| **Question** | **Answer** |
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| What is defined as an active project? | Active projects are those that have been awarded funding, but the acquisition/ reimbursement transaction hasn't been completed. We consider a project to be completed when the warrant is issued and the DDRC is recorded and returned to FCT. |
| Are the 3 or more active agreements in reference to projects that have not reached 5-year reporting status? | No, active projects are those that have been funded but the acquisition or reimbursement transaction hasn't been finalized and closed yet. |
| Will the webinar be recorded and available to reference later? | Yes, it will be posted to our website at: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/fct-florida-communities-trust-home> . |
| Can you please review the difference between pre-acquired projects and reimbursement projects? | Pre-acquired means you closed on the property within 24 months prior to submitting your FCT application.  Reimbursement means you are currently working on the acquisition but haven't closed prior to the FCT application deadline and will request reimbursement from FCT after the acquisition is completed. |
| Is there a time range in which the donated property has been acquired by the county? | Yes, the donated acquisition must have occurred within the same 24-month period just as if it was a pre-acquired acquisition. |
| What is required in the documentation for private donations? Is a pledge letter(s) acceptable? | A pledge letter stating the cash amount being donated is acceptable. Privately donated land may be acceptable within limitations. The land donation must have occurred within 24 months of the application deadline. The value of the donated land is established by appraisal. The donated lands will be governed under the rules of acquisition, the Deed and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants and the Management Plan. |
| If an informal partner organization, but who is not the applicant, has a subject property under contract with current owner (aka, site control), and the title will not be transferred to the informal partner before the FCT application is submitted, would the partner organization be the owner for the application? | The willing owner statement must be from who the current owner is. If that changes after the application has been submitted, then the new owner would also need to provide a willing owner statement letter at that time. |
| If the donated parcels have conservation easements placed over them does that invalidate the use of the property as a match? | Not necessarily. FCT would have to review and approve the terms of the Conservation Easement. FCT requests you submit the Conservation Easement for review before you submit your application if time permits, but at least with your application. Similar to privately donated land limitations. The easement lands will be governed under the rules of acquisition, the Deed and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants and the Management Plan. Thus, FCT will determine whether our restrictions and covenants are in conflict with those of the Conservation Easement. |
| Is the match based on the total project costs? | Yes, the match is based on the total project costs, which would also include your additional acquisition costs (Appraisals, survey, ESA, etc.). |
| If a first phase FCT acquisition was acquired about 10 years ago, would a second phase still be considered a second phase? Or has too much time passed? | It would still be considered a second phase, so long as the properties are contiguous and under the same management plan. |
| Under General Criteria in 1(f) is this just for the specific project site or if the organization has ever received funding from FCT in the past? | This question applies to the organization, not the project site. If your city, county or non-profit organization has previously received FCT funding, points can't be awarded. |
| How do you define Urban Service Area? | 62-818.002 (45) “Urban Service Area” means built-up areas where public facilities and services such as sewage treatment systems, roads, schools, and recreation areas, are already in place. For the purpose of this rule, it may also include other similar designations that have been formally adopted by a local government on its Future Land Use Map, or it may be an area that is currently provided services such as those listed above. |
| Does the match have to be acquired by time of application? We plan to engage in a fundraising campaign over the next year. | Yes, proof of the match and source of match must be available at the time the application is submitted. However, if you wish to engage in fundraisers after the fact to reimburse those funds, that is up to your agency. That is a separate transaction, apart from FCT processes. |
| What sort of binding is required for the 4 copies? Can we use flexible binders? What color do they need to be? | Flexible binders are fine and whatever color you choose. |
| Do appraisals have to be DSL supplemental standards? | A: Has to be to USPAP, not DSL Supplemental Standards (if DSL is negotiating has to be to DSL Supplemental Standards). The appraisal does have to be completed by an appraiser on the approved DSL appraiser list. |
| If the parcel is separated by a roadway (across the street) from adjacent parcel(s) or trails that we're hoping to connect with, does that meet the requirement of (b) connectivity question 3? | No, the connectivity is exclusive of road right-of-ways and water bodes. See Rule 62-818.002(35). |
| For 2 (b)2b adjacent to conservation or recreation lands - the land is across the river, an American Heritage River, from publicly owned conservation land. Would that be adjacent? (about half mile width of river) | No, this would not be adjacent according to program rule. 62-818.002(35) |
| 2(b)4 - Is a riverine corridor considered an ecological corridor? | FCT would answer this on a case-by-case basis. We suggest that you ask for the points and include support documents. We will take the question to DEP’s subject matter experts to determine if the points can be awarded under program rule (62-818.002(10) and 62-818-007(2)(b)4.) |
| Can a government entity participate as a partner in more than one application per grant application cycle? | Any eligible applicant, city, county or non-profit organization, an submit more than one partner application. By rule, the calculation of the grant award is 50/50 between the two partners.  For example, if a city is the sole applicant for a project requesting $1 million, and a partner with a county on a project requesting $5 million, the most that the city can receive is 3.5 million. That would be the $1 million for the sole applicant project and $2.5 million as one-half share of the $5 million project.  In any case, no eligible applicant can receive more than $5 million in a single grant cycle. |
| Would adjacency to an aquatic preserve with listed species count toward listed species and habitat? The conservation of the site helps the adjacent aquatic habitat (reduce untreated runoff). | Unfortunately, no. The listed species habitat must be an actual part of the site to be acquired. The habitat must be both acquired and protected to receive points.  If in doubt, ask for the points and provide documentation. We will take the issue to our subject matter experts to determine if points can be awarded. |
| To qualify for the educational opportunities, does the applicant have to be the administer of such activities, or can a commitment letter from a partner organization conducting educational opportunities suffice?  Would said partner need to be a co-applicant? | A commitment letter would be accepted for the Application Form. The partner organization would not need to be the co-applicant. If awarded, the applicant and partner will need to enter into an operating agreement which governs the educational programming. The agreement is subject to FCT review and approval before closing on the acquisition. The agreement should be submitted with MP. Regardless of the agreement, the applicant is ultimately responsible for providing educational programming. |
| If a city does not have a Comp Plan, can that city use the County Comp Plan for compatibility comparison? | If there is no city comprehensive plan, then, by law, the county comprehensive plan applies. |
| Currently, does the FCT governing board have enough members to constitute a quorum? If not, what is FCT’s strategy moving forward? | No – currently we have 3 of 5 members. Appointments are made at the discretion of the Governor’s Office. |
| Could the Applicant provide the match and engage in fundraising after the fact to reimburse the organization? | The applicant must provide proof of match at time of application. However, if they wish to engage in fundraisers after the fact to reimburse those funds, that is up to the applicant. That is a separate transaction, apart from FCT processes. |
| Is there a timeframe for the awards to be announced? Or is it dependent on the Governing Board appointments? | Our timeline is dependent on Governor’s Office appointments to fill Board vacancies. |
| If we apply for the FCT grant funding on this cycle, are we still able to receive funding from the state in the future? Like for IPMS or LWCF for site management or amenity funding | It would depend on the rules and restrictions placed on the property for each program. For example, LWCF is “no” due to restrictions attached to funding. This would need to be addressed on a case by case depending on the program rules. RTP and FRDAP addressed on a case-by-case basis by those programs. |
| 2(b)4 - can adjacent publicly owned lands be directly across a river from the Project Site? | No, the connectivity is exclusive of road right-of-ways and water bodes. See Rule 62-818.002(35). |
| Is there a list of Florida Front Porch Communities and maps of their boundaries? | We don’t have a boundary map of the communities, but here is the list:  West Bartow (Bartow); Rogers, Rousch Field,  Singletary, & Washington (Bradenton); Central City (Daytona Beach); Dorsey-Riverbend (Ft. Lauderdale); Duval Area (Gainesville); Gifford (Vero Beach); South Immokalee (Immokalee); Sherwood Forest (Jacksonville); Riverside (Miami); West Ocala (Ocala); Opa-Locka (Opa-Locka); Holden Heights (Orlando); Greater Pensacola (Pensacola); Goldsboro (Sanford);  Newtown (Sarasota); Greater South Central (St.  Petersburg); Sylvania Heights (Ft. Walton Beach);  Greater Frenchtown (Tallahassee); East Tampa  (Tampa); and Northwood, Pleasant City, NW (W. Palm Beach). |