submittals. Duplicating standardized answers may risk losing points where key information is missing.
Limit Attachments	Keep attachments to a minimum (one to two pages for each response). If you must attach long documents, reference page numbers or sections in your responses.
Know Your Audience	Evaluators for the program have diverse backgrounds and experience. Drive your points home as if the evaluator is not a subject matter expert. Keep in mind that these responses are subject to public records requests and may be reviewed by community members, legislators, private industry or any other interested party.
Focus on the Need	Projects for monitoring or research may be ineligible. Projects should focus on outdated sizing, methods or materials, and adaptation considering future conditions. Routine maintenance activities are not eligible for this program.
Benefit versus Cost	Proposals should demonstrate cost-effectiveness other than just damages avoided through mitigation or cost alternatives. Proposals that quantitatively demonstrate cost-effectiveness will receive points in the statutory scoring criteria. Provide calculations, cost benefit ratios, dollar figures, published rates and standards to support your arguments.
Coordinate Early	To ensure the project is feasible, engage with state, federal, or local agencies or groups that may require permitting or approvals, especially when tying into other state, county or regional infrastructure.
Get Support	Build consensus and support for your proposed projects prior to submittal. Provide letters of support from governing bodies, stakeholders or other interested parties to help demonstrate that the project is ready to proceed.
Public Outreach	Documenting public support from the community for a proposed project strengthens the overall narrative.
Indirect Benefits	Discussing the project's intangible and non-quantifiable benefits such as ecosystem services, social benefits, etc., with appropriate justification can strengthen an application.

Technical Criteria

Work with Nature	Projects that utilize natural and nature-based functions to enhance resilience will gain points in several categories of the statutory criteria. Visit the Green Stormwater Infrastructure page to learn more.
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- Add Capacity** Projects that add capacity to a system will be better positioned to score points in reducing upland (or downstream) damage and gain points in the statutory criteria.
- Reduce Risks** Your project should reduce the risk of flooding due to sea level rise and changing conditions. Demonstrate how there is current and expected risk of flooding to receive maximum points.
- Think Innovatively** Additional points may go to projects that go above the minimum standards and implement new technologies, systems or creative solutions while effectively reducing project cost and promoting regional collaboration.
- Focus on Points** Application answers should support the criteria in the draft rule (once available/effective). Review the rule once available and pay attention to criteria with high point values or criteria that are represented in multiple tiers. Visit our [Rulemaking site](#) for updates on progress.

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