



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2489

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Chronic coastal erosion persists along the southern end of St. Joseph Peninsula in Gulf County, Florida. The project will address these issues by creating a nature-based hybrid solution which consists of a green-gray approach: the placement of sand and offshore submerged breakwaters.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	10,000,000	31%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	7,183,347	22%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	15,500,000	47%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>32,683,347</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	15,500,000	140126	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.
- 

### Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction



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a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning   
  Design   
  Construction   
  N/A

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

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Gulf County will be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the project.

11. 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.

Gulf County will own the infrastructure.

12. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will be used to supplement construction of 1.1 miles of beach restoration coupled with eight offshore submerged breakwaters.	10,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>

13. Program Performance

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

Chronic coastal erosion persists along the southern end of St. Joseph Peninsula in Gulf County, Florida. The project will address these issues by creating a nature-based hybrid solution which consists of a green-gray approach: the placement of sand and offshore submerged breakwaters.

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

This project allows for the creation of 20+ acres of aerial beach and dune habitat for recreation, sea turtle nesting, shorebird foraging and nesting, beach mouse habitat, and environmental corridors for transient wildlife such as the endangered St Andrew Beach Mouse. A wider beach and a restored dune along with submerged breakwaters will provide the necessary storm protection needed to protect critical infrastructure (sewer/water/electrical), hurricane evacuation routes (Cape San Blas Road) and people's homes and property.



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

A wider beach and a restored dune along with submerged breakwaters will provide the necessary storm protection needed to protect critical infrastructure

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

Approximately 16,323 residents of Gulf County as well as visitors that travel to Gulf County.

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

A wider beach, restored dune, and submerged breakwaters will increase the resiliency of the only evacuation route for citizens that live on that portion of Cape San Blas Road. Safe and dependable evacuation routes is a necessity for normal daily life, but it is even more critical during disasters. Shorebird and sea turtle monitoring data will show that the wider beach and restored dune supports more nesting habitats and increases nest survivability. A greater buffer between recreational activities and available habitats could increase shorebird foraging and nesting.

**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 in the contract?**

Failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would impact future funding request.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No  Yes

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

Multiple storms over the past 3 years.

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received



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- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

Department of Environmental Protection: Beach Management Funding Assistance

### Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

**17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?**

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

**18. 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

**19. What is the status of construction?**

Ready

**20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?**

0

**21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

06/30/2026

**22. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name** Clay **Last Name** Smallwood

**b. Organization** Gulf County Board of County Commissioners



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c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

#### c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- 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  Ext.

#### 24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*