



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3203

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. Florida is among the five states eligible to receive funding pursuant to this program. Since the Trust Fund's establishment in 2017, Florida Panhandle's coastal counties have lacked a coordinated effort for pursuit, resulting in inadequate local government leveraging of RESTORE Act funds and missed opportunities to achieve transformational environmental change. This request is for year two funding to continue a more regional process of creating data-driven resources for Northwest Florida environmental and restoration grant projects.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,930,522
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,930,522</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,930,522	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>1,930,522</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	3,000,000	145	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**  Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

RESTORE ACT funding received by the communities.

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**



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Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

HEERF Funds.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

Planning   
  Design   
  Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

### 13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Project and Research Coordination in conjunction with the UWF Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation.	400,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Pensacola & Perdido Bay Estuary program - \$350,000 Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance - \$125,000 St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program - \$100,000	575,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Research and Data Analytics: + Gather, clean, integrate data from entire 8-county Panhandle region and surrounding waterways + Evaluate water quality & environmental health + Identify hotspots of water quality degradation and habitat loss. + Propose solutions to address drivers of water quality declines.	955,522
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,930,522</b>

### 14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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RESTORE Act funding streams provide the opportunity to secure regional water quality improvements and sustain healthy waters on a generational scale. In order to achieve these goals, the region needs to apply advanced data analytics, regional coordination, and proactive pursuit of large grants that are proven to achieve long standing, transformational improvements in the region's infrastructure and environment.

**b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?**

- + Gather, clean, integrate data from 8-county Panhandle region, starting with Escambia and Santa Rosa
- + Identify hotspots of water quality degradation & habitat loss
- + Propose solutions to address drivers of water quality & water habitat
- + Probe potential effectiveness of investments in local infrastructure & habitat restoration.
- + Gather regional input on potential investments
- + Based on research, data analytics, project evaluation, and stakeholder input, work with local, state and federal partners to support and develop region-wide, data-driven RESTORE Act proposals.

**c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?**

Local counties and regional partners will be able to leverage the water quality analytic capabilities of UWFCEDB, PPBEP, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, St Andrew & St. John Bays, and SAS Monitoring Network, which will lead to the preparation and submission of larger scale, transformative grant proposals. The Team will collaborate and support local partners in developing grant proposal content.

**d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?**

Nearly 1 million residents live in Northwest Florida and will benefit from a stronger environment and water quality.

**e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?**

The successful implementation of this project will enable:  
 + New discoveries of key drivers of water quality hazards and ecosystem changes;  
 + The development of regionally transformative environmental protection and restoration projects that will be submitted for RESTORE Act funding.  
 This outcome will be determined by successful funding of supported RESTORE act applications.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?**

Withholding payments.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**16. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization**

**b. Municipality and County**

**c. Organization Type**

For Profit Entity



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- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

### Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

#### 18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

#### 19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

#### 20. What is the status of construction?



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21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

N/A

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

N/A