

# Rural Economic Development Initiative: Rural Program Guide

Purpose

Eligibility

Rural Considerations

RACEC Considerations

Amount or Value

## DEO / Bureau of Economic Development

### Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund

Long-term loans, loan guarantees and loan loss reserves to promote economic viability of rural communities.

Rural local governments or economic development organizations substantially underwritten by local governments.

In a RACEC, repayments of principal and interest may be retained by the applicant if such repayments are dedicated and matched to fund regionally based economic development organizations representing the rural area of critical economic concern.

Generally up to \$600,000

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### Rural Enterprise Zone Job Tax Credits

Thirty or forty-five percent credit of wages paid an employee by a business located in a rural enterprise zone.

Only company has to be located within the enterprise zone. Employee must reside within a rural county.

If 20 percent of the employees live in the rural enterprise zone then the Rural Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credit is 45 percent taken against either the Corporate Income Tax or Sales and Use Tax remitted to DOR.

No cap

Purpose	Eligibility	Rural Considerations	RACEC Considerations	Amount or Value
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**Rural Infrastructure Fund - Preclearance Review**

Grants for activities related to the identification and preclearance review of potential land use modifications.	Rural local governments or 501 (c)(3)s located in and serving rural Florida.	\$75,000 with 50 percent local match	\$300,000 with a 33 percent local match for projects in a RACEC. If a rural catalyst project, the match requirement may be waived.	Dependent on Appropriation
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**Rural Infrastructure Fund-Feasibility Grants**

Grants for infrastructure feasibility studies, design and engineering or other planning and preparation activities.	Rural local governments or 501 (c)(3)s located in and serving rural Florida.	Award amount dependent on number of jobs to be created. \$50,000 for projects creating at least 100 jobs; \$150,000 for projects creating at least 300 jobs.	\$300,000 for projects in a RACEC. Jobs may be waived in a RACEC.	Dependent on Appropriation
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**Rural Infrastructure Fund-Total Project Participation**

A grant to facilitate infrastructure projects in rural Florida.	Rural local governments or 501 (c)(3)s located in and serving rural Florida.	The grant award is up to 25 percent of the total appropriation or 30 percent of the total infrastructure project cost, whichever is lower.	If a catalyst project, the grant may cover 40 percent of the project.	Dependent on Appropriation
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**Rural Jobs Tax Credit**

\$1,000 per new job created within specific industry sectors.				Generally about \$5 million
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**Rural Regional Development Grant**

To build capacity within the Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern.

Local multi-jurisdictional organizations recognized and supported by local government.

Award amounts up to \$35,000

Award amounts up to \$100,000

Generally about \$750,000

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## DEO / Workforce Services

### Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Services

AWI assists Workforce Boards in operating an outreach and employment program for migrant and seasonal farm workers. Full-time, year-round outreach workers conduct research activities in order to accomplish the maximum penetration into the farm work population.

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Employers and workers in rural areas as well as statewide.

### Mobile One-Stop Service Center Unit

Mobile workforce services to rural areas when no One-Stop Centers are nearby. Services include job seeking, claims for Unemployment Compensation.

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Employers and workers in rural areas.

### Trade Adjustment Assistance Act

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) help trade-affected workers who have lost their jobs as a result of increased imports or shifts in production to areas outside of the United States.

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Employers and workers in rural areas as well as statewide.

## DEO / Workforce Services and Regional Workforce Boards

### Rapid Response Services

Employer On-Site Response to layoffs and plant closings. Regional Workforce Boards provide employment and training services.

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Employers and workers in rural areas as well as statewide.

### Wagner-Peyser Program

A federally funded labor exchange system developed to match employers with qualified job applicants. It is also linked to the unemployment compensation program helping applicants file for unemployment compensation benefits and seek new employment opportunities. Customers can access labor exchange services through a variety of methods to include self-service, staff-assisted service, and facilitated self-help service.

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Employers and workers in rural areas as well as statewide.

## Workforce Investment Act

Local Workforce Boards offer job training and employment programs through One-Stop Career Centers. These Centers make many services available to help clients increase their long-term employment opportunities and wages.

Workers who have lost their jobs and need job training in a new occupation to become reemployed; Homemakers who have lost their financial support from a family member; Recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals when funds are limited; Employed workers that need skills upgrading or retraining; Veterans and eligible spouses of veterans may be moved to the front of the line for services they qualify for

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## DEO/Bureau of Community Planning

### Community Planning

Transportation Concurrency

RACEC, REDI eligible, others with  
>100 job creation

If DEO/BED concurs in writing, that project is for qualified job creation, local government, after consulting with DOT may provide for a waiver of transportation concurrency.

Development of Regional Impact

RACEC

Projects that are under 100 % of the development threshold and certified by DEO/BED to meet economic and employment criteria are not required to undergo development of regional impact review.

Large Scale Amendments

Local governments designated as  
RACEC

Large scale amendments that further economic development objectives may be submitted by RACEC local governments without regard to the twice per year limit.

Purpose	Eligibility	Rural Considerations	RACEC Considerations	Amount or Value
Small Scale Amendments	Local governments designated as RACEC		Local governments may change 10 additional acres, for a total of 20 acres, with small scale amendments in RACEC areas if certified through DEO/BED that it furthers economic objectives of the designation.	additional 10 acres allowed for small scale amendment
Development of Regional Impact	RACEC		Applicable DRI development thresholds shall be increased 150 % for RACEC areas.	

**Small Cities Community Development Block Grant**

Grants for infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, economic development, and downtown revitalization benefitting primarily low and moderate income persons	Cities and counties not participating in the Entitlement CDBG program	Receives 20 points toward Program Impact score if applicant is a rural community	Receives 20 points toward Program Impact score if located in a RACEC, but applicant does not receive an additional 20 points for being a rural community	\$600,000 - \$750,000
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## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry

### American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Florida Forest Health Improvement Initiative

To stimulate increased economic activity in the nursery, landscaping, and transportation sectors of the economy. Arborists and tree workers will benefit from funds that are made available for tree maintenance practices such as pruning and site amelioration. Communities all over Florida will benefit ecologically from the increase in canopy cover and improved health and vigor of existing trees. Projects will contribute to improved water and air quality, improved community aesthetics, and increased employment opportunities.

Counties, communities and not for profit organizations

Highest score will be given to proposals that demonstrate an economic need for funds.

Applications from counties with the highest current unemployment rates in their region will receive higher scores. Within those counties, either smaller, rural communities or blighted were scored the highest.

\$23,324

### American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration Private Landowner Inc

Increase the acreage of healthy Longleaf pine ecosystems in Florida by helping non-industrial private forest landowners to make the long term investment required to establish and maintain this valuable ecosystem.

Non-industrial private forest landowners

Majority of the participants are in rural counties

\$196,086.92

**Pilot Cogongrass Treatment Cost-Share Program**

To provide assistance to private landowners with controlling infestations of cogongrass, a state- and federally-regulated pest plant, from their property.	Non-industrial private landowners in 28 counties in North Florida.	Made available to private landowners in 22 rural counties and 1 rural community.	Made available to private landowners in all Northwest and 11 North Central Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern.	\$24,570
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**Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Cost-Share Program**

To provide assistance and incentives for forest landowners to conduct management practices which improve forest health and reduce stand susceptibility to southern pine beetle.	Non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners in counties in North Florida which are within the historical range of southern pine beetle.	Made available to NIPF landowners in 25 rural counties and 17 rural communities.	Made available to NIPF landowners in all Northwest and North Central Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern.	\$394,299
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**The Florida Forest Stewardship Program**

Encourage non-industrial forest landowners to manage their properties according to the multiple-use concept.	Non-industrial private forest landowners owning at least 20 acres of forest	Majority of the participants are in rural counties		\$52,249.56
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**Urban and Community Forestry**

Provide technical and financial assistance in urban forestry to eligible entities.	Cities, Counties, not for profits and schools.	Communities with greatest apparent needs are given additional consideration when scoring applications.		\$19,237
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**Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants Program**

To enhance wildland fire protection and wildfire suppression response

County, city, and local fire district fire departments, combination or volunteer, of communities with populations less than 10,000

Highest score will be given to applications that demonstrate an economic need for funds

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## Department of Environmental Protection

### Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission System (Permit Fees)

Reduces permit application fees for wastewater collection and transmission systems in rural communities

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

### Domestic Wastewater Type I, II and III Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit

Reduces permit application fees for Domestic Wastewater Type I, II, and III Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

### Dredge and Fill

Reduces application fees for dredge and fill permits needed for varying projects

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

### Drinking Water Treatment Construction

Reduces permit application fees for drinking water treatment construction projects

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

**Environmental Science Enrichment Program**

Program focused upon project-based service learning related to surface water, water quality, groundwater and springs. Funding goes directly to local school district.

Rural/RACEC Communities and other Local Governments

Varies based upon project

**ERP Modifications Permit**

Reduces application fee of a ERP modification permit

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

**Florida Communities Trust**

Local government land acquisition grants

Rural, RACEC not mentioned but criteria of population < 75,000 qualify

Receive 10 pts on score for application and waiver of matching funds

Receive 10 pts on score for application and waiver of matching funds

**Florida Section 319 (h) Grant Program (Nonpoint Source Management Section)**

Grants funding which can be used to implement projects or programs which will reduce nonpoint source pollution

Rural/RACEC Communities and other Local Governments

Varies based upon the project or program to be funded

**Hazardous Waste, Oil and Water Reuse**

Training provided for local area firefighters on the proper disposal methods for hazardous wastes and water reuse

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

\$250 per session, all fees are waived

Purpose	Eligibility	Rural Considerations	RACEC Considerations	Amount or Value
<b>Household Hazardous waste collection events</b>				
Provides funding for household hazardous waste collection events and other waste collection services	Rural/RACEC Communities			Varies based upon size of the collection event
<b>Potable Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Grants and Loans</b>				
Provides funding through grants or loans for potable water, stormwater and wastewater treatment systems	Rural/RACEC Communities			Varies based upon the project
<b>Recreational Trails Program Grant</b>				
Provides funding for trails and associated facilities/amenities	Rural/RACEC Communities and other Local Governments		Federal program, waivers for match not permitted.	up to \$240,000
<b>Solid Waste Closure Permit</b>				
Reduces application fees for solid waste closure permits	Rural/RACEC Communities		Waiver Granted	Permit application fee reduced to \$100
<b>Solid Waste Grants</b>				
Provides funding for general solid waste management services, litter control, and recycling programs	Rural/RACEC Communities			up to \$78,787

**Solid Waste Operation Permit**

Reduces application fees for solid waste operation permits	Rural/RACEC Communities		Waiver Granted	Permit fee application reduced to \$100
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**Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance**

Provides technical assistance through the Florida Rural Water Association	Rural/RACEC Communities			Value varies based upon the number of contacts which are provided (\$202.70 per contact)
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## Department of Juvenile Justice

### Detention Services

Services for youth court ordered into short term detention placement (Home or Secure Detention) waiting court proceedings or placement.

Serves youth court ordered to detention status pending court proceedings or commitment placement.

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### Prevention and Victim Services

Services for high-risk youth who exhibit problem behaviors and other pre-delinquent behaviors.

Serves youth under the age of 18, referred for pre-delinquent behaviors (truancy, runaway, ungovernability). Grants also serve youth within targeted areas or population, as defined by a grant.

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### Probation and Community Intervention

Services for youth during Intake Screening and Assessment, Diversion Services, Community-Based Supervision and Aftercare Supervision.

Serves youth under the age of 18, referred for a law violation in FL. Supervision or placement may extend beyond age 18, as defined by statute.

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### Residential Services

Services for youth committed by the court to a residential facility based on youth's individual treatment needs and an assessment of risk to the public.

Serves youth court ordered into residential commitment facility (designated restrictiveness level). Placement may extend beyond age 18, as defined by statute.

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## Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs

### Cultural Facilities Grants

Grants to coordinate and guide the State of Florida's support and funding of renovation, construction, or acquisition of cultural facilities.

Public entity governed by either a municipality or county OR a not-for-profit, tax-exempt Florida corporation according to these definitions. Nonprofits must have an active status with the Division of Corporations.

Rural counties or communities may request a 1:1 match instead of the normal 2:1 match.

Maximum award of \$500,000

### Specific Cultural Project Grants

Grants that fund cultural projects, programs, exhibitions, or series. Activities must support the mission of the organization and further the state's cultural objectives. Program includes Underserved Cultural Community Development projects.

Florida local government, entity of state government, school district, community college, college, or university. Private schools, private community colleges, private colleges, and private universities are not public entities and must be nonprofit and tax-exempt to qualify. Nonprofits must have an active status with the Division of Corporations.

Rural counties or communities are not required to show cash match. However, applicants are still required to show a 1:1 match of in-kind (donated services or materials, etc.).

Maximum award of \$25,000

## Department of State, Historical Resources

### Historic Preservation Small-Matching Grants

Grants to assist in the identification, excavation, protection, and rehabilitation of historic and archaeological sites in Florida; to provide public information about these important resources; and to encourage historic preservation in smaller cities through the Florida Main Street program.

Departments or agencies of the state (including universities), cities, counties and other units of local government, and not-for-profit organizations. Nonprofits must have an active status with the Division of Corporations.

Rural counties or communities may request a complete waiver of grant match requirements.

Maximum request of \$50,000

### Historic Preservation Special Category Grants

Grants to assist major archaeological excavations, the restoration or rehabilitation of historic structures, and major museum exhibit projects involving the development and presentation of information on the history of Florida.

Departments or agencies of the state (including universities), cities, counties and other units of local government, and not-for-profit organizations. Nonprofits must have an active status with the Division of Corporations.

The required match for rural counties and communities will be reduced from a \$50,000 minimum match, to a match equaling 10% of the requested grant amount. (Example: If the grant request is \$50,000 the 10% match would be \$5,000; if the grant request is \$3

Awards between \$50,000 - \$350,000

## Department of State, Library & Information Services

### Community Libraries in Caring Grants

Grants to assist small, rural public libraries to improve library collections and services, improve adult and family literacy, and develop the economic viability in targeted counties and communities.

Public libraries in counties and communities with rural status, as defined in s. 288.0656(2) (b) Florida Statutes and subject to the provisions of s. 288.06561 Florida Statutes are eligible to participate in this program.

No local match is required for this program.

Awards between \$3,000 - \$10,000

### Library Services and Technology Act Grants

Federal grant program for libraries to use technology to bring information to people in innovative and effective ways, and to assure that library service is accessible to all.

Florida libraries and nonprofit organizations primarily related to the provision or support of library services are eligible to apply for LSTA funds. Eligible entities include public libraries; public elementary, secondary, or charter school libraries; academic libraries; library consortia; and special libraries. Nonprofits must have an active status with the Division of Corporations.

Libraries in rural counties or communities may have their match requirements completely waived.

No minimum or maximum award. Determined annually based on the availability of funds, and established program priorities and application criteria.

## Public Library Construction Grants

Grants to local governments to construct public libraries.

County, municipality, special district, or special tax districts are eligible to apply. The applicant shall either own or have unconditional use of the library building; must have an established program of free public library services to all permanent residents of the service area taxed for library purposes; and shall employ a accredited professional librarian. A project will not be eligible for a grant when the state portion of the project will be less than \$10,000; the project will result in a total building of less than 3,000 square feet; or the project will not result in a complete library facility.

Libraries in rural counties or communities may have their match requirements completely waived.

Maximum award of \$500,000

## Enterprise Florida & DEO / Division of Strategic Business Development

### Closing Fund

Upfront cash to businesses for stipulated actions in specific areas.

Businesses

Match is not required.  
Wage rate may be waived.

Dependent on appropriation

### Economic Development Transportation Trust Fund

Grant to local governments to mitigate transportation barriers to a company's site selection decision

Local government

If three distress criteria are met in a rural county, the program guidelines may be waived.

### Qualified Targeted Industries

Tax refund paid to employers for new jobs created in rural Florida that pay 115 percent of the average wage.

Businesses

Rural Community does not have to provide 20 percent match (actual value to company is reduced); wage rate may be waived, industry sector may be waived.

\$35 million per year, if needed

## Florida Department of Environmental Protection

### Drinking Water Distribution System General Permit

Reduces application fees for drinking water distribution systems general permits

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

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### Office of Greenways and Trails

Provides funding for scenic trails and their amenities throughout the state

Rural/RACEC Communities and other Local Governments

Varies based upon the project to be funded

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## Florida Department of Transportation

### County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)

To provide grants to counties to improve a transportation facility, including transit, located on the State Highway System or relieve traffic congestion on the State Highway System. May be used to resurface and pave local dirt roads.

Projects must be consistent with the Florida Transportation Plan and any local government comprehensive plan. Projects not in the local government plan may be eligible; however, they must be amended into the local plan within six months.

Rural counties or municipalities may request a waiver of the 50% local match requirements. Only that portion of the project which falls within the qualified rural area is eligible for the waiver.

Rural/RACEC counties or municipalities may request a waiver of the 50% local match requirement. Only that portion of the project which falls within the qualified rural area is eligible for the waiver.

Varies depending on specific project cost and budget allocation.

### Small County Outreach Program (SCOP)

To assist small counties in repairing or rehabilitating bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing drainage improvements, resurfacing or reconstructing roads, or constructing capacity or safety improvements.

Population of 150,000 or less; County must have attempted to keep roads in satisfactory condition.

Rural counties may apply for a waiver of the required 25% local match.

Varies depending on specific project cost and budget allocation.

### Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP)

To assist small counties in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads.

Population of 75,000 or less according to the 1990 federal census data; The county must have enacted the maximum rate of the local option fuel tax.

Varies depending on specific project cost and budget allocation.

### Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP)

To encourage regional planning by providing state matching funds for improvements to regionally significant transportation facilities (roads and public transportation) identified and prioritized by regional partners.

Partners must form a regional transportation area, pursuant to an interlocal agreement, and develop a regional transportation plan that identifies and prioritizes regionally-significant facilities.  
 For rural counties: One or more MPOs and one or more contiguous counties that are not members of a MPO; multi-county regional transportation authority created by law;  
 Two or more contiguous counties that are not members of a MPO

Rural counties or municipalities may request a waiver or reduction of the 50% local match requirements. Only that geographic portion of the project that falls within the qualified rural area is eligible for the waiver.

Rural/RACEC counties or municipalities may request a waiver or reduction of the 50% local match requirements. Only that geographic portion of the project that falls within the qualified rural area is eligible for the waiver.

Varies depending on specific project cost and budget allocation.



## Northwest Florida Water Management District

### Florida Forever Competitive Grants Program

Cooperative or cost-share capital improvement projects that support management efforts to improve water quality and restore natural systems.

Local government agencies, municipalities, counties, special districts, and other public entities within the boundaries of the NFWFMD.

Additional scoring awarded to rural communities that qualify based on economic indicators (not just population).

Additional scoring awarded to RACEC communities.

Avg. \$400,000; contingent on legislative funding in the Florida Forever Trust Fund

### Permit Fee Waivers

Reduction of permit fees for consumptive use permits (Chapter 40A-2, F.A.C.), well permitting (Chapter 40A-3, F.A.C.), the Management & Storage of Surface Waters (Chapter 40-A-4, F.A.C.), and Environmental Resource Permitting (Chapter 62-346, F.A.C.), per s.218.075, F.S. for eligible local governments.

Local governments, or third parties acting on behalf of local governments, that meet the requirements in s. 218.075, F.S.

The population considerations in s. 218.075, F.S. are similar to rural designation criteria; thus, most rural communities are eligible.

The population and economic factors in s. 218.075, F.S. are similar to RACEC designation criteria; thus, all RACEC communities should be eligible.

Variable; Permit fees will not exceed \$100

## Regional Planning Councils

### Economic & Community Development Technical Assistance

Provide first contact to construction assistance in finding most appropriate financial assistance for infrastructure projects required for ED projects.

County and Community Governments on behalf of a potential new job employer

Competitive rates with private sector

### Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

Bridge or expansion loans to small businesses as a lender of last resort

Small businesses must make application to the RPCs whose banking committee will make determination.

Varies - \$25K +

### Technical Assistance to Local Governments

Comprehensive Planning Assistance

County and Community Governments

Emergency Management Planning and Responder Training

County and Community Governments - LAEPC

## South Florida Water Management District

### Administrative - ERP Modifications Permit

Reduces application fee of a ERP modification permit

Rural/RACEC Communities

Waiver Granted

Permit application fee reduced to \$100

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### Administrative - Permit Fee Waivers

Reduction of permit fees for consumptive use permits (Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C), well permitting (Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C.), and Environmental Resource Permitting (Chapter 40E-4, F.A.C.), per s.218.075, F.S. for eligible local governments

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The population considerations in s. 218.075, F.S. are similar to rural designation criteria; thus, most rural communities are eligible.

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Variable; Permit fees will not exceed \$100

### Cost-share programs - Water Conservation , Alternative Water Supply and Stormwater

Water Conservation - Identify new methods for using water more efficiently within local utility service areas and implement conservation measures that reduce water consumption;

Alternative water supply (AWS) - Construction of new AWS projects to reduce reliance on ground water as a water supply source; Stormwater - Support stormwater management planning and implementation efforts that promote water quality improvement in priority receiving waters

Local governments and public supply utilities

The amount available varies depending on if funding is available and the degree to which funding is available. The cost-share match requirement for RACEC/REDI communities is less stringent compared to other local governments.

### Technical Assistance - Comprehensive Planning Assistance and water supply

Facilitate coordination between local government land use planning and the District's water supply planning. Assist local governments in meeting the legislative water supply planning requirements (Section 189.4156, Section 373.711, and Section 373.709, Florida Statutes)

Local governments

Technical assistance provided by SFWMD at no cost to the local government.

### Technical Assistance - Stormwater planning

Facilitate coordination between local government; Assist local governments in developing stormwater master planning

Local governments

Technical assistance provided by SFWMD at no cost to the local government.

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### Technical Assistance- Permitting Process

Facilitate the permitting process (consumptive use permit or environmental resource permit)

Property owners, third party contractors, local governments and public supply utilities

Technical assistance provided by SFWMD at no cost to the local government.

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## Southwest Florida Water Management District

### Agricultural Ground and Surface Water Management (AGSWM)

Provides for on-site review by Ag Team staff and fosters better understanding by the farmer of potential ERP- and WUP-regulation needs.

Reduces permit application fees and costs.

### Back-Plugging

Assists agricultural community by improving the quality of ground water used for irrigation.

Available only in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) that includes the REDI counties of DeSoto, Hardee, and a portion of Highlands with the SWFWMD.

### Cooperative Funding Initiative

This program allows REDI counties and communities to share costs for projects that assist in creating sustainable water resources, provide flood protection and enhance conservation efforts.

To request a waiver or reduction of matching requirements, a county or community must meet the statutory definition of "rural" (s. 288.0656 (2) (b) F.S.) and must have three or more of the "economic distress" conditions identified in s. 288.0656(2) (a) F.S.

Rural county and communities are eligible to request a waiver or reduction in matching fund requirements pursuant to the District's Cooperative Funding Policy.

Funding decisions are the exclusive responsibility of the appropriate District Board(s).

## Expedited Permitting

Requires close coordination between the applicant and the District Resource Regulation Staff to ensure all permit related questions are addressed early in the process. Addressing potential project design and development issues or questions prior to permit application can greatly reduce the time and cost of project development.

Rural designated counties and communities

## Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)

The FARMS program is intended to implement production-scale agricultural BMP projects that will provide resource benefits that include water quality improvement, reduction of Upper Floridian aquifer withdrawals and/or conservation, restoration or augmentation of the area's water resources and ecology.

Reimbursement rates are generally 50 percent for water quantity reduction or water quality improvement BMPs; and 75 percent for projects that incorporate both water quality and quantity benefits.

## Mini-FARMS

A cost-share reimbursement program for agricultural projects that conserve water and protect water quality within SWFWMD boundaries.

Reimburses growers for 75% of their costs, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per approved water resources project. If cost-share exceeds this amount, the project would be considered for a FARMS project.

## Mobile Irrigation Lab

Assists agricultural community by improving irrigation efficiency and conserving water.

Growers can contact the District to arrange for free irrigation evaluations. Helps growers meet water use permit conditions. The program shares valuable technology and information with growers regarding water conservation and water quality improvements.

## Permit Fee Reductions

Fees reductions for Water Use Permits (Chapter 40D-2, F.A.C.) and Environmental Resource Permitting (Chapter 40D-4, F.A.C.)

Provides reduced fees to eligible rural counties and communities.

Rural eligible counties and communities.

Variable, Permit fees not to exceed \$100



## St. Johns River Water Management District

### Administrative - Permit Fee Waivers

Reduction of permit fees for consumptive use permits (Chapter 40A-2, F.A.C.), well permitting (Chapter 40A-3, F.A.C.), the Management & Storage of Surface Waters (Chapter 40-A-4, F.A.C.), and Environmental Resource Permitting (Chapter 62-346, F.A.C.), per s.218.075, F.S. for eligible local governments

Local governments, or third parties acting on behalf of local governments, that meet the requirements in s. 218.075, F.S.

The population considerations in s. 218.075, F.S. are similar to rural designation criteria; thus, most rural communities are eligible.

The population and economic factors in s. 218.075, F.S. are similar to RACEC designation criteria; thus, all RACEC communities should be eligible.

Variable; Permit fees will not exceed \$100

### Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Cost Share Program

Implement projects that support habitat enhancement, water quality, and storm water discharge improvements within the IRL watershed (Volusia, Brevard, and Indian River counties)

Property owners, community organizations, local governments and public supply utilities

In FY 10/11, capital projects are eligible to receive up to 50% cost share. Educational, research and monitoring projects are eligible to receive up to 75% cost share.

## Land Acquisition

Protect natural lands, create storm water treatment areas, and address regional water supply issues

Local governments and property owners

Amount varies based on partnership agreement with local government.

## Public Education

Educate the public on water resources and environmental stewardship.

Community-based organizations and school districts

Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

## Technical Assistance - Comprehensive Planning Assistance

Facilitate coordination between local government land use planning and the District's water supply planning. Assist local governments in meeting the legislative water supply planning requirements

Local governments

Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

## Technical Assistance - Emergency Response

The District partners with other state agencies to assist in emergency response and recovery efforts at a local level.

Local governments

Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

### Technical Assistance - Flood Credit Assistance

Assist communities in receiving credits from the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System

Local governments

Flood insurance premiums could be reduced by up to 45%. Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

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### Technical Assistance - Flood Protection

Eliminate or resolve regional flood problems.

Local governments

Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

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### Technical Assistance- Agricultural Uses

Assist agricultural community with permit compliance requirements and the overall permitting process (consumptive use permit and environmental resource permit)

Agriculture-based permit applicants

Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

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### Technical Assistance- Permitting Process

Facilitate the permitting process (consumptive use permit or environmental resource permit)

Permit applicants

Technical assistance provided by SJRWMD at no cost.

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### Water Conservation Cost Share Program

Identify new methods for using water more efficiently within local utility service areas and implement conservation measures that reduce water consumption

Local governments and public supply utilities

No maximum award. Projects are eligible to receive up to 50% cost share. Current application cycle closes on September 30, 2011.

### Water Supply Planning

Update the District's regional water supply plan every 5 years

Local governments and public supply utilities

## Suwannee River Water Management District

### Permitting

Water Use, Water Well Construction and Environmental Resource Permitting

Rural Communities

Exempt from permit fees and provides for reduced cooperative funding matching share

## US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

### B&I Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan

Real estate, equipment, working capital, refinancing - for non-farm businesses

Banks and other rural business lenders

All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas

\$500,000 - \$10 million

### Community Facilities Direct Grant

Real estate & equipment: examples include clinics, hospitals, public buildings, daycare centers, fire stations, fire trucks, libraries, charter school

Public bodies, nonprofits, and tribes

Cities, towns, Census Designated Places with <20,000 population, unincorporated rural areas

\$40,000 - \$50,000

### Community Facilities Direct Loan

Real estate & equipment: examples include clinics, hospitals, public buildings, daycare centers, fire stations, fire trucks, libraries, charter school

Public bodies, nonprofits, and tribes

Cities, towns, Census Designated Places with <20,000 population, unincorporated rural areas

\$100 million - \$2 million

### Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan

Real estate & equipment: examples include clinics, hospitals, public buildings, daycare centers, fire stations, fire trucks, libraries, charter school

Banks and other commercial lenders to make loans to nonprofits, tribes and public bodies

All rural areas other than cities >20,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas

\$100,000 - \$6 million

**Distance Learning & Telemedicine Loan and Grant**

Initial capital & hardware costs that will enhance telecommunication capabilities for public education or medical purposes	Schools, libraries, nonprofit hospitals, clinics, and tribes	Cities, towns, Census Designated Places with <20,000 population, unincorporated rural areas		Grant max: 50,000 - \$300,000; No loan max
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**Farm Labor Housing Direct Loan 514/Grant 516 Program**

Develops housing projects for farm workers	Nonprofit limited partnerships, non-profits, public bodies (e.g. housing authorities), farmers	No population restriction as long as project serves farm workers		Max: \$3 million
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**Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing 538 Loan Program**

Guaranteed loans to develop new apartments or buy and renovate existing apartments	Banks and other lenders making loans to developers, tribes, or public agencies	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		No maximum
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**HPG 523 Housing Preservation Grant Program**

Supports programs that correct access, safety, health problems in homes and rental units	Nonprofits, tribes, and public bodies	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		\$36,000 - \$70,800
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**IRP Intermediary Re-lending Program**

USDA loans money to a local revolving loan fund for re-lending to non-farm businesses	Nonprofit economic development groups, tribes & public bodies	All rural areas other than cities >25,000 population		Max \$750,000 loans to intermediaries for business loans up to \$150,000
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**RBEG Rural Business Enterprise Grant**

To facilitate business development by providing facilities, equipment, infrastructure, technical assistance to businesses or establish a revolving loan fund	Nonprofit economic development groups, tribes & public bodies	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		\$25,000 - \$200,000
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**RBOG Rural Business Opportunity Grant**

Supports economic development planning in rural areas	Nonprofit economic development groups, tribes & public bodies	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		\$50,000 or less
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**RCDG Rural Cooperative Development Grant**

Provides grants to operate centers that assist rural cooperatives.	Universities and nonprofit economic development groups	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		\$50,000 - \$300,000; matching funds required
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**RED Grant Rural Economic Development Grant**

Promotes specific community or business development projects that will improve the local economy through capitalization of a revolving loan fund	Electric & telephone utilities financed by USDA's Rural Utilities Services	Unincorporated areas and <50,000 population cities		Max: \$300,000
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**RED Loan Rural Economic Development Loan**

Loans are passed through to non-farm businesses for real estate & equipment	Electric & telephone utilities financed by USDA's Rural Utilities Services	Unincorporated areas and <50,000 population cities		Max: \$740,000
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**Rural Rental Housing 515 Direct Loan Program**

Develops new apartments for low income project tenants (family, elderly)	Private developers, nonprofits, tribes, public agencies	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		Max: \$1,000,000
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**Rural Rental Housing Direct Loan Program**

Develops new apartments for low income project tenants (family, elderly)	Private developers, nonprofits, tribes, public agencies	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		Max: \$1,000,000
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**Section 9003 Bio-refinery Assistance Program**

Provides guaranteed loans for development & construction of commercial-scale bio-refineries or retrofitting existing facilities for development of advanced bio-fuels.	Banks and other rural business lenders	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		Max: \$250,000,000
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**Section 9004 Repowering Assistance Payments to Eligible Bio-refineries**

Provides financial incentives to bio-refineries to replace the use of fossil fuels used to produce heat or power at their facilities by installing new systems that use renewable biomass, or to produce new energy from renewable biomass	Bio-refinery in existence on or before June 18, 2008	Bio-refinery must be located in a rural area.		Max: \$5 million or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less
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**Section 9005 – Payments to Eligible Advanced Bio-fuel Producers**

Provides payments to Eligible Advanced Bio-fuel Producers to promote sustainable economic development & provides economic incentives for increased production and use of advanced bio-fuels.	An individual or legal entity, including a corporation, company, foundation, association, labor organization, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, group of organizations, or non-profit entity that produces an Advanced Bio-fuel. No state, public entities or educational facilities.	Bio-refinery must be located in a rural area.		The Agency will establish payment rates.
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**Section 9007 Energy Loan Guarantee/Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**

Guaranteed loans can be used for the purchase & installation of renewable energy systems or for energy efficiency improvements	Banks and other rural business lenders	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		Max: \$25 million loan. May be combined with a 9007 grant; total assistance cannot exceed 75% of project cost.
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**Section 9007 Energy Efficiency Grant/Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**

Grants for energy efficiency improvements	Rural small businesses & agricultural producers	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		Max: \$500,000; not to exceed 25% of project cost. Priority is given grants <\$50,000
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**Section 9007 Renewable Energy Grant/Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**

Grants for renewable energy systems (wind, biomass bio-energy, anaerobic digesters, solar, geothermal, & renewable hydrogen)	Rural small businesses & agricultural producers	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		Max: \$500,000; not to exceed 25% of project cost.
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**Section 9008 Biomass Research Grant**

R&D areas: 1) Feedstock production 2)overcoming recalcitrance of cellulosic biomass, 3)product diversification 4)analysis that provides strategic guidance for application of biomass technologies	Institutes of higher education, national laboratories, federal & state research agencies, private sector entities; nonprofit organizations (other than 501(c)(4) lobbying organizations)	All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas		\$50,000 - \$5 million
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**Single Family Housing 502 Direct Loan**

Purchase new or existing homes and repair existing homes: 100% financing; no down payment required	Low and very low income persons	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		\$80,000 - \$120,000; up to 100% of the market value of the home
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**Single Family Housing 502 Participation Loan**

Enhances ability of mortgage lenders to make loans so low-income persons can purchase a modest home	Low income persons	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		\$80,000 - \$130,000; up to 100% of the market value of the home
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**Single Family Housing 504 Grant**

Remove health and safety hazards	Very low income persons (homeowner)	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		Max: \$7,500
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**Single Family Housing 504 Loan**

Modernize or repair a modest home	Very low income persons (homeowner)	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		Max: \$20,000
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**Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan**

Purchase new or existing homes and repair existing homes: 100% financing; no down payment required	Moderate and low income persons	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		\$150,000 - \$200,000 up to 100% of the market value of the home plus the amount of guarantee fee financed
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**Single Family Housing Mutual Self-Help Housing**

Assists very low- and low-income households construct their own homes. Families perform approximately 65 percent of the construction labor on each other's homes under qualified supervision.	Low and very low income persons	Unincorporated areas, cities <10,000 population, and some cities with <25,000 population. See: <a href="http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/">http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a>		
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**SMPG Small Minority Producer Grant**

To fund cooperatives and/or associations of cooperatives to provide technical assistance to small, minority agriculture producers

Minority cooperative or a minority association of cooperatives

All rural areas other than cities >50,000 population and their adjacent urbanized areas

Max \$175,000

**Solid Waste Management Grant**

Supports recycling education and solid waste planning such as technical assistance, planning, and community education projects

Public bodies, tribes, and community based non-profits (cities, water districts, mutual water companies)

Cities and towns <10,000 population and unincorporated areas

\$50,000

**Technical Assistance and Training Grant**

Supports entities eligible for Water and Waste Disposal loans & grants for operator/board training, financial planning, and accessing funding

Nonprofit corporations who will provide such assistance to rural utilities

Cities and towns <10,000 population and unincorporated areas

\$50,000 - \$1 million+

**VAPG Value-Added Producer Grant**

Provides grants for value-added activities such as planning and working capital

Agricultural producers and cooperatives

No rural area requirement

Max: \$100,000 Planning; \$300,000 Working Capital; - 100% match required

**Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loan**

Creates incentive for commercial lending that finances water, waste, storm drainage, and solid waste systems	Banks and other commercial lenders	Cities and towns <10,000 population and unincorporated areas		\$500,000 - \$5 million
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**Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant**

Develops and rehabilitates water, waste, storm drainage, and solid waste systems	Public bodies, tribes, and community based non-profits (cities, water districts, mutual water companies)	Cities and towns <10,000 population and unincorporated areas		\$1 million - \$8 million
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## VISIT FLORIDA

### Cultural Heritage and Nature Tourism Grant Program

VISIT FLORIDA administers this REIMBURSEMENT grant program to provide funding to Partners for marketing projects and tourism education efforts promoting cultural, heritage and/or nature tourism in Florida.

Public entities governed by a county, municipality, school district, community college, college, university, an agency of state government and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. In order to be eligible, for-profit organizations must partner with a qualified non-profit organization, a 501(c) 3 or 501(c) 6, and cannot be the lead on the application.

Higher scoring based upon smaller population; rural counties only have to make a 50% match opposed to dollar for dollar; also in-kind service is allowed

Entire grant program = \$140,000 pending budget approval; Here's the breakdown ---- Marketing category - \$5000; Image Development- \$5,000; Tourism Education - \$2,000

### Rural Tourism Marketing Co-Op Program

VISIT FLORIDA's Rural Tourism Marketing Co-Op Program is designed to assist destinations with severely limited financial and human resources. The goal is to provide individualized, hands-on counseling to small businesses that depend on tourism. VISIT FLORIDA takes an integrated approach to marketing tourism products. This includes the expertise of professionals in the public relations, promotions, advertising, direct marketing, sales, Internet, new product development and visitor services disciplines.

Tourism-related businesses located in a rural county; must be a VISIT FLORIDA Partner; and must not have PR agency or PR practitioner on staff.

\$600

## Workforce Florida

### Incumbent Worker Training

Provide skills up grade training to existing company employees

Small businesses, but larger companies are eligible

Rural County applications receive priority: companies located in rural/distressed counties are required to provide 25% training match instead of 50% training match

\$2,000,000 annually

### Quick Response Training

Incentive for new or expanding companies creating jobs that require customized training for new jobs

Companies creating at least 10 new jobs

Rural County applications receive priority -a higher award is offered for training - can relax the wage requirement for eligibility

State funded - \$3,300,000 annual appropriation

### Rural Initiative

Assist Rural Regions bridge needs of targeted population.

Rural Communities

\$600,000 annually