

Resilient Florida Program Implementation Scoring Criteria Guidance 2025



Updated: July 2025; DRAFT guidance for FY25-26 portal cycle following changes in statute, pending final DEP review

Contents

Purpose	3
RF Grant Portal.....	3
Pre-Application Resources	3
Attachments	4
Explanation Fields.....	4
Scoring Criteria Outline with Point Values	5
Symbol Legend	8
Tier 1	9
Addresses a Risk in a VA	10
Addresses Risk to Regionally Significant Asset(s)	11
Reduces Risks to more Vulnerable Critical Assets	12
Contributes to Existing Flooding Mitigation Projects	14
Reducing flood risk and increasing credits awarded in CRS.....	15
Tier 2	16
Degree of Current Flooding and Erosion in the Project Area	17
Readiness to Proceed	20
Environmental Habitat Enhancement and Critical Habitat Areas	22
Cost-Effectiveness.....	24
Tier 3	25
Availability of Matching Funds.....	26
Previous State Commitment and Involvement in the Project	27
Exceedance of the Flood-resistant Construction Requirements	28
Tier 4	29
Innovative Technologies and Regional Collaboration	30
Assists Financially Disadvantaged Communities.....	31

Purpose

On May 12, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1954, now section 380.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.). This targeted funding developed a coordinated approach to Florida's coastal and inland resilience and created the Resilient Florida Program (RF) which helps prepare communities for the impact of flooding and storm surge. Through this legislation, the RF Grant Program was created to enhance the DEP's efforts to protect our inland areas, coastlines and shores.

Chapter 62S-8, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) was developed to establish project scoring criteria that, pursuant to section 380.093 F.S., is used in DEP's hierarchical ranking system of submitted implementation project grant proposals. This guide is intended to aid eligible entities when submitting projects to be considered for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan (State Plan). Points awarded for each criterion are used in DEP's evaluation and ranking of implementation project grant proposals. This guide will outline each scoring criterion within statutory context, including examples for reference to illustrate the type of clear and concise response sought by the program.

RF Grant Portal

The RF grant application portal collects project proposals consistent with section 380.093, F.S. and Chapter 62S-8, F.A.C. Applicants can apply for grants through an eligible entity's established account, complete the application, view the status of existing applications and submit supplemental documentation, all through the online portal.

Documentation may be required for applicants to be awarded points for specific criterion. Applicants can select the files from their computer that they wish to attach and upload them directly into the application.

In addition to applicant and project information, applicants are asked questions for data collection purposes that do not correlate with any of the project scoring criteria. Examples of these questions include whether the project would impact springs and if a [Sea Level Impact Projection \(SLIP\) Study](#) will be required. Applicants are encouraged to review the application portal in full and allow sufficient time to gather any non-project-specific information required.

The 2025 online application, in entirety, is recreated in Appendix A.

Pre-Application Resources

Each year, RF staff will dedicate time between April 1 and June 15 to help with any necessary application support. Staff are available to assist with eligibility checks, pre-submittal application review and the preparation of Geographic Information System (GIS) files. After June 15, staff will be available as time allows. Assistance cannot be guaranteed after June as volume may be high before the portal closes on Sept. 1. Applicants are encouraged to contact staff as soon as possible to take

advantage of this opportunity. Call the RF Program at 850-245-7600 or email Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov.

Attachments

- Do not forget to upload all attachments referenced in the application.
- If including attachments in support of a scoring criterion, it is beneficial to include the attachment name and relevant page numbers in the explanation field.
 - Criterion that requires specific documentation is in green text.
- Use a simple naming structure to label/name corresponding attachments.
- Several scoring criteria are evaluated for the project impact area, which may not be the same as the geographic extent of the applicant entity. It is important to include a map of the project impact area, as defined in 62S-8.002(13), F.A.C., to aid in evaluation.
 - GIS assistance is available during the pre-application period. Please see Pre-Application Resources above.

Explanation Fields

- The explanation field should be located directly below each question.
- Be concise and specific in the explanation.
- Please use plain language as not all evaluators are professional engineers, certified floodplain managers, building officials or code experts.
 - Evaluators may not be able to award points if unable to verify the explanation.
- Make sure to fill out the explanation field of scoring criteria for which the proposed project should receive points.
 - At a minimum, a reference to relevant attachments should be included.

Scoring Criteria Outline with Point Values

During the 2025 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2506: Natural Resources, was passed and subsequently signed into law, effective July 1, 2025. Within that legislation was an update to s. 380.093, F.S., requiring additional criteria to be considered in the evaluation of projects submitted for inclusion in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan. Those additional criteria are in Tier 1, and outlined below.

Statutory criteria: Tier 1		62S-8.003(2), F.A.C., criteria with SB2506 (2025) updates	Points
40 percent	Addresses risk in a vulnerability assessment (VA) or comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and SLR assessment.	Risk of flooding and sea level rise to critical assets and	4
		Risk of compound flooding to critical assets.	4
	Reduces risk to regionally significant asset.	Reduces or avoids risk to regionally significant asset.	8
	Reducing risk in areas with a higher percentage of vulnerable critical assets.	Percentage of total critical assets within the project impact area that are vulnerable critical assets.	8
	Contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects that reduce upland damage by incorporating new or enhanced structures or restoration and revegetation projects.	Contributes by incorporating new or enhanced structure <u>or</u>	4
		Contributes by incorporating natural system restoration and revegetation <u>or</u>	4
		Contributes by incorporating new or enhanced structure <i>and</i> incorporating natural system restoration and revegetation.	8
	Degree to which the project reduces the flood risk, and thereby increases the credits awarded to a community participating in the NFIP Community Rating System*		8
	Tier 1 total points:		40

*new criteria added through SB2506: Natural Resources (2025)






Statutory criteria: Tier 2		62S-8.003(3), F.A.C., criteria	Points
30 percent	Degree to which flooding and erosion currently affect the condition of the project area.	Frequency of flooding or erosion in the project impact area and	3.75
		Severity of flooding or erosion in the project impact area.	3.75
	Overall readiness of the project to proceed in a timely manner.	Status of project design and	3.75
		Permitting and easement acquisition status and	2.75
		Commitment of local funds for cost-share or the community is a community eligible for reduced cost share.	1
	Environmental habitat enhancement or inclusion of nature-based options for resilience.	Project enhances habitat or includes nature-based solutions and	3.75
		Project is in an area identified as a state or federal critical habitat for threatened or endangered species.	3.75
	Cost-effectiveness.	Demonstration of project-cost effectiveness.	7.5
Tier 2 total points:			30



Statutory criteria: Tier 3		62S-8.003(4), F.A.C., criteria	Points
20 percent	Availability of local, state and federal cost share funds.	50% cost share is identified but funds are not appropriated or released or	3.25
		50% cost share available/committed, or the community is a community eligible for reduced cost-share.	6.5
	Previous state commitment and involvement in the project.	Previous state funding for preconstruction activities except design or permitting and	1
		Previous state funding for design and	1.5
		Previous state funding for permitting and	1.5
		State funding awarded for earlier phases of the project's total construction.	2.5
	Exceedance of the flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code and applicable flood plain management regulations.	Exceedance of Florida Building Code flood-resistant requirements or applicable floodplain management regulations or no relevant Florida Building Code flood-resistant requirements floodplain management regulations apply.	7
Tier 3 total points:			20

Statutory criteria: Tier 4		62S-8.003(5), F.A.C., criteria	Points
10 percent	Project uses innovative technologies designed to reduce project costs and provide regional collaboration.	Innovative technologies will be used and the proposal explains why they are innovative as well as how they will reduce cost and provide regional collaboration.	5
	Extent to which the project assists with financially disadvantaged communities.	The project impact area is located in a financially disadvantaged community.	5
Tier 4 total points:			10

Symbol Legend

	Upload required for full points. Applicant must upload the required documentation or files to be awarded full points.
	Explanation (at minimum) required for full points. Applicant must provide an explanation at a minimum to be awarded full points.
	Explanation for partial points, upload for full points. Applicant can either provide an explanation and be awarded partial points or upload documentation for full points.

Tier 1

Section 380.093(5)(g)1., F.S., requires Tier 1 scoring criteria account for 40% of the total score and consist of four items.

- a. The degree to which the project addresses the risks posed by flooding and sea level rise identified in the local government VAs or the comprehensive statewide flood VAs and sea level rise assessment, as applicable.
- b. The degree to which the project addresses risks to regionally significant assets.
- c. The degree to which the project reduces risks to areas with an overall higher percentage of vulnerable critical assets.
- d. The degree to which the project contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects reduce upland damage costs by incorporating new or enhanced structures or restoration and revegetation projects.
- e. The degree to which the project reduces the flood risk, and thereby increases the credits awarded to a community participating in the NFIP Community Rating System.



Addresses a Risk in a VA

Section 380.093(5)(g)1.a., F.S.

The degree to which the project addresses the risks posed by flooding and sea level rise identified in the local government VAs or the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment, as applicable.



Implemented with 62S-8.003(2)(a), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)1.a., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 8 points.

- 4 points will be awarded if the project addresses flooding risks identified in a comprehensive VA or the comprehensive statewide flood VA and sea level rise assessment.
- An additional 4 points will be awarded if the project addresses compound flooding risks identified in a comprehensive VA or the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment.

Discussion

Requiring the critical assets to be identified in either a comprehensive vulnerability assessment compliant with section 380.093(3)(c), F.S. or the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment will provide consistency in assessing flood risk between applicants and therefore scoring between projects and project types. Additionally, DEP made efforts to not disproportionately provide points to coastal projects while also providing more points to projects that are subject to flooding risk from more than one source (such as sea level rise, rainfall-induced flooding, riverine flooding, etc.).

Example Response

See page 99 in the attached document, "Vulnerability Assessment Report." The document includes flood modeling results completed in 2024. From this analysis, the project area is highly vulnerable to flooding and will be even more vulnerable in the future. This project is designed to reduce risk of flooding and risk from sea level rise in the area.

Addresses Risk to Regionally Significant Asset(s)

Section 380.093(5)(g)1.b., F.S.

The degree to which the project addresses risks to regionally significant assets.



Implemented with 62S-8.003(2)(b), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)1.b., F.S., a proposal will receive 8 points if the project reduces risks to or adapts a regionally significant asset to avoid flooding risk. For this criteria, relocation of the regionally significant asset constitutes adaptation of the asset.

Discussion

Regionally significant assets are “critical assets that support the needs of communities spanning multiple geopolitical jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water resource facilities, regional medical centers, emergency operations centers, regional utilities, major transportation hubs and corridors, airports and seaports” [section 380.093(2)(e), F.S.]. Regionally significant assets do not have to be owned or maintained by the county or municipality applying for inclusion in the State Plan.

In the application, it is necessary to identify the geopolitical jurisdictions that the regionally significant asset serves. Those jurisdictions must be provided in the explanation field to receive points.

Example Response

This water resource facility (pump station) serves multiple geopolitical jurisdictions including (names of cities, counties, etc.).



Reduces Risks to more Vulnerable Critical Assets

Section 380.093(5)(g)1.c., F.S.

The degree to which the project reduces risks to areas with an overall higher percentage of vulnerable critical assets.

Implemented with section 62S-8.003(2)(c), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)1.c., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 8 points for the percentage of vulnerable critical assets within the project impact area [62S-8.002(13), F.A.C.].

- 1 point if at least one critical asset but less than 20% of total critical assets within the project impact area are vulnerable.
- 2 points if 20% or more but less than 40% of total critical assets within the project impact area are vulnerable.
- 4 points if 40% or more but less than 60% of total critical assets within the project impact area are vulnerable.
- 6 points if 60% or more but less than 80% of total critical assets within the project impact area are vulnerable; or
- 8 points will be awarded if more than 80% of total critical assets within the project impact area are vulnerable.

Discussion

Vulnerable critical assets are those identified in a comprehensive VA as being at risk to flooding or sea level rise. If a comprehensive VA includes scenarios beyond those required by section 380.093, F.S., such as higher frequency storm events, those scenarios cannot be used to determine vulnerability of an asset for this criterion. This helps create consistency in scoring between projects.

Applicants should identify all critical assets in the project impact area as well as whether those critical assets are vulnerable. This information allows the evaluator to verify the percentage of vulnerable assets within the project impact area $[(\text{number of vulnerable critical assets} / \text{total critical assets}) * 100 = \text{percent of vulnerable critical assets}]$. This can also be demonstrated visually through a map. Applicants can show the project impact area on a map and identify vulnerable and non-vulnerable critical assets within the project impact area.

Example

The percentage of vulnerable critical assets in the project impact area is approximately 65% based on the number of structures that would flood during a 100-year flood event. This was determined with hydraulic modeling. The project impact area includes 43 critical assets and 28 of those assets are vulnerable. Critical assets in the area include Electric Authority lift station, the (Name) County Schools Maintenance facility, a Community Health Center and (Name) Park. Numerous properties are listed in the Florida Master Site File as historic structures. See “Critical Assets” attachment which lists all critical assets in the project impact area as well as denotes those that are at risk of flooding from a 100-year flood event. Also attached is a map that includes critical assets in the area with vulnerable assets denoted by yellow, orange and red dots (red is most vulnerable) (next page).

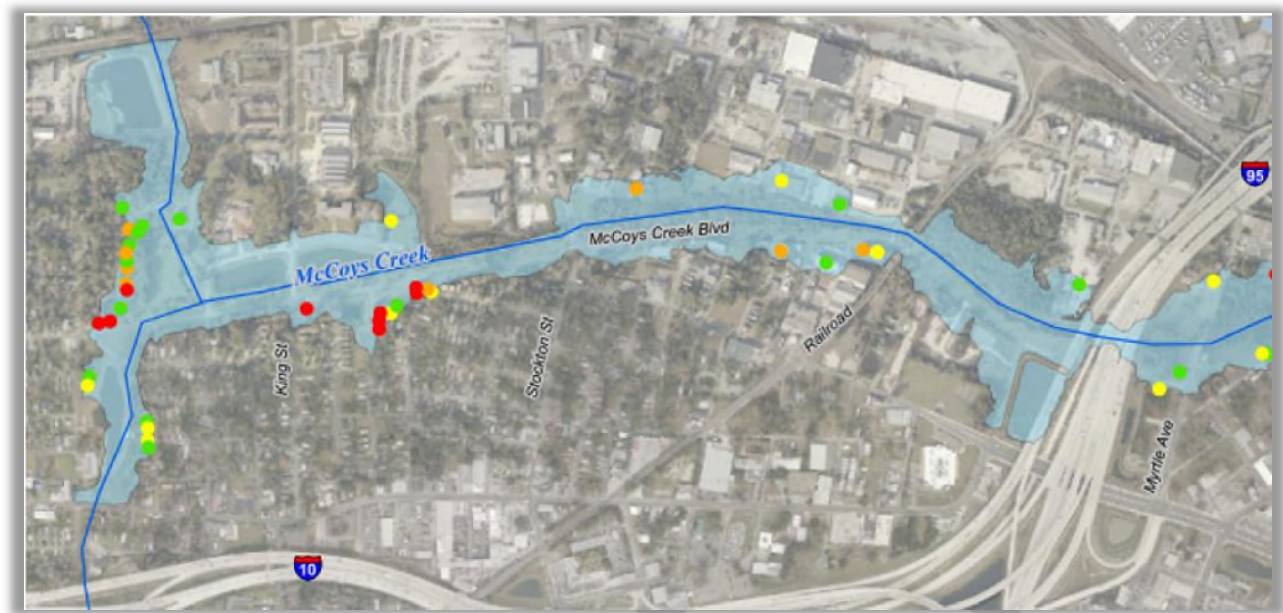


Figure 1 showing a map that supports "Reduces Risks to Areas with Higher Percentage of Vulnerable Critical Assets."

Contributes to Existing Flooding Mitigation Projects

Section 380.093(5)(g)1.d., F.S.

The degree to which the project contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects that reduce upland damage costs by incorporating new or enhanced structures or restoration and revegetation projects.



Implemented with 62S-8.003(2)(d), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)1.d., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 8 points.

- 4 points will be awarded if the project contributes to existing flood mitigation projects that reduce upland damage cost by either incorporating new or enhanced structures that are critical to perform its intended function or by natural system restoration and revegetation **or**
- 8 points will be awarded if the project contributes to existing flood mitigation projects that reduce upland damage cost by both incorporating new or enhanced structures and by restoration and revegetation.

Discussion

To receive points for this scoring criterion, the project must contribute to an existing flood mitigation project that reduces upland damage cost. It is not sufficient to demonstrate that the proposed project will reduce upland damage cost.

DEP recognizes that many projects will not incorporate both new or enhanced structures and restoration and revegetation. However, awarding full points for doing both will incentivize applicants to think critically about whether natural system restoration and revegetation can positively affect infrastructure projects.

Example

The construction of a new drainage canal and pump station will further a regional effort to improve drainage in the area. The project is in the (Name) between (Name) and (Name), both of which discharge to (Name). Both the state and the county have implemented stormwater and water quality projects to improve drainage and the water quality within the area before it enters (Name). The proposed project will contribute to this larger effort and provide flood protection for an upland area that includes roadways and hundreds of homes housing almost 3,000 people.

Reducing Flood Risk and Increasing Credits Awarded in CRS

Section 380.093(5)(g)1.e., F.S.

The degree to which the project reduces the flood risk, and thereby increases the credits awarded, to a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

Implemented by SB 2506: Natural Resources (2025), Chapter No. 2025-201, *Laws of Florida*

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)1.e., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 8 points for the expected increase in credits awarded under elements in the CRS.

- 1 point if one element in the CRS is expected to receive more credit.
- 2 points if two elements in the CRS are expected to receive more credit.
- 4 points if three elements in the CRS are expected to receive more credit.
- 8 points if four or more elements in the CRS are expected to receive more credit.

Discussion

With the passage and subsequent approval by the Governor of SB 2506: Natural Resources (2025), the Department had to quickly determine a system to implement the statutory change to the criteria. In statute, Tier 1 must account for 40 percent of the total score and was previously evaluated across 4 criteria, receiving 10 points for each. With the added criteria bringing the total to 5 criteria, the department has reallocated the amounts and assigned 8 points for each.

The CRS is comprised of elements within activities that are contained within several series' or categories. Because credits awarded within elements would provide the broadest opportunity to meet the criteria, the department decided that the number of elements that would receive more credits as a result of the project would be the most appropriate way to evaluate these criteria. Specific elements should be identified that are expected to receive credits, and reasonable explanation must be given as to why additional credits would be awarded.

Example

Because this project is acquiring property for stormwater infrastructure and providing additional erosion control, this project would result in additional credits being awarded across three (3) elements in the CRS which includes: the 450 element of Stormwater Management, the 520 element of Acquisition and Relocation, and the 530 element of Flood Protection. Credits awarded in these elements may also result in an increase of the community's CRS class.

Tier 2

Section 380.093(5)(g)2., F.S., requires Tier 2 scoring criteria account for 30% of the total score and consist of four items.

- a. The degree to which flooding and erosion currently affect the condition of the project area.
- b. The overall readiness of the project to proceed in a timely manner, considering the project's readiness for the construction phase of development, the status of required permits, the status of any needed easement acquisition and the availability of local funding sources.
- c. Environmental habitat enhancement or inclusion of nature-based options for resilience, with priority given to state or federal critical habitat areas for threatened or endangered species.
- d. The cost-effectiveness of the project.



Degree of Current Flooding and Erosion in the Project Area

Section 380.093(5)(g)2.a., F.S.

The degree to which flooding and erosion currently affect the condition of the project area.

Implemented with 62S-8.003(3)(a), F.A.C.



To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)2.a., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 7.5 points.

- Up to 3.75 points for the severity of flooding or erosion impacting the area:
 - 2 points if the project impact area has experienced flooding greater than 3 inches in the last three years or has experienced unmitigated erosion **or**
 - 3.75 points if the project impact area has:
 - Been flooded to an estimated depth greater than 1 foot in the last five years.
 - Been flooded at least 3 inches but less than a foot in the current and each of the last three calendar years.
 - Had sustained flooding that lasted at least seven consecutive days **or**
 - Experienced erosion that is critical for the critical asset class.
- Up to 3.75 points will be awarded for the frequency of flooding or erosion affecting the area:
 - 2 points if the project impact area has experienced flooding or erosion in the last three years **or**
 - 3.75 points if the project impact area has been flooded more than three times in the last five years or is experiencing ongoing erosion.

Discussion

To receive 2 points for either severity or frequency of flooding, applicants must provide a description of the flooding that demonstrates qualifying for points. In order to receive 3.75 points for either severity or frequency of flooding, documentation (with dates) must be attached. Documentation may include reports of flooding or erosion recorded by the jurisdictions and sources in which the project impact area is located; local news reports or sources; documentation by a local official such as recorded high-water marks or inspection results; or any other similar document or report. Although similar documentation is not needed to receive 2 points, it is beneficial.

Examples

Severity: full (3.75) points — Ongoing erosion is evident in attached shoreline photographs and the Black Lake River crest data supports the frequency as follows:

- 11.95 ft. on April 18, 2022.
- 13.72 ft. on Oct. 7, 2021.
- 12.64 ft. on April 25, 2021.
- 24.49 ft. on Sept. 17, 2020.
- 11.39 ft. on Dec. 30, 2018.
- 12.61 ft. on Feb. 12, 2018.

Frequency: full (3.75) points — The (Name) Trail, adjacent roads and (Name) Park (where (Name) is located), located within Unit 3, flood annually or multiple times per year during king tides in late summer/early fall (September-November). The deepest areas of flooding exceed 1 foot. Specific dates of documented flooding include Sept. 2, 2019; Oct. 14, 2019; Oct. 18, 2020; Sept. 21, 2020 and Nov. 5, 2021. Please see attached dated photos and news articles for verification.

Sept. 2, 2019





November 2021

Oct. 24, 2019



Figure 2 showing images supporting "Degree of Current Flooding and Erosion in the Project Area."

Readiness to Proceed

Section 380.093(5)(g)2.b., F.S

The overall readiness of the project to proceed in a timely manner, considering the project's readiness for the construction phase of development, the status of required permits, the status of any needed easement acquisition and the availability of local funding sources.



Implemented with 62S-8.003(3)(b), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)2.b., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 7.5 points.

- Up to 3.75 points will be awarded for the status of the project design.
 - One point if partially designed or if site-specific environmental or geotechnical reports that demonstrate furtherance of a readiness to proceed are submitted **or**
 - 3.75 points if final designs or plans are submitted.
- Up to 2.75 points will be awarded for the status of necessary permits and easements.
 - One point for providing a list of all permits and easements necessary for project **or**
 - 1.5 points if proof of application for necessary permits or approval for at least one permit is submitted **or**
 - 2.75 points if all necessary permits and easements have been authorized **or**
 - 2.75 points if no permits or easements are required.
- 1 point will be awarded if local funding (e.g., a local optional sales tax, budgeted local dollars for capital improvements) has been committed as cost share for the project **or** if the community is eligible for reduced cost share.

Discussion

Project design — Full points will be awarded if certified final drawings or plans are submitted. Final design plans must be signed by a professional in the relevant field, which provides flexibility for different project types. Partial points for project design can be received by providing documentation of design work or pre-work. This can include partial designs (defined in 62S-8.002, F.A.C.) or necessary site-specific environmental or geotechnical reports. 0 points will be awarded if no design documentation is provided.

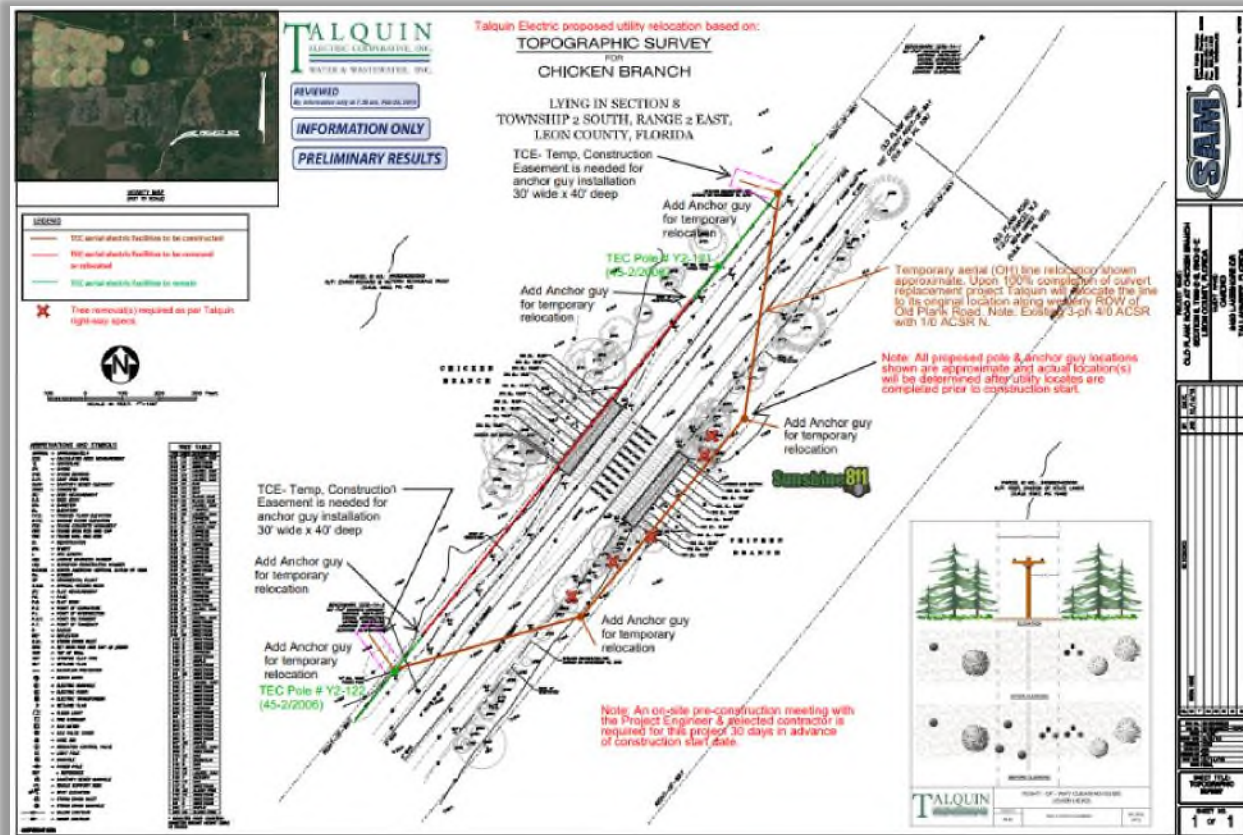
Permits and/or easements — In order to receive 1 point for this criterion, the applicant must list in the explanation or an attachment what permits are needed. However, documentation of permit application or issuance is required to be attached as verification for receiving 1.5 points. Documentation is not required if no permits/easements are required.

Local cost share — Documentation must be provided to receive the point for local cost share availability. Available cost share can be demonstrated by relevant documentation, including an approved and adopted capital improvement plan; a signed letter from the chief executive officer (or equivalent) of the eligible entity; a resolution or agenda item to be presented to the governing board committing funding to the project if selected; or any other comparable document showing availability of funds.

Documentation is not necessary for Communities Eligible for Reduced Cost (CERC) to receive this point as they are not subject to cost share requirements [section 380.093(5)(e), F.S.]. DEP will verify CERC that are eligible to receive this point.

Examples

Project design — See Final_DesignDoc attachment (design document copied below).



Permits and/or easements — No easements are required. The following permits have been identified:

1. (Name) Outpost: Right of Way Permit; Design Review; Tree Removal.
2. Army Corps of Engineers: Dredge and Fill (USACE) — Individual or Nationwide.
3. DEP: Environmental Resource Permit, Mangrove Trimming.
4. (Name) Water Management District: Environmental Resource Permit.
5. (Name) of Regulatory and Economic Resources: Class 1 — Tidal Waters; Class II — Stormwater System Improvements.

Local cost share — A 50% cost share has been secured and is available in the city's budget in the amount of \$1,802,955. Documentation is attached in the "CFO Budget and Matching Funds Letter" and in the "Cost Breakdown" document. The appropriate lines have been highlighted in each document.

Environmental Habitat Enhancement and Critical Habitat Areas

Section 380.093(5)(g)2.c., F.S.

The environmental habitat enhancement or inclusion of nature-based options for resilience, with priority given to state or federal critical habitat areas for threatened or endangered species.

Implemented with 62S-8.003(3)(c), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria in section 380.093(5)(g)2.c., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 7.5 points.

- 3.75 points if the project enhances habitat or includes nature-based solutions **and**
- 3.75 points if the project impact area includes habitat identified as state or federal critical habitat for threatened or endangered species.

Discussion

In order to receive points for enhancing habitat or including nature-based solutions, the explanation must describe how the project will do so. “Nature-based solutions” is defined in 62S-8.002(11), F.A.C., as actions that rely upon natural processes to protect, restore and sustainably manage ecosystems, as well as solutions that address socio-environmental challenges using natural resources and processes.

Planted vegetation, green infrastructure, vegetated berms and swale reclamation are examples.

Critical habitat must be designated at the time of the application submission and the explanation should include the names of the state or federally threatened or endangered species. Although not required, useful documentation may include maps, tables and other documents illustrating that the project impact area includes state or federally identified critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) provide useful tools and information that applicants can use to support their explanation. The links below are valuable resources for applicants but do not constitute the only available information to support the receiving points for this criterion.

- [USFWS Endangered Species.](#)
- [FWC State Wildlife Action Plan.](#)

Examples

Habitat enhancement — (Name) will restore the natural mangrove system next to the existing seawall. The root zone of mangroves will be restored to access open water. Invasive bushes in the mangrove area will be removed and replaced with healthy mangroves. This effort will benefit wildlife, enhance fish habitat, filter water, improve water quality and serve as extra support for the new seawall.

Critical habitat — The project is located within critical habitat for the gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) according to the online mapping tool available from the USFWS. Design has already

been modified based on comments received from National Marine Fisheries Service to limit construction to areas above mean high water to reduce potential for impacts to sturgeons.



Cost-Effectiveness

Section 380.093(5)(g)2.d., F.S.

The cost-effectiveness of the project.



Implemented with 62S-8.003(3)(d)

To incorporate criteria in section 380.093(5)(g)2.d., F.S., a proposal will receive 7.5 points for a demonstration of cost-effectiveness. Demonstration must include at least one of the following metrics:

- Comparison of contingencies and estimated total project cost.
- Cost of alternative approaches or explanation why no feasible alternatives exist.
- Avoided economic loss due to failure or inability to operate due to flooding or sea level rise; the project costs compared to costs to repair damage from flooding or erosion or other reasonably foreseeable losses using industry standard economic models.
- Future cost and benefits calculated using the relevant discount rate, net present value or other metrics measuring future costs and benefits to support the proposal; **or**
- Direct and indirect economic value of ecosystem services provided by natural or nature-based solutions.

Discussion

Additional ways to show cost-effectiveness can be used and explained, but at least one of the metrics listed above and in 62S-8.003(3)(d)1-5., F.A.C., must be included.

Example

See the attached Benefit-Cost Analysis document for more details. Installing flood mitigation measures on the existing building, at an estimated \$1,600,000, is more cost-effective than relocating to a new site, which would require an estimated contingency of over \$30 million for the design and construction costs of a 45,000-square-foot library. Additionally, site acquisition costs in the central area of (Name) are roughly \$800,000/acre according to recent property appraisal records.

Tier 3

Section 380.093(5)(g)3., F.S., requires Tier 3 scoring criteria account for 20% of the total score and consist of three items.

- a. The availability of local, state and federal matching funds, considering the status of the funding award and federal authorization, if applicable.
- b. Previous state commitment and involvement in the project, considering previously funded phases, the total amount of previous state funding and previous partial appropriations for the proposed project.
- c. The exceedance of the flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code and applicable floodplain management regulations.



Availability of Matching Funds

Section 380.093(5)(g)3.a., F.S.

The availability of local, state and federal matching funds, considering the status of the funding award and federal authorization, if applicable.

Implemented with 62S-8.003(4)(a), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)3.a., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 6.5 points.

- 3.25 points if local, state or federal cost share has been identified but the funds have not been released or appropriated at time of application **or**
- 6.5 points if 50% cost share is available **or**
- 6.5 points if applicant is a CERC.

Discussion

To receive full points, you must provide documentation that cost share is available. Available cost share must be demonstrated by relevant documentation, including an approved and adopted capital improvement plan; a signed letter from the chief executive officer (or equivalent) of the eligible entity; a resolution or agenda item to be presented to the governing board committing funding to the project if selected; or any other comparable document showing availability of funds. Documentation must specify the stated cost share amount or percentage in the application. Local and federal funds are viable cost share. State funds for cost share may be subject to restrictions for use of funds and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If submitting documentation similar to a capital improvement plan, it is beneficial to highlight the specific line item for the cost share.

To get partial points for “identifying” cost share, you must provide an explanation of where the cost share will be sourced from, such as a local option sales tax. It is beneficial for evaluators if the applicant specifies whether the identified cost share will be local, state or federal funds. Documentation is not necessary for a CERC to receive this point as they are not subject to cost share requirements [section 380.093(5)(e), F.S.]. DEP will verify CERCs that are eligible to receive this point.

Example

Please see the attached “Match Commitment Letter” from the board of county commissioners.

Previous State Commitment and Involvement in the Project

Section 380.093(5)(g)3.b., F.S.

Previous state commitment and involvement in the project, considering previously funded phases, the total amount of previous state funding and previous partial appropriations for the proposed project.

Implemented with 62S-8.003(4)(b), F.A.C.



To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)3.b., F.S., a proposal will receive up to 6.5 points.

- One point if previous funds were awarded for preconstruction activities (as defined in section 380.093(2)(c), F.S.), except for design and permitting **and**
- 1.5 points if previous funds were awarded for project design **and**
- 1.5 points if previous funds were awarded for permitting **and**
- 2.5 points if previous funds were awarded for an earlier phase of project construction.

Discussion

Verification must include previously funded phases, amount of prior state funding and previous partial appropriations. It must be submitted in a format that is verifiable by the agency or agencies having awarded the previous funding. Applicants should provide the agreement number, the agency providing funding and the year of award at a minimum. This can be done in the explanation field or through relevant attachments.

Previous funding must be specific to the project. RF Planning Grants to complete statutorily compliant VA will not be considered previous funding for the purpose of this criterion.

Example

(Name) was awarded a rural infrastructure grant through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity under Agreement No. DXXXXX to conduct a study to identify options to reduce or prevent flooding in the downtown area.

Exceedance of the Flood-resistant Construction Requirements

Section 380.093(5)(g)3.c., F.S.

The exceedance of the flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code (FBC) and applicable floodplain management regulations.



Implemented with 62S-8.003(4)(c), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)3.c., F.S., a proposal will receive 7 points if the project exceeds FBC or local floodplain management regulations or if these regulations do not apply to the project.

Discussion

Allowing full points for projects that do not follow applicable FBC or local floodplain management regulations is not intended to penalize green projects and nature-based solutions. Applications must explain how the project will exceed FBC or floodplain management requirements. Because not all evaluators are certified floodplain managers, building officials or code experts, it is beneficial for the applicant to reference or provide an attachment of the specific FBC or local floodplain management regulation that will be exceeded, including FBC section or local ordinance.

Example

Local floodplain management requirements and/or the Florida Building Code require elevation to Base Flood Elevation (BFE)+1. The project design adds an additional 2 feet and will be elevated to BFE+3.

Tier 4

Section 380.093(5)(g)4., F.S., requires Tier 4 scoring criteria account for 10% of the total score and consists of two items.

- a. The proposed innovative technologies are designed to reduce project costs and provide regional collaboration.
- b. The extent to which the project assists financially disadvantaged communities.



Innovative Technologies and Regional Collaboration

Section 380.093(5)(g)4.a., F.S.

The proposed innovative technologies are designed to reduce project costs and provide regional collaboration.

Implemented with 62S-8.003(5)(a), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)4.a., F.S., a proposal will receive 5 points if the project uses innovative technologies designed to reduce project costs and provide regional collaboration.

Discussion

Innovation refers to the development of new ideas or the improvement of existing ones. In this context, innovative means an emerging technology or a proven technology that is being used in a unique way to adapt one or more critical assets to the effects of flooding or sea level rise in the project impact area. The application must demonstrate which specific technologies will be used and explain why they are innovative as well as how they will both reduce cost and provide regional collaboration.

Example

Because projects funded by the RF Program are still in development, an example response for this criterion is not available.



Assists Financially Disadvantaged Communities

Section 380.093(5)(g)4.b., F.S.

The extent to which the project assists financially disadvantaged communities.

Implemented with 62S-8.003(5)(b), F.A.C.

To incorporate criteria section 380.093(5)(g)4.b., F.S., a proposal will receive five points if the project impact area is partially or wholly within a financially disadvantaged community.

Discussion

This criterion is related to financially disadvantaged communities, not CERC as outlined in section 380.093(5)(e), F.S. DEP did not provide specific requirements to demonstrate financial disadvantage for this criterion to provide applicants flexibility to demonstrate in a way that makes sense to their community. However, the applicant must demonstrate how the community is financially disadvantaged and include a description of the metrics used to establish that determination.

Additionally, this criterion is related to the project impact area. If the project impact area intersects with a financially disadvantaged community and the applicant demonstrates this, points will be awarded. It is beneficial to include a description or map of the project impact area.

Example

The rivers are located in census tract 26 in the (Name) neighborhood. 75% of residents are low-to-moderate income and 45% are living below the poverty line, with the median household income at \$22,125. This compares to the state of Florida where 43% of residents are low-to-moderate income and 13% live below the poverty line. Unemployment is 10% compared to Florida's rate of 5.4%.

Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

