

Water Resource Funding in Florida

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through its **[Division of Water Restoration](https://floridadep.gov/wra)**

**[Assistance](https://floridadep.gov/wra)** (DWRA) provides loans and grants to local governments, utilities and sometimes other agencies for projects that improve the quality and quantity of the state's water resources and provide a significant benefit to the environment and local communities. These projects improve stormwater quality, reduce pollutants entering surface water and ground water, conserve energy or water, protect springs, collect and treat wastewater, produce and distribute drinking water, provide alternative water supply, restore potable water for homeowners in areas affected by declining source water quality, and restore habitat/enhance recreation through the [Deepwater Horizon](https://floridadep.gov/wra/deepwater-horizon) program. For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/wra>.

DWRA's largest program is Florida's [State Revolving Fund](https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf) program, funded through money received from federal grants and state contributions. These funds then "revolve" through the repayment of previous loans and interest earned. While these programs offer loans, grant-like funding is also available for qualified small, disadvantaged communities, which reduces the amount owed on loans by the percentage that the community qualifies. Projects are considered for funding each August, November, February and May, depending on funding, and the initial paperwork to be considered at these meetings must be submitted 45 days in advance of those meetings (the details and paperwork are available at the links, below).

* The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf/content/cwsrf-program) (CWSRF) is Florida’s largest financial assistance program for water infrastructure, providing low-interest loans tolocal governmentsto plan, design, and build or upgrade wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. Certain agricultural best management practices may also qualify for funding. The loan terms include a 20-year amortization and low-interest rates.

Additionally, **Small Community Wastewater Facility Grants** are also available for the construction of wastewater facilities in municipalities with 10,000 or fewer people and per capita income levels below Florida’s average per capita income. These grants are incorporated into and must accompany a CWSRF loan and are, therefore, linked to the CWSRF program.

For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf/content/cwsrf-program> or contact Tim Banks, CWSRF Program Administrator, 850-245-2969, Timothy.Banks@FloridaDEP.gov; or Mike Chase, CWSRF Incoming Program Administrator, 850-245-2913, Michael.Chase@FloridaDEP.gov.

* The [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf/content/dwsrf-program) (DWSRF) provides low-interest loans to local governments and certain private utilitiesto plan, design, and build or upgrade drinking water systems. Discounted assistance for small communities may be available. Principal forgiveness (grant) may also be available for disadvantaged communities. Interest rates on loans are typically 40% below market rates.

For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf/content/dwsrf-program> or

contact Shanin Speas-Frost, DWSRF Program Administrator, 850-245-2991, Shanin.SpeasFrost@FloridaDEP.gov.

DWRA’s [**Nonpoint Source Funds**](https://floridadep.gov/wra/319-tmdl-fund) (NPS): Funding for control of water pollution from nonpoint sources is managed by the NPS Management Program. NPS pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources, including stormwater. The program administers both the **Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants**(also known as **"319 Grants"**) and the **State Water Quality Assistance Grants**. The goal of these grants is to reduce NPS pollution from land use activities. Total funding amounts available each year in these two grant programs depends on federal and state appropriations but is usually approximately $8 - $9 million.

NPS financial assistance is available to Florida's local governments, including county and municipal governments, special districts, water management districts, other state agencies, public universities/colleges, and national estuary programs located in Florida. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to demonstration/evaluation of best management practices; NPS pollution reduction in priority watersheds (e.g., areas with water quality restoration plans, impaired waters, etc.); green infrastructure/low impact development for stormwater; ground water protection from nonpoint sources; public education programs on NPS management (319 grant only); and septic to sewer projects (319 grant only; examples include laying lateral for residence/business to the sewer main, connection to sewer, installing grinder pump/station on resident’s property and abandonment of the septic system if the septic tank would be a continued source of pollution).

NPS project proposals may be submitted anytime throughout the year. Department review and evaluation periods are expected to occur in September/October and March/April of each year, or as needed. If the project is not funded in the current selection cycle, it will be considered in the following cycle with no need to resubmit (unless there is a need to update the proposal). If a previously submitted project is not selected within the current state fiscal year, the proposal will need to be resubmitted for evaluation.

For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/wra/319-tmdl-fund> or contact Amanda Peck, NPS Program Administrator, 850-245-2952, Amanda.Peck@FloridaDEP.gov; or Emily Forinash, NPS Grant Coordinator, 850-245-2944, Emily.Forinash@FloridaDEP.gov.

DWRA’s new **Wastewater Grant Program** provides grants to governmental entities for wastewater projects that reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan (BMAP), alternative restoration plan adopted by final order, or rural area of opportunity (RAO). The program requires at least a 50% match which may be waived by the Department for RAOs. Projects to construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities to provide advanced wastewater treatment and connecting septic tanks to sewer systems are prioritized. Consideration is given to nutrient reductions, project readiness, cost effectiveness, overall environmental benefit, project location, local matching funds and water savings and water quality improvement.

The Wastewater Grant Program is found in [s. 403.0673, Florida Statutes](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0403/Sections/0403.0673.html):

[www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\_mode=Display\_Statute&Search\_String=&URL=0400-0499/0403/Sections/0403.0673.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0403/Sections/0403.0673.html)

Project proposals will need to be submitted via [DEP’s Protecting Florida Together Water Protection Grants online portal](https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/grants-submissions), which is closed for fiscal year 2021-2022. The portal will likely open again for new project proposals in 2022 after the legislative session concludes.

DEP's [**Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection**](https://floridadep.gov/RCP)(ORCP) is committed to helping prepare Florida’s communities and habitats for changes resulting from sea level rise by providing funding and technical assistance to prepare Florida’s coastal communities and continuing to promote and ensure a coordinated approach to sea level rise planning among state, regional and local agencies. For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/rcp>.

* Through [Florida Resilient Coastlines Program](https://floridadep.gov/rcp/florida-resilient-coastlines-program), DEP continues its efforts to help ensure collaboration among Florida’s coastal communities, and to offer technical assistance and funding to coastal communities dealing with increasingly complex flooding, erosion and habitat shifts. Local communities can assess vulnerabilities to projected increases in coastal flooding and erosion and can develop strategies to make affected areas more resilient. Protecting and strengthening natural infrastructure also can help. Coral reefs, mangroves, oyster reefs and marshes are our first lines of defense. For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/florida-resilient-coastlines-program>.
* ORCP’s [Resilient Florida](https://floridadep.gov/RCP/Florida-Resilient-Coastlines-Program) program includes a selection of grants that are available to counties, municipalities, water management districts, flood control districts and regional resilience entities. To effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces, eligible applicants may receive funding assistance to analyze and plan for vulnerabilities, as well as implement projects for adaptation and mitigation. Please refer to s. 380.093 F.S. for more information on the available grant programs, definitions and required parameters. Resilient Florida program grants project proposals for FY 2021-22 are being accepted until September 1, 2021. For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/florida-resilient-coastlines-program/content/frcp-resilience-grants> or contact Whitney Gray, Florida Resilient Coastlines Program Administrator, 850-245-2098, Whitney.Gray@FloridaDEP.gov.
* The [ORCP Project Funding Sources list](https://floridadep.gov/rcp/rcp/content/resilience-and-coastal-protection-project-funding-sources) includes information about grant opportunities that are available for local governments, state agencies and other entities eligible to help plan, design, manage or construct projects such as vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, beach and inlet management, public access needs, and marina waste pump handling. For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/rcp/content/resilience-and-coastal-protection-project-funding-sources>.

DEP is responsible for administration of water resources at the state level, and exercises general supervisory authority over the state’s five [**water management districts**](https://floridadep.gov/water-policy/water-policy/content/water-management-districts) (WMDs), which are responsible for the administration of water resources at the regional level. The WMDs offer financial assistance for a variety of water-related projects, for water supply development, water resource development, and surface water restoration. Assistance may be provided from ad valorem tax revenues or from periodic legislative appropriations for Alternative Water Supply Development, Springs Restoration and Surface Water Improvement and Management projects. The amount of funding available, matching requirements and types of assistance may vary from year-to-year.

* [Northwest Florida Water Management District](https://www.nwfwater.com/): 800-913-1518 (toll-free) or 850-539-5999

For more information, visit [www.nwfwater.com](https://www.nwfwater.com/).

* [South Florida Water Management District](https://www.sfwmd.gov/): 800-432-2045 (Florida only) or 561-686-8800

For more information, visit [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov/).

* [Southwest Florida Water Management District](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/): 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only) or 352-796-7211

For more information, visit [www.swfwmd.state.fl.us](https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/).

* [St. Johns River Water Management District](http://www.sjrwmd.com/): [Contacts](https://www.sjrwmd.com/contact/)

For more information, visit [www.sjrwmd.com](https://www.sjrwmd.com/).

* [Suwannee River Water Management District](http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/): 1-800-226-1066 or 386-362-1001

For more information, visit [www.mysuwanneeriver.com](https://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/).

There are other programs at both the state and federal levels that offer the possibility of water

infrastructure funding. These include:

The Florida [**Department of Economic Opportunity**](https://floridajobs.org/)(DEO), in collaboration with its partners, assists the governor in advancing Florida’s economy by championing the state’s economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

* DEO’s [Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant](https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/florida-small-cities-community-development-block-grant-program) (CDBG) Program is a competitive grant program that awards funds to units of local government in small urban and rural areas. Florida receives between 18 and 26 million dollars annually from HUD to award subgrants to eligible units of local government.

The program provides an excellent opportunity for communities to obtain funds for projects that they cannot otherwise afford. CDBG funds can also provide administrative support for local governments that may not have the staffing resources necessary to administer their projects. Examples of CDBG-funded projects include water and sewer improvements; rehabilitation of substandard housing; street and sidewalk improvements; economic development activities that create jobs for low-and moderate-income people; downtown revitalization, including facade improvements, streetscaping, and underground utilities; park facilities and community centers; and drainage/stormwater improvements. For more information, visit <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/florida-small-cities-community-development-block-grant-program>.

* [CDBG-CV Small Cities and Entitlement Programs](https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/community-development-block-grant-program/community-development-block-grant---coronavirus-relief-funding) - These funds are federally-awarded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and designed to help local governments prepare for, prevent, or respond to the health and economic impacts of the [Corona Virus (CV)] pandemic. The activities must be critical to their locality and primarily for the benefit of low- and moderate-income residents. Local governments are encouraged to include activities that benefit workforce housing, training, and sustainability, as well as broadband infrastructure and planning. Nearly $42 million is available through the CDBG-CV Small Cities program and $51 million is available through the CDBG-CV Entitlement program.

For more information, visit <https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/community-development-block-grant-program/community-development-block-grant---coronavirus-relief-funding>.

* [CDBG-MIT – Rebuild Florida’s Mitigation Program](https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation) – In April 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that $633 million in first-of-its-kind Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding would be available to the state of Florida for disaster mitigation projects in [areas](https://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/office-of-disaster-recovery/cdbg-mitigation/cdbg-mit-mid-map.pdf?sfvrsn=212547b0_8) impacted by presidentially declared disasters in 2016 and 2017.

On February 02, 2021, HUD announced an additional $46.9 million in federal mitigation funding for [communities](http://floridajobs.org/images/default-source/homepage-sliders/mid-map-cropped.jpg?Status=Temp&sfvrsn=b2e64cb0_0) impacted by Hurricane Michael. To access the funding, the Department worked with state agencies and community partners to draft a substantial amendment to the existing [State Action Plan](https://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/office-of-disaster-recovery/cdbg-mitigation/state-action-plan/floridacdbg-mit-action-plan_final-4-3-20.pdf?sfvrsn=101147b0_8) for CDBG-MIT funding.

For more information, visit <https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation>.

[CDBG-Mitigation Frequently Asked Questions](https://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/office-of-disaster-recovery/cdbg-mitigation/cdbg-mitigation-frequently-asked-questions-11-1-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=58e141b0_6):

<https://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/office-of-disaster-recovery/cdbg-mitigation/cdbg-mitigation-frequently-asked-questions-11-1-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=58e141b0_6>

Contact the [Rebuild Florida Team](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ctraci%5CDownloads%5CRebuild%20Florida%20Team) at <https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/contact-us>.

* DEO’s [Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program](https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-services/low-income-household-water-assistance-program) (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program that helps income-qualified families with water and wastewater costs. DEO has been identified as the Grantee to administer the LIHWAP program from June 1st, 2021 – September 30th, 2023 for the state of Florida.

LIHWAP funds will be issued and administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which also federally administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHWAP will closely model LIHEAP, utilizing the existing Community Action Network in addition to the current LIHEAP policies, processes, and procedures.

LIHWAP will provide much-needed relief to low-income families that spend a high proportion of their household income on water utility services. Assistance to households will be accomplished by providing funds to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works to reduce arrearages of and rates charged to such households for such services.

The primary goal of LIHWAP is to retain continuity of water services to low-income households in Florida with an emphasis on prevention of disconnection and restoration of water services to households whose water services were previously disconnected.  This will be available for past, present, and prepayment.

For more information, visit <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-services/low-income-household-water-assistance-program> or email LIHWAP@DEO.MyFlorida.com.

* DEO’s [Rebuild Florida Hurricane Michael Technical Assistance Grant Program](https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/disaster-recovery-initiative/hurricane-michael/technical-assistance-grant-program) – DEO wants to encourage and aid eligible applicants to participate in Rebuild Florida disaster recovery programs for Hurricane Michael. DEO has contracted with a technical assistance vendor who will assist eligible applicants for Hurricane Michael in the development of their applications for the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair, Voluntary Home Buyout and Hometown Revitalization programs, as well as provide technical assistance to applicants seeking to use CDBG-DR funds as a match for HMGP. DEO's technical assistance vendor will assist applicants with identifying, determining cost and writing the scope for projects.

For more information, visit <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/disaster-recovery-initiative/hurricane-michael/technical-assistance-grant-program>.

[Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program for Hurricane Michael Frequently Asked Questions](https://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/office-of-disaster-recovery/hurricane-michael/technical-assistance-grant-program/faqs-for-rebuild-florida-technical-assistance-grant-program.pdf?sfvrsn=e3b74ab0_2):

<https://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/office-of-disaster-recovery/hurricane-michael/technical-assistance-grant-program/faqs-for-rebuild-florida-technical-assistance-grant-program.pdf?sfvrsn=e3b74ab0_2>

Contact the DEO Office of Long-Term Resiliency at CDBG-DR@deo.myflorida.com.

* DEO’s [Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program](https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/Small-and-Minority-Business-Resources/Small-and-Minority-Business-Programs/rural-community-development-revolving-loan-program) (RCDRL) was created by the 1996 Legislature to facilitate the use of existing federal, state, and local financial resources by providing local governments with access to financial assistance to further promote the economic viability of rural communities. This program is intended to be highly flexible and the loan amounts will vary depending on the need of applicants. It will provide term loans to local governments, or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by a unit of local government; within counties with populations of 75,000 or fewer or a contiguous county of 125,000 or fewer as stated in section 288.065, Florida Statutes. The long-term goals of the RCDRL include the creation of jobs for the residents of rural Florida and an increase in economic vitality and diversification for these areas.

For more information, visit <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/Small-and-Minority-Business-Resources/Small-and-Minority-Business-Programs/rural-community-development-revolving-loan-program> or contact Tina Grow at 850-717-8533 or Tina.Grow@DEO.MyFlorida.com.

* DEO’s [Technical Assistance Planning Grants](https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table-of-contents/technical-assistance/community-planning-technical-assistance-grant) – DEO anticipates that the Florida Legislature will appropriate funding for Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grants for state fiscal year (SFY) 2021-2022. The CPTA Grants provide counties, municipalities, and regional planning councils the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, vibrant rural and suburban areas, and meeting statutory requirements for planning, while protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Understanding that many Florida communities have been impacted by hurricanes, CPTA grants may also be used for planning for disaster recovery or resiliency planning, and economic development planning.

For more information, visit <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table-of-contents/technical-assistance/community-planning-technical-assistance-grant>.

[**Enterprise Florida**](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/about/) is a public-private partnership of business and government leaders with the goal to promote Florida as a premier business destination and expand the state’s economy through private-sector job creation. Enterprise Florida works closely with a statewide network of economic development partners and is a resource for a variety of public and private projects and activities, including those in rural communities, to facilitate the creation, capital investment, strengthening and diversification of local economies by promoting tourism, trade and economic development. The various Enterprise Florida programs and financial incentives are intended, among other things, to provide additional financial assistance to enable communities to better access other infrastructure funding programs. For more information, visit [www.enterpriseflorida.com](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/).

* Enterprise Florida’s [Resources for Rural Communities](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/rural/resources-rural-communities/): Enterprise Florida’s **Rural Expansion Toolkit** includes grant opportunities **for marketing and training, consulting services and site preparedness** in Florida’s rural communities, including development and enhancement of sites to make them build-ready and competitive for site selection projects; grant funds may be available for, but are not limited to, the following types of activities: matching funds for federal grants; renovation of existing building or demolition of old buildings (county or city-owned); stormwater project for potential commercial sites; phase one environmental study; gas line extension; water and sewer construction or upgrade; access road construction (including engineering or architecture costs); or other approved infrastructure costs.

Grants within this program are eligible for reimbursement up to $25,000 with a 24-month term beginning upon the execution of the grant contract. [Click here](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/site-prepardeness-program-summary.pdf) to learn more about the program.

Applications will be accepted from local or regional economic development or community partners located within a rural community – as identified in [Florida Statute 288.0656(e)](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0200-0299/0288/Sections/0288.0656.html) – that can demonstrate a pathway to site readiness. For more information, visit [www.enterpriseflorida.com/rural/resources-rural-communities](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/rural/resources-rural-communities/) to learn more about the Rural Expansion Toolkit as well as other local, state, and national economic development resources.

The [**Environmental Finance Center Network**](https://efcnetwork.org/)(EFCN) is a university-based organization creating

innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and

improvement. The EFCN works with the public and private sectors to promote sustainable

environmental solutions while bolstering efforts to manage costs. The [Funding Sources by State or Territory map](https://efcnetwork.org/funding-sources-by-state/) (select Florida) lists [water and wastewater funding sources](https://efcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FL-Water-Wastewater-Funds-2020_draft.pdf) in the state. For more information, visit <https://efcnetwork.org/about-the-network/> or <https://efcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FL-Water-Wastewater-Funds-2020_draft.pdf>.

The **Florida Housing Finance Corporation** administers the [**State Housing Initiatives Partnership**](https://floridahousing.org/programs/special-programs/ship---state-housing-initiatives-partnership-program) program (SHIP), which provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The program was designed to serve very low, low and moderate income families. SHIP dollars may be used to fund emergency repairs, new construction, rehabilitation, down payment and closing cost assistance, impact fees, construction and gap financing, mortgage buy-downs, acquisition of property for affordable housing, matching dollars for federal housing grants and programs, and homeownership counseling. SHIP funds may be used to assist units that meet the standards of chapter 553. [Find Local Ship Offices](https://floridahousing.org/programs/special-programs/ship---state-housing-initiatives-partnership-program/local-government-information) to determine who to contact in a specific city or county. For more information, visit <https://floridahousing.org/programs/special-programs/ship---state-housing-initiatives-partnership-program>.

The **Florida Legislature** may solicit applications directly for **“Community Budget Issue Request”**

projects, including water projects, in anticipation of upcoming legislative sessions. This process is an

opportunity to secure legislative sponsorship of project funding through the state budget. Interested parties should contact the local legislative delegation to determine whether there are opportunities available to fund projects. Information on contacting senators and representatives is available at [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us).

The [**Florida Rural Water Association**](https://www.frwa.net/about-frwa) (FRWA) is a nonprofit, nonregulatory professional association that assists water and wastewater systems with every phase of operations including drinking water, wastewater, groundwater protection/source water protection and engineering services. Active members include public water and wastewater systems, such as counties, municipalities, associations, districts, mobile home parks, schools and authorities. For more information, visit [www.frwa.net](https://www.frwa.net/).

* The [FRWA Loan Program](https://www.frwa.net/funding) assists communities in obtaining competitive interim financing for construction projects. To assist borrowers across the state with financing capital construction projects, FWRA, in conjunction with a partner, created an interim construction loan program to provide construction funding for communities which have received a permanent loan commitment from the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) or permanent loan commitment from DEP’s SRF program and needs construction funding. The program structure enables communities access to competitive fixed rate loan funds at a very low cost of borrowing. Loan proceeds are utilized for the construction period only and are paid off with USDA-RD/DEPSRF funds when the project is complete or funded. For more information, visit: [www.frwa.net/funding](https://www.frwa.net/funding) or contact Gary Williams at 850-668-2746 or

Gary.Williams@frwa.net.

The [**Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project**](https://sercap.org/about) (SERCAP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on improving the quality of life for people living in the southeast US. SERCAP is responsible for providing safe water, sanitary water disposal, and structurally sound housing to 450,000+ households across a seven-state region. SERCAP advocates to ensure that everyone living in their service areas has daily access to clean and affordable drinking water, working indoor plumbing and wastewater facilities, and safe and affordable housing. SERCAP serves homeowners, government and community groups, small business owners, job seekers and those interested in training. For more information, visit [http://sercap.org/](http://sercap.org/%20) or contact Joan Douglas at 352-379-9802 or jdouglas@sercap.org.

The [**U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service**](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/) (NRCS) offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. For more information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial).

* USDA’s [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/) (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address. [Read the RCPP Fact Sheet](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1488819&ext=pdf). For more information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp).

The 2018 Farm Bill made substantial changes to RCPP:

* RCPP is now a standalone program with its own funding--$300 million annually. Moving forward, landowners and ag producers will enter into RCPP contracts and RCPP easements.
* Enhanced Alternative Funding Arrangement provision—NRCS may award up to 15 AFA projects, which are more grant-like and rely more on partner capacity to implement conservation activities.
* Three funding pools reduced to two—the National pool was eliminated. Partners must apply to either the Critical Conservation Area (CCA) or State/Multistate funding pool.
* Emphasis on project outcomes—all RCPP projects must now develop and report on their environmental outcomes.
* USDA’s [Rural Development](https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd) (USDA-RD) offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. They promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools, and offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](https://www.rd.usda.gov/).
* USDA’s [Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs) (WEP) provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities and is proud to be the only federal program exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. WEP also provides funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to rural communities in relation to their water and waste activities. WEP is administered through national office staff in Washington, DC, and a network of field staff in each state.

USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs include:

* + Circuit Rider Program
	+ Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
	+ Grants for Rural and Native Alaskan Villages
	+ Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program
	+ Individual Water & Wastewater Grants
	+ Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects (Revolving Fund Program)
	+ SEARCH - Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households
	+ Solid Waste Management Grants
	+ Water & Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias
	+ Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants
	+ Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees
	+ Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants
	+ Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants

For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs](https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs).

* USDA’s [Rural Development Rural Utilities Service](https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service) (RUS) provides much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services help to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service](https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service).

The[**U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration**](https://eda.gov/about/) (EDA) provides economic development financial assistance to communities so they can encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in a way that works best for them. Through its network of regionally-based staff and portfolio of [flexible grant tools](https://eda.gov/programs/eda-programs/), EDA helps communities experiencing economic distress, take control of their future and position themselves for economic prosperity and resiliency. For funding opportunity information, visit [www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities](https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/).

Other resources:

The [**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**](https://recovery.fema.gov/glossary/CFDA)(CFDA) provides a full listing of federal programs that are available to organizations, government agencies (state, local, tribal), U.S. territories, and individuals who are authorized to do business with the government. A CFDA program can be a project, service, or activity. For more information, visit <https://recovery.fema.gov/glossary/CFDA>.

The **Congress – State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program** provides the opportunity to secure Congressional sponsorship of project funding, including water project funding, through the annual federal budget process. The program’s stated purpose is to strengthen state, local governments, and tribal abilities to address environmental and public health threats while furthering environmental compliance. Information on contacting senators and representatives is available at

To contact congress members for assistance in pursuing funding, visit [www.govtrack.us/congress/members](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members).

Florida’s [**Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau**](https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery/) works to maximize disaster assistance to eligible public entities, individuals, and families through various state and federal disaster assistance programs. These programs help to rebuild lives and communities that have been impacted by a major disaster and begin the recovery process. After being requested by the Governor, the President may sign a disaster declaration that includes both Individual and Public Assistance programs as authorized by the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](https://www.fema.gov/robert-t-stafford-disaster-relief-and-emergency-assistance-act-public-law-93-288-amended). For more information, visit [www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery](https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery/) or call 850-815-4000.

The [**Environmental Protection Agency**](https://www.epa.gov/grants) (EPA) awards more than $4 billion annually in funding for grants and other assistance agreements. From small non-profit organizations to large state governments, EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals. With countless success stories over the years, EPA grants remain a chief tool to protect human health and the environment. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/grants](https://www.epa.gov/grants).

The [**Florida Resource Directory**](https://fmw.state.fl.us:8890/apps/rediHtml/) is a one-stop source for learning about the latest state and many federal programs and resources to help local communities. The directory will help rural and distressed urban communities, as well as community-based organizations find and access sources of assistance for any type of infrastructure project, housing, health services, training, small business and tourism development assistance or help building a community park. For more information, visit <https://fmw.state.fl.us:8890/apps/rediHtml/> or call 850-717-8980.

[**Grants.gov**](https://www.grants.gov/) provides a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities, housing information on over 1,000 grant programs and vetting grant applications for [federal grant-making agencies](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grant-making-agencies.html). For more information, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

If you have general questions about financial assistance unrelated to any particular program, contact Traci Klepper, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator at DEP’s Division of Water Restoration Assistance: 850-245-2834 or Traci.Klepper@FloridaDEP.gov.