



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3450

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) will utilize funds to implement the PPBEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) through oyster restoration, water quality improvements, and monitoring. Funds will also support PPBEP's Community Grant Program, funding a suite of water quality improvements, habitat restoration, citizen science, community resilience, and education activities.

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	625,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	350,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>975,000</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)	975,000	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 2025-2026</b>	<b>975,000</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		
2024-25	0	750,000	3168	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



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**10. Status of Construction**

**a. What is the current phase of the project?**

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

**b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?** No

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?** 11/01/2026

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 06/30/2027

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

Funding is for subtidal oyster restoration, which requires minimal funding for operations and maintenance. Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program will monitor project performance and oversee operations and maintenance.

**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.**

Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

**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	PPBEP staff salary for project management and implementation.	110,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	10% indirect cost rate.	90,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funding is associated with planning, design, and monitoring of the PPBEP Restoration Initiative to support implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Funding will support the PPBEP Community Grant Program and the Comprehensive Monitoring Program. Example projects include oyster restoration, living shorelines, and storm water treatment through green infrastructure retrofits.	425,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funding supports partial funding for implementation of the Pensacola Bay System Oyster Restoration Initiative. The Initiative is a ten year goal to restore approximately 1,500 acres of oyster habitat. This funding will support the implementation of up to 25 acres and leverage a pending \$10,000,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.	350,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>975,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**



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

Funding will support implementation of the Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) by advancing priority actions including a bay-wide monitoring program, public education, and partial construction of a bay-scale oyster restoration project in East, Blackwater, Escambia, and Pensacola Bays. Funding will support construction of 25 acres of oyster habitat restoration, leveraging a \$10 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to restore 95 acres of oyster habitat as part of the Estuary Program's target of restoring 600-hectares of oyster habitat in the next ten years.

This funding request supports Executive Order 23-06, Achieving Even More Now for Florida's Environment, as signed by Governor DeSantis on January 10, 2023 through the implementation of water quality improvements, oyster habitat restoration, and coastal resilience enhancements.

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

Construction of 25 acres of oyster habitat restoration in East, Blackwater, Escambia, and Pensacola Bays; enhanced water quality monitoring in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds; improvement in water quality through reduction of bacteria, nutrients, algae blooms, and/or total suspended solids entering surface waters in the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds; and community engagement through the Estuary Program's education and outreach activities.

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

Funding will directly result in the creation of 25 acres of subtidal oyster habitat in the Pensacola Bay System and leverage a \$10 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to restore 95 acres of oyster habitat, improving water quality and fishery.

Implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and the Pensacola Bay Oyster Fisheries and Habitat Management Plan establishes the foundation for water quality improvement and restoration of the oyster fishery.

Implementation of water quality improvement pilot projects as identified by the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Community Grant Program. Example projects include oyster restoration, living shorelines, stormwater treatment through green infrastructure retrofits, and education/outreach activities.

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

Target population is the citizens of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay watersheds and all visitors to the area. 315,000 residents and 2.2 million visitors are expected to be served through water quality monitoring, water quality improvement projects, education/outreach activities, and the restoration of a sustainable oyster fishery associated with this funding request.

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

1) 25 acres of oyster habitat restored through PPBEP Oyster Restoration Initiative. 2) 20 tons of oyster shell recycled for use in oyster habitat restoration.

Funding will allow the Estuary Program to implement a multi-tiered bay-scale oyster restoration project to support a sustainable oyster fishery in the community.

Water quality will be improved as measured by monitoring of sites where water quality hard and soft infrastructure improvements are made.

Health of beach visitors will be aided as measured by the increase in the number of water quality samples and increased number of opportunities to inform the public of the water quality.

Better water quality from this project and related estuary program water quality improvement initiatives are expected to improve economic opportunity and tourism as measured by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Tourist Development Councils.

#### 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?



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Funding is proposed to be a reimbursement agreement with required deliverables. Failure to achieve deliverables will result in denial of related reimbursement requests.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**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):**

**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
- No
- No, but intends to apply

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

### 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



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- 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?** 06/30/2027

**22. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name** Matt **Last Name** Posner

**b. Organization** Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

**c. E-mail Address** mjposner@ppbep.org

**d. Phone Number** (850)595-0820 **Ext.**

**23. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization** Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

**b. Municipality and County** Escambia

**c. Organization Type**

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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.*