



DEEPWATER HORIZON-RESTORE GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the funding source?

[The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act \(RESTORE Act\)](#) is a 2012 federal law passed in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. The RESTORE Council is responsible for approving and managing funds from the Deepwater Horizon civil and administrative penalties across the five Gulf Coast States. The Council periodically approves Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for batches of projects and programs in what is called a Funded Priorities List (FPL). The Council occasionally amends these FPLs to add additional funding or otherwise modify previously-approved activities. This round of grant funding is under the Council's fourth FPL ([2026 FPL](#)).

Who is eligible to receive grant funding?

Counties, Municipalities, Water Management Districts, state agencies, special districts, and non-governmental organizations that can demonstrate competency in meeting 2 C.F.R. 200 may submit project proposals.

What types of projects are eligible?

Project eligibility is described in the RESTORE Council's [2026 Funded Priorities List](#) under Florida Programs and summarized at <https://floridadep.gov/wra/deepwater-horizon>.

How do I submit a proposal?

On the [Protecting Florida Together Grants page](#). The solicitation will specify the project portal web address details and deadline for submitting project proposals.

When is the proposal period open?

The project portal is set to open July 1, 2026. To receive updates, sign up for notifications through the [Preference Center | Water Quality Dashboard](#) and/or for [GovDelivery](#) Deepwater Horizon updates.

How much funding is available?

The table below provides the amount of funding designated for each program listed by funding category for a total of \$77.6 million available for Florida. RESTORE Council uses Funding Categories to distinguish funds that are approved for programs or projects and those which are prioritized for future projects or programs.

Planning Projects (Category 1)

Planning activities include data collection and analysis, surveying, feasibility studies, cost estimates, engineering and design, and permitting.

Implementation Projects (Category 2)

Implementation activities include construction and/or land acquisition. Funding for implementation activities is not approved until all planning activities are complete, and environmental compliance is documented. To be considered for funding, proposed implementation projects require a vote by RESTORE Council to amend the Funded Priorities List.

Program Name	Category 1 (Approved)	Category 2 (Prioritized)	Total Funds Identified
Florida Gulf Coast Resilience Program	\$8,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$20,000,000
Florida Gulf Coast Tributaries Hydrologic Restoration Program	\$5,042,000	\$7,563,000	\$12,605,000
Florida Water Quality Improvement Program	\$18,000,000	\$27,000,000	\$45,000,000

When will awards be announced?

There is no specific date for award announcements. Proposals will be screened for eligibility and then evaluated based on the selection criteria. Selected applicants are notified individually by the program and listed on the Deepwater Horizon [website](#).

What can I expect if my proposed project is selected for funding?

DEP will work with successful applicants to develop work plans, project schedule, and project budget. DEP will also ask the project proponent to provide a project map and project shapefiles. After a workplan is developed, there are two tracts:

1. For planning projects (category 1), DEP will request an amendment to its federal award from the RESTORE Council to incorporate the project information into the corresponding Program. As part of the amendment process, independent Best Available Science reviews of the work plans may be conducted. This process could add additional time to approval of project funding.
2. For implementation projects (category 2), after applicable independent Best Available Science reviews and verification of Environmental Compliance documentation has been received and deemed adequate, RESTORE Council will schedule and hold a vote to amend the FPL to move category 2 funds to category 1 approving funds for project implementation. This process could add additional time to approval of project funding.

Note: Due to the need to address restoration projects across the Gulf region, RESTORE Council processing times to amend the federal awards and FPL could be significant. Project proponents are strongly advised to take this into account and assess the impacts this may have on the project timing.

Once RESTORE Council has amended the FPL and/or the federal award, DEP will develop and execute a subrecipient agreement with the project sponsor.

IMPORTANT: Federal funding takes longer due to the Best Available Science review and amendment process. Work cannot begin until [environmental compliance requirements](#) are met, if applicable and a subrecipient agreement is fully executed by both parties.

Are the application questions available?

Yes, once the portal is opened, a PDF version of the questions will be available on Protecting Florida Together.

Is there a match requirement?

Matching funds are not required. Funds may be leveraged with project proposals. Leveraged funds can be described as “Co-funding” or “Other” leveraging. See below for a description of each type of leveraged funding:

- Co-funding means that costs will be shared across funding from two or more sources. Co-funding means that the funds from all sources are needed to achieve the project objective.
- Other leveraging can entail adjoining or builds on other resources. Adjoining means that the project is proposed in a location that adjoins another existing or proposed project. Builds on Other Resources means that the project builds upon completed or ongoing activities relative to the project but is not captured by either co-funding or adjoining leveraged funds.

For projects where co-funding is required to achieve the project objectives, sponsors of selected projects will be expected to clearly articulate budget information that identifies the funding sources, amounts, and project elements the non-Federal share will support. Budget information must be sufficient to determine that all costs described are allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Cash and in-kind contributions that are included in the budget for the award as co-funding must be valued in accordance 2 C.F.R. §200.306.

- If actual allowable costs are less than the total approved budget, the co-funding must be adjusted proportionally. If actual allowable costs are greater than the total approved budget, the Federal (RESTORE) share must not exceed the total dollar amount authorized by the award.
- The co-funding, whether in cash or in-kind, must be paid out at the same general rate as the Federal share. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted based on sufficient documentation demonstrating previously determined plans for, or later commitment of cash or in-kind contributions. If different from the rate of the Federal share, the project sponsor must describe how the distribution rate will affect project progress. In any case, the project sponsor must meet its co-funding commitment over the life of the project and maintain sufficient records justifying all non-Federal sharing and co-funding requirements to facilitate questions and audits.