

Resilient Florida Program Implementation Scoring Criteria Guidance 2026



**Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
Florida Department of Environmental Protection**



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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 Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 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 are used in DEP's hierarchical ranking system of submitted implementation project grant proposals, pursuant to section 380.093 F.S. 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. The online portal enables applicants to create, edit and save draft applications as well as submit supplemental documentation or view the status of an existing application. Applicants can access the portal for grants through an eligible entity's established account.

Documentation may be required for applicants to be awarded points for specific criteria. 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 also asked questions for program 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 advance of completing the application and to allow sufficient time to gather any non-project-specific information required.



Application Completion Tips

Attachments

- Be sure to upload all attachments referenced in the application. Only include relevant documents (sometimes more is not better).
- Use a simple and descriptive naming structure to label attachments.
- 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.
 - > A criterion that requires specific documentation is in **blue** text.
- 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.
 - > Geographic Information System (GIS) assistance is available during the pre-application period. See Pre-Application Resources below.

Explanation Fields

- The explanation field should be located directly below each question.
- Be concise and specific in the explanation.
- 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 they are unable to verify the explanation.
- Make sure to fill out the explanation field of each scoring criterion for which the proposed project should receive points.
 - > At a minimum, a reference to relevant attachments should be included.

Pre-Application Resources

Each year, RF Program staff dedicate time between April and June to help potential applicants 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, 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.

Scoring Criteria Outline with Point Values

Statutory criteria: Tier 1 (40%)	62S-8.003(2), F.A.C., criteria	Points
Addresses risk in a vulnerability assessment (VA) or Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea Level Rise Assessment.	Risk of flooding and sea level rise to critical assets.	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, or both.	Contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects that reduce upland damage by incorporating new or enhanced structure.	4
	Contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects that reduce upland damage by incorporating natural system restoration and revegetation.	4
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 (NFIP) Community Rating System.		8
Tier 1 total points		40



Statutory criteria: Tier 2 (30%)	62S-8.003(3), F.A.C., criteria	Points
Degree to which flooding and erosion currently affect the condition of the project area.	Frequency of flooding or erosion in the project impact area.	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.	3.75
	Permitting and easement acquisition status.	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	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 (20%)	62S-8.003(4), F.A.C., criteria	Points
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.	1
	Previous state funding for design.	1.5
	Previous state funding for permitting.	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 (10%)	62S-8.003(5), F.A.C., criteria	Points
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 to account for 40% of the total score and consist of five items.

- The degree to which the project addresses the risks posed by flooding and sea level rise identified in the local government Vulnerability Assessments (VAs) or the comprehensive statewide flood VAs and sea level rise assessment, as applicable.
- The degree to which the project addresses risks to regionally significant assets. The degree to which the project reduces risks to areas with an overall higher percentage of vulnerable critical assets.
- The degree to which the project contributes to existing flooding mitigation projects to reduce upland damage costs by incorporating new or enhanced structures or restoration and revegetation projects.
- 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.



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 vulnerability assessments (VAs) or the comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise assessment, as applicable.

Implemented with Chapter 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 local VA compliant with section 380.093(3)(c), F.S., or the statewide vulnerability assessment (SVA) will provide consistency in assessing flood risk between applicants and therefore scoring between projects and project types. Additionally, DEP makes efforts not to 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

A local vulnerability assessment, DEP Resilient Florida grant number XXPLNXX, was utilized for selecting the critical asset. See page 99 in the attached document, “Vulnerability Assessment Report.” The document includes flood modeling results completed in 2024. From this analysis, the selected critical asset 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 to this critical asset. The critical asset’s unique identification number in the “Vulnerability Assessment Report” is CA123.



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

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

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

To incorporate the criteria in 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 criterion, 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.).



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

Discussion

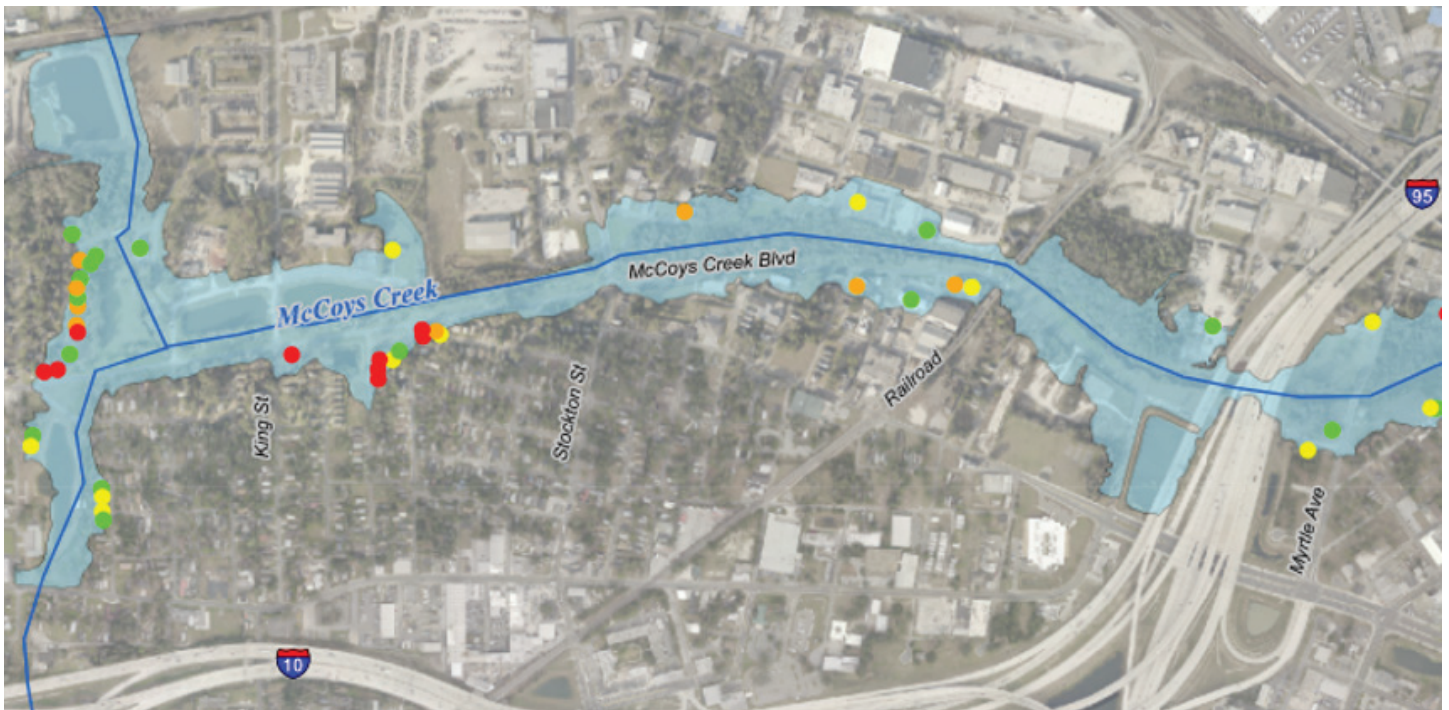
Vulnerable critical assets are those identified in a local VA compliant with section 380.093(3)(c), F.S., or SVA as being at risk of flooding or sea level rise. If a comprehensive VA includes scenarios beyond those required by section 380.093, F.S., such as higher frequency storm events, those scenarios cannot be used to determine vulnerability of an asset for this criterion. This helps create consistency in scoring between projects.

Applicants must identify the source of how the assets were identified as vulnerable, such as the Resilient Florida grant number, Statewide Critical Asset Database or a VA not completed through Resilient Florida. If the VA was not completed through a Resilient Florida grant, applicants should provide the document in the “Upload” section of the application.

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 Response

The percentage of vulnerable critical assets in the project impact area is approximately 65% based on the number of critical assets that would flood during a 100-year flood event. This was determined through 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).



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

To incorporate the criterion in 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 costs. It is not sufficient to only 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 new, larger drainage pipes proposed under this project will provide increased stormwater capacity and enhanced reliability, which will contribute to the flood protection being provided by existing mitigation in the project impact area. The project will complement the ongoing upgrades to miles of the city's drainage canals and culverts, as well as the conveyance improvements being constructed along the (Name) Canal, which moves water through the secondary stormwater system to the new (Name) pump station.

In addition to these engineered improvements, the project incorporates natural system restoration and revegetation strategies designed to stabilize soils, enhance infiltration and restore ecological function within disturbed upland areas. These nature-based measures will help slow and absorb stormwater runoff, reduce erosion and improve overall watershed resilience.

These existing projects, combined with the proposed project, will result in significant flood protection for much of a community that is already vulnerable and will reduce potential upland damage to homes, infrastructure, and other public facilities, while also improving environmental conditions.

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 with Chapter 62S-8.003(2)(e), F.A.C.

To incorporate the criteria in section 380.093(5)(g)1.e., F.S., a proposal will receive up to eight points for the expected increase in credits awarded under elements in the CRS. One point will be awarded for each individual element that receives more points in the CRS.

Discussion

With the passage and subsequent approval of Senate Bill 2506: Natural Resources 2025 by Governor Ron DeSantis, DEP implemented the NFIP CRS scoring criteria. In statute, Tier 1 must account for 40 percent of the total score and was previously evaluated across four criteria, receiving 10 points for each. With this added criterion bringing the total to five criteria, DEP has reallocated the amounts and assigned eight points for each of the five criteria.

The CRS is comprised of 19 creditable activities, organized under four categories. Each activity is composed of one or more elements. 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. Additionally, identified elements should be ones directly related to the proposed project funded by DEP.

Example

The proposed project will result in additional credits for three CRS elements:

1. 532a. Flood protection technique used (TUE).
2. 532b. Flood protection improvement (FPI).
3. 532c. Protected buildings (PB).

The proposed project will protect Fire Station 1 by elevating the building to the 500-year flood protection level. The Fire Station is an insurable building constructed in 1971, prior the initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and is located in FEMA Flood Zone A on the current FIRM. By using the elevation technique, the community will receive "TUE" credit under CRS element 532a.

Currently, Fire Station 1 is only protected to the level of a 25-year flood. By increasing the flood protection level to a 500-year flood, the proposed project will result in a Flood Protection Improvement (FPI) of 0.5, thereby providing additional credit under CRS element 532b.

Because the Fire Station is considered a critical facility and is being protected to the 500-year flood level, the proposed project will also receive the Critical Facilities multiplier when calculating Protected Buildings (PB). This will provide additional credits under CRS element 532c.



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

1. The degree to which flooding and erosion currently affect the condition of the project area.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 Chapter 62S-8.003(3)(a), F.A.C.

To incorporate the criteria in 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

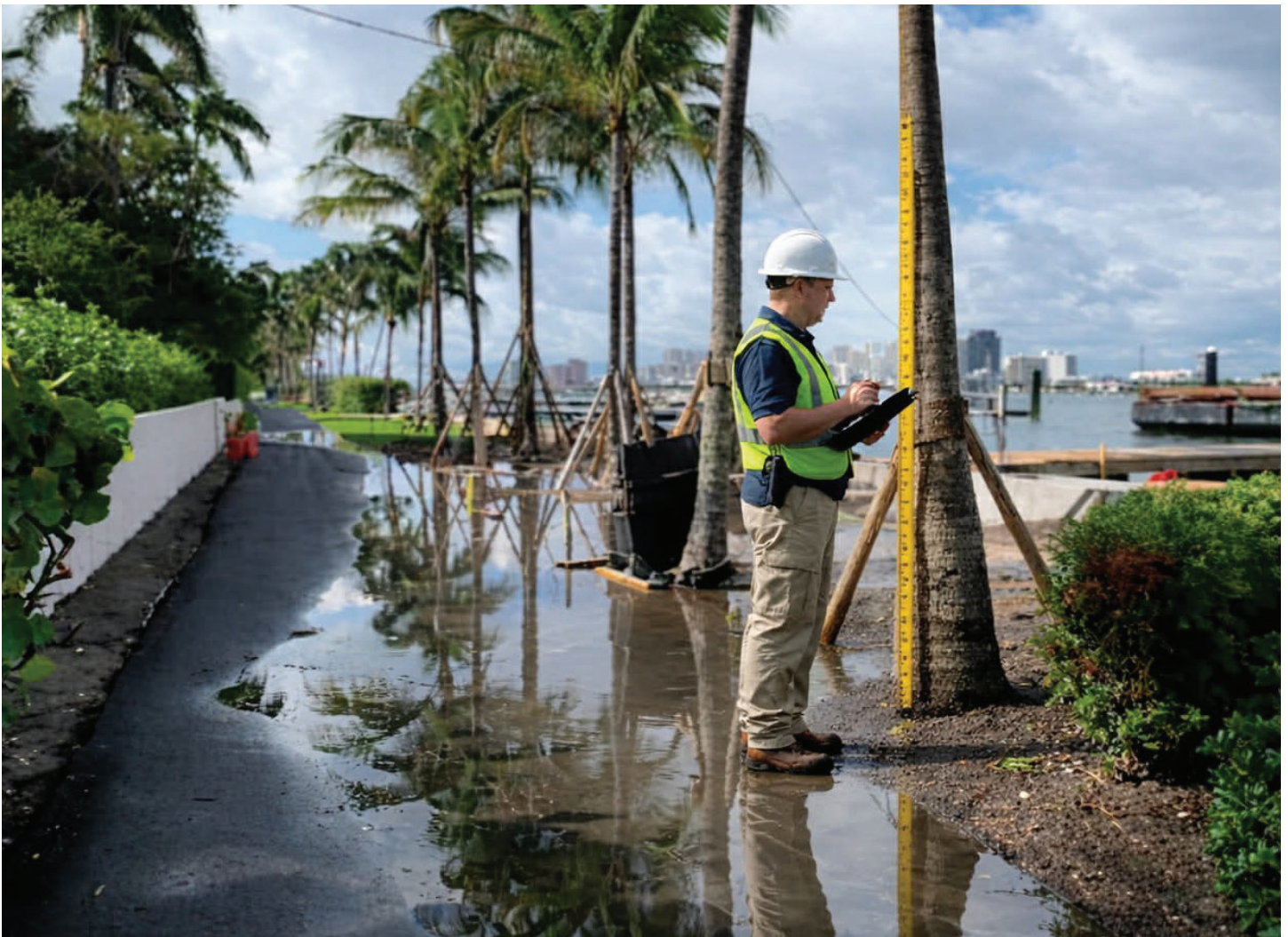
To receive 2 points for either severity or frequency of flooding, applicants must provide a description of the flooding that demonstrates qualifying for points. To receive 3.75 points for either severity or frequency of flooding, documentation (with dates) must be attached. Documentation may include 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. The attached, uploaded documentation provide evidence of flooding including news articles, city official inspection reports and a photograph showing high-water flooding marks. Specific dates of documented flooding include the inspection data of Oct. 24, 2023.



Oct. 24, 2019

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

To incorporate the criteria in 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.
 - > **1 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.
 - > 1 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, as defined in Chapter 62S-8.002, F.A.C., or necessary site-specific environmental or geotechnical reports.

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/easements are needed. However, documentation of permit/easement application or issuance is required to be attached as verification for receiving 1.5 points. If all permits/easements have been authorized or obtained, documentation listing all necessary permits and easements, as well as permit numbers and easement record numbers must be attached as verification for receiving 2.75 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 share (CERCS) 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.

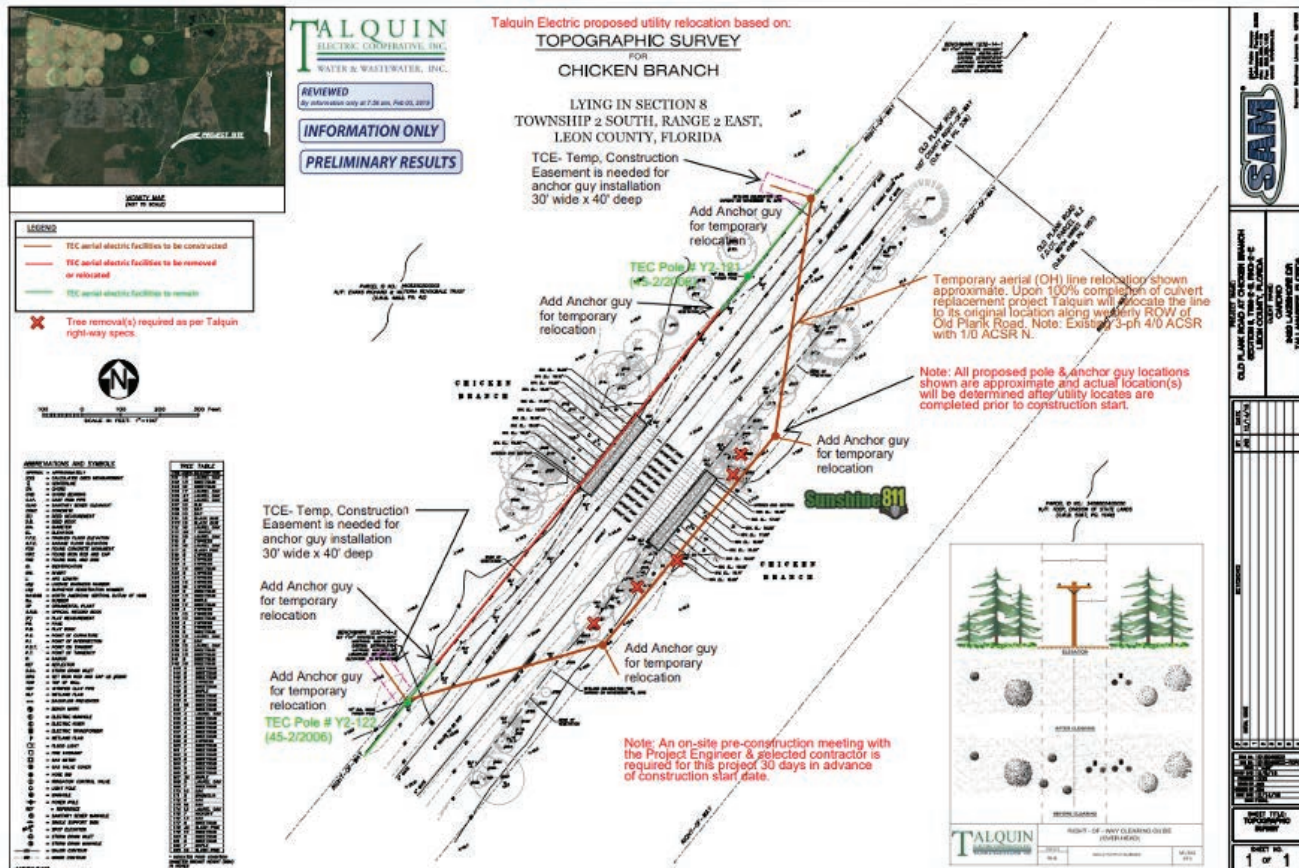
Examples

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.



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 Chapter 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

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 Chapter 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. The 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.

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

The cost-effectiveness of the project.

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

To incorporate the 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 may be used, but the applicant must include at least one of the approved metrics, which are listed above and in Chapter 62S-8.003(3)(d)1-5., F.A.C.

Example

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. See the attached Benefit-Cost Analysis document for more details.



Tier 3

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

- The availability of local, state and federal matching funds, considering the status of the funding award and federal authorization, if applicable.
- 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.
- The exceedance of the flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code and applicable floodplain management regulations.



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

To incorporate the criteria in 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 CERCS.

Discussion

To receive full points, you must provide documentation that the 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 sources. State funds for cost share may be subject to restrictions for use as cost share, therefore state funds 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 proposed project's 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 CERCS to receive these points 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 these points.

Example

See the attached “Match Commitment Letter” from the Board of County Commissioners, to include the Resolution for use of local stormwater funds for cost share for the proposed 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 Chapter 62S-8.003(4)(b), F.A.C.

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

- 1 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

The application must include the project's previously funded phases, amount of prior state funding and previous partial appropriations. The response 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 VAs will not be considered previous funding for the purpose of this criterion.

Example

(Name) was awarded a rural infrastructure grant in 2024 through the Florida Department of Commerce under Agreement No. DXXXX to conduct a feasibility 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 Chapter 62S-8.003(4)(c), F.A.C.

To incorporate the criteria in 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

Applications must state the applicable code for the project and also explain how the project will exceed the applicable FBC or floodplain management requirement(s). 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.



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.



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 Chapter 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 increase regional collaboration.

Example

The proposed project integrates a suite of innovative and cost-effective technologies to enhance coastal resilience while fostering regional collaboration among neighboring jurisdictions facing similar sea level rise challenges.

First, the proposed project will deploy hybrid green-gray infrastructure systems, combining traditional shoreline stabilization (e.g., low-profile breakwaters) with living shoreline elements such as restored oyster reefs and salt marsh vegetation. The breakwaters will be composed of locally sourced recycled, cleaned concrete. This material is more cost-effective than producing and transporting newly manufactured concrete.

Second, the project will utilize remote sensing and real-time monitoring technologies, including satellite-based elevation mapping. These tools will feed into a shared, cloud-based data platform accessible to regional partners. The innovation lies in integrating these technologies into a unified decision-support system that allows multiple municipalities to monitor shoreline change, flooding frequency and infrastructure performance in real time. By sharing this platform, participating jurisdictions avoid duplicative data collection costs and can coordinate adaptive responses more efficiently.

Together, these actions improve the technical effectiveness of coastal adaptation in a cost-effective manner and strengthen regional coordination.

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

The extent to which the project assists financially disadvantaged communities.

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

To incorporate the criteria in section 380.093(5)(g)4.b., F.S., a proposal will receive 5 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 CERCS as outlined in section 380.093(5)(e), F.S. DEP did not provide specific requirements for demonstrating financial disadvantage for this criterion, allowing applicants the flexibility to demonstrate it in a way that best reflects 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 project impact area includes census tract 26 in the (Name) neighborhood. 75% of residents have 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



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