**Harmful Algal Bloom Management Grant Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the purpose of this grant program?**

On July 9, 2018, Governor Rick Scott issued an Executive Order for Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties to help combat algal blooms caused by Lake Okeechobee water discharges from the Army Corps of Engineers.

This Executive Order directed DEP to establish a grant program to fund counties to immediately provide targeted algal bloom clean-up efforts in significantly impacted areas, such as marinas, boat ramps and other public access areas located within defined counties to help manage the impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB).

DEP is also committed to continuing to identify and implement new technologies and projects to restore our waterways and prevent harmful algal blooms. Long-term solutions for algal bloom management service are being solicited through an Invitation to Negotiate, please visit <http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_www.ad_r2.view_ad?advertisement_key_num=141124> for more information.

**What activities are eligible for this grant funding?**

Eligible activities include containment, removal, cleanup, elimination, transportation and disposal of identified acute Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and by-products associated with the services provided.

**Who is eligible to receive grant funding?**

The county governments of Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties.

Any other local governments or special districts may coordinate with and submit project proposals to the county governments. County governments may apply on behalf of other local government entities but will be considered the sole applicant and the responsible Grantee for selected projects.

**How much grant funding is available?**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has identified $3 million to help eligible counties provide qualifying services.

**By when should all grant funds for selected projects be encumbered under an agreement with the Department?**

Projects may begin upon the execution of a grant agreement with the Department and the agreement must be executed prior to the expiration of Florida Executive Order No. 18-191 (available at <https://www.flgov.com/2018-executive-orders/>). The Executive Order currently expires on September 7, 2018. Activities required under the executed agreement may last for the duration of the agreement.

**How will projects be selected for funding?**

Applications from county governments will be received by the Department and undergo internal review for application completeness and eligibility, on a first-come basis. Selected applicant(s) will be notified via email with award amount and will then enter into a grant agreement with the Department.

**Are chemical or biological treatments eligible for funding?**

Proposals with a chemical or biological treatment applied directly to the waterbody will be evaluated for funding eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

Any proposals containing a chemical or biological treatment component with a pesticidal or biocidal claim must meet pesticide application restrictions established by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

* These requirements include that the pesticide to be applied must be:
	+ applied by a Florida-licensed pesticide applicator,
	+ applied per the label,
	+ applied per the Generic Permit for Pollutant Discharges to Surface Waters of the State from the Application of Pesticides (62-621.300(8) F.A.C.),
	+ a FIFRA registered pesticide,
	+ approved for use in Florida, and
	+ approved for use in surface waters.
* The application of the pesticide must not cause the rapid release of large amounts of cyanotoxin to the surface water, potentially increasing the hazard of the bloom to local residents, workers or aquatic organisms.
* The application of the pesticide must not cause a rapid decrease in dissolved oxygen to levels that pose a risk to the aquatic organisms (e.g., less than the appropriate Florida Surface Water Quality Criteria of Chapter 62-302, F.A.C.).
* The application of the pesticide must not cause a negative impact on other water quality standards or impairments (e.g., TMDLs).

**Are long-term solutions to HAB(s) or large-scale projects eligible for funding?**

This grant program is to help local counties provide targeted algal bloom clean-up efforts to quickly reduce and address impacts to significantly impacted areas, such as marinas, boat ramps and other public access areas.

See the previous questions for specific activities that are eligible for this funding.

DEP also remains committed to continuing to identify and implement new technologies and projects to restore our waterways and prevent harmful algal blooms. Long-term solutions for algal bloom management service are being solicited through an Invitation to Negotiate. Interested vendors may contact Lori Anderson with the Department’s procurement section at Lori.L.Anderson@dep.state.fl.us or 850-245-2355.

In addition, the Department is committed to reviewing and evaluating proposals of potential technologies outside the scopes of the grant program and the management services procurement. The Department has created a standardized process through which consultants, businesses and organizations can request an agency review of a proposed strategy for pollutant source control and remediation for inclusion in our technology library. More information on accepted technologies and how to submit one for review is available here: https://fldeploc.dep.state.fl.us/tech\_portal/tech\_library\_intro.asp.

**What information is needed in the application about each HAB?**

The Application must also provide information regarding, at a minimum:

* 1. the location of the bloom (e.g., nearest street address),
	2. the name of the waterbody (if applicable),
	3. photographs of the bloom to be treated,
	4. estimated size of the bloom to be treated,
	5. for proposals with a biological or chemical treatment component with a pesticidal or biocidal claim, include
		1. estimated volume of pesticide to be applied per the label directions,
		2. calculations must be provided,
		3. method of application,
		4. number of applications proposed, and
		5. estimated duration of application period.
	6. for proposals with a chemical or biological agent application, other than pesticides or biocides, (e.g., polymers, coagulants, flocculants), include:
		1. estimated volume of chemical or agent to be applied,
		2. calculations must be provided,
		3. method of application,
		4. number of applications proposed, and
		5. estimated duration of application period.

**Are locations of algal blooms that haven’t been reported to DEP, eligible for funding?**

Before submitting your application, check the following website to see if the HAB(s) has been reported to the Department: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/algal-bloom/content/algal-bloom-sampling-results>. Open Full-Size map and zoom in to your area.

If the HAB(s) has not been reported, please report the HAB(s) to the Department at the following website as soon as possible: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/algal-bloom>.

**Who is responsible for disposal of the material required at the end of the project?**

The grant recipient will be responsible for the proper disposal of all materials associated with the services provided including, but not limited to, containment devices, algal mats and other material removed by the services, by-products of the services provided, as well as any materials associated with the services provided. The grant recipient is responsible for assuring disposal occurs at appropriate facilities and maintaining documentation of proper disposal.

**Are there any permit requirements for the projects?**

Other authorizations may be required. The grant recipient is responsible for determining if such authorizations are required and with meeting those requirements.

**I have additional questions. Who do I ask?**

If you have additional questions, please contactAmanda Peck (Amanda.Peck@floridadep.gov, 850-245-2952) or Michael Barr (Michael.Barr@floridadep.gov, 850-245-2947) or visit <https://floridadep.gov/dear/algal-bloom> for more information.