



Florida Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Application Overview Webinar for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

December 2, 2021





Agenda

- Division of Community Development Overview
- RIF Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 Program Overview
- RIF FY 2021-2022 Appropriation and Funding Categories
- RIF FY 2021-2022 Application Overview
 - Application Cycle Information for FY 2021-2022 Online Application Submission Process
- Questions



Division of Community Development

Bureau of Community Planning and Growth

- Community Planning and Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant Program

Bureau of Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Community Services Block Grant Program
- Low-Income Housing & Energy Assistance Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program

Bureau of Small Cities and Rural Communities

- Small Cities CDBG Program
- Rural Infrastructure Fund Program

Office of Small and Minority Business Capital

- Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund
- Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan
- Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program
- Small Business Loan Program
- Black Business Loan Fund
- Prospera; and more.

Office of Community Partnerships

- Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)
- Competitive Florida Program
- Regional Rural Development Grant Program
- Office of Broadband



Rural Infrastructure Fund Overview

- State-funded reimbursement grant program administered by DEO's Bureau of Small Cities and Rural Communities.
- Provides funding assistance for the planning, preparing, and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities, which will encourage job creation, capital investment, and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies.
- Intended to facilitate access to rural communities of other state and federal infrastructure funding programs:
 - Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 - U. S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA-RD)
 - U.S Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Governed by section 288.0655, Florida Statutes.



Total Project Participation Grants

- Awards facilitate and maximize use of state, federal, local, and private resources.
- Awards up to 50 percent of the total infrastructure project costs related to specific job-creation or job-retention opportunities.
- A Participating Party (job creator) is required
 - Application must include a Participating Party letter documenting the number of new/retained jobs and amount of capital investment to be provided.
- Application should clearly demonstrate the need of the infrastructure project in attracting job creation and capital investment.
- All project funding sources must be secured prior to executing the RIF grant agreement.



Total Project Participation (Cont.)

Eligible uses of funds include:

- Improvements to public infrastructure for industrial or commercial sites.
- Upgrades to or development of public tourism infrastructure.
- Improvements to access and availability of broadband internet service; requirements include:
 - Internet service and access must be conducted through partnership(s) with one or more dealers registered with Department of Revenue as a provider of communications services in Florida; and
 - Partnership(s) must be established through a competitive selection process that is publicly noticed.
- Improvements to inadequate infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action.
 - Exempt from Participating Party requirement.



Planning And Preparation Grants

- Funds may be used for infrastructure feasibility studies, design and engineering activities, or other infrastructure planning and preparation activities to facilitate a timely response and induce the location or expansion of specific job creating opportunities.
- Grant application criteria includes the extent to which administrative and consultant expenses are minimized.
- Maximum grant amount or award total:
 - **\$50,000** for an employment project with a business committed to create at least 100 jobs;
 - **\$150,000** for an employment project with a business committed to create at least 300 jobs; and
 - **\$300,000** for a project in a Rural Area of Opportunity.

Preclearance Review Grants

- Enables rural communities to access the resources available under Expedited Permitting – Preclearance Review Process (section 403.973(18) Florida Statutes).
- Funds may be used for surveys, feasibility studies, and other activities related to the identification and preclearance review of land that is suitable for preclearance review.
- Grant application criteria includes the extent to which administrative and consultant expenses are minimized.
- Maximum amounts and match requirements:

Projects Located	Maximum Amt	Required Match
Outside a Rural Area of Opportunity	\$75,000	50% local funds
Within a Rural Area of Opportunity	\$300,000	33% local funds
Within a catalyst site (Section 288.056, Florida Statutes)	Amounts same as above.	Waived



Program Application Review Factors

- RIF grant applications should clearly demonstrate the economic benefit of the project and its long-term viability.
- Evaluation of applications will include, but is not limited to:
 - The project's potential for enhanced job creation or capital investment;
 - Whether the project is located in a community development corporation (CDC) service area;
 - The unemployment rate of the county in which the project is located; and
 - The poverty rate of the community.
- Grant administrative and consultant expenses should be minimized to the extent possible.



Eligible Applicants

RIF Statewide Funding:

- Units of local government within a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO):
 - Northwest RAO
 - South Central RAO
 - North Central RAO
- Rural county or community, as defined by section 288.0656, Florida Statutes.
- REDI Eligible Counties and Communities List is available at www.floridajobs.org/RIF.

Florida Panhandle Specific Appropriation:

- Local governments in Calhoun, Gadsden, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington counties, and all municipalities within their boundaries.



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Application Cycle

- **Competitive Application Cycle:**
 - Closes January 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)
 - RIF Statewide Funding Available - \$2.5 million
 - Florida Panhandle Specific Appropriation - \$5 million
- **Online Grant Application:**
 - Online grant application registration link and instructions are available at www.FloridaJobs.org/RIF.

Questions



Contact



Thank You.

Visit the RIF program webpage for additional details and resources:

www.FloridaJobs.org/RIF



DEO RIF Program

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Online Application Demonstration