

RESTORE Funded Priorities List 3b

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who may submit project proposals for FPL3b?

Counties, Municipalities, Water Management Districts, state agencies, special districts, and non-governmental organizations that can demonstrate competency in meeting 2 C.F.R. 200 may submit project proposals.

2. What types of projects are eligible under this program?

Eligibility is described in solicitation(s) for projects.

3. How do I submit a proposal?

The solicitation will specify the project portal web address and deadline for submitting project proposals.

4. How much funding is available?

The table below provides the amount of funding designated for each program listed by funding category. RESTORE Council uses [Funding Categories](#) to distinguish funds that are approved for programs or projects and those which are prioritized for future projects or programs.

Planning Projects (Category 1)

Planning activities include data collection and analysis, surveying, feasibility studies, cost estimates, engineering and design, and permitting.

Implementation Projects (Category 2)

Implementation activities include construction and/or land acquisition. Funding for implementation activities is not approved until all planning activities are complete, and environmental compliance is documented. To be considered for funding, proposed implementation projects require a vote by RESTORE Council to amend the Funded Priorities List 3b.

Program* Name	Category 1 (Approved)	Category 2 (Prioritized)	Total Funds Identified
Florida Gulf Coast Resiliency Program	\$5,600,000	\$8,400,000	\$14,000,000
Florida Gulf Coast Tributaries Hydrologic Restoration Program	\$3,437,500	\$10,312,500	\$13,750,000
Florida Water Quality Improvement Program	\$6,750,000	\$20,250,000	\$27,000,000

**\$14 million was approved for the Florida Strategic Gulf Coast Land Acquisition Program, which is being implemented through the state's Florida Forever program.*

5. What are the match requirements?

Matching funds are not required. Funds may be leveraged with project proposals. Leveraged funds can be described as “Co-funding”, “Adjoining”, or “Builds on Other Resources”. See below for a description of each type of leveraged funding:

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- Co-funding means that costs will be shared across funding from two or more sources. Co-funding means that the funds from all sources is needed in order to achieve the project objective.
- Adjoining means that the project is proposed in a location that adjoins another existing or proposed project.
- Builds on Other Resources means that the project builds upon activities completed or ongoing as part of other projects or programs but is not captured by either co-funding or adjoining leveraged funds.

For projects where co-funding is required to achieve the project objectives, sponsors of selected projects will be expected to clearly articulate budget information that identifies the funding sources, amounts, and project elements the non-Federal share will support. Budget information must be sufficient to determine that all costs described are allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Cash and in-kind contributions that are included in the budget of the award as co-funding must be valued in accordance 2 C.F.R. §200.306.

- If actual allowable costs are less than the total approved budget, the co-funding must be adjusted proportionally. If actual allowable costs are greater than the total approved budget, the Federal (RESTORE) share must not exceed the total dollar amount authorized by the award.
- The co-funding, whether in cash or in-kind, must be paid out at the same general rate as the Federal share. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted based on sufficient documentation demonstrating previously determined plans for, or later commitment of cash or in-kind contributions. If different from the rate of the Federal share, the project sponsor must describe how the distribution rate will affect project progress. In any case, the project sponsor must meet its co-funding commitment over the life of the project and maintain sufficient records justifying all non-Federal sharing and co-funding requirements to facilitate questions and audits.

6. What are the next steps after proposals are submitted?

- Proposals will be screened for eligibility and then evaluated based on selection criteria.
- Upon selection, DEP will notify applicants if their proposal has been selected for funding.
- Projects selected for funding will be listed on the DWH website.

7. What can I expect if my proposed project is selected for funding?

- DEP will work with successful applicants to develop work plans, project schedule, and project budget. DEP will also ask the project proponent to provide project shapefiles.
- After a workplan is developed, there are two tracts:
 - i. For planning projects (category 1), DEP will request an amendment to its federal award from the RESTORE Council to incorporate the project information into the corresponding FPL3b Program. As part of the amendment process, independent Best Available Science reviews of the work plans will be conducted. This process could add an estimated 6 to 9 months to the project.

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- ii. For implementation projects (category 2), after independent Best Available Science reviews and verification of Environmental Compliance requirements have been met and are deemed adequate, RESTORE Council will schedule and hold a vote to amend the FPL to move category 2 funds to category 1 to fund project implementation. This process could add an estimated 9 to 12 months to the project.

Note: These estimates are general and may vary depending on the complexity of review needed and the timing of other requested amendments. Due to the need to address restoration projects across the Gulf region, RESTORE Council processing times to amend the federal awards and FPL could be significant. Project proponents are strongly advised to take this into account and assess the impacts this may have on the project.

- Once RESTORE Council has amended the FPL and/or the federal award, DEP will develop and execute a subrecipient agreement with the project sponsor.

8. How are funded projects affected by the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into Law November 15, 2021?

Build America, Buy America Act (P.L. 117-58 §§70901-709533 (BABAA) provisions of the IJJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, increase the requirement for Federal infrastructure programs to use materials produced in the USA. The RESTORE Council is determining whether its funding is subject to BABAA when financial assistance is used to fund projects that include infrastructure. Until more is made clear about whether BABAA applies, and if so, how it applies, project proponents are advised to factor the potential costs and delays associated with a domestic preference for sourcing materials in the project budget and schedule. More information is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/M-22-11.pdf>.