



WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will awards be announced?

There is not a set date when awards will be announced. To sign up for updates from the portal, visit [Preference Center | Water Quality Dashboard](#).

What are the awarded grant programs for FY26-27?

For the Fiscal Year 2026-27 grant proposal request, the Department has combined the portal for water quality improvement grants and encourages entities to apply for each grant program for which they are eligible. These grant programs include:

- The Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvements Grant Program
- The Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements Grant Program

What is the performance period for the grant?

Work done prior to July 1, 2026, will not be eligible for grant reimbursement. There is not a set expiration date for the funding, but availability is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature.

What is the minimum and maximum request amount?

There are not set limits on the grant amount you can request for this program. However, most awards are between \$500,000 and \$6 million.

Is there a match requirement?

There is not a required match for this program, but the local cost share is a consideration during project selection. The local cost share will be a reporting requirement if the project is selected.

What types of projects are eligible?

Eligible projects include:

- Connecting onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) to central sewer facilities.
- Upgrading domestic wastewater treatment facilities to advanced waste treatment or greater.
- Repairing, upgrading, expanding, or constructing stormwater treatment facilities that result in improvements to surface water or groundwater quality.
- Repairing, upgrading, expanding, or constructing domestic wastewater treatment facilities that result in improvements to surface water or groundwater quality, including domestic wastewater reuse and collection systems.
- Where central sewerage is not available, retrofitting OSTDS to upgrade such systems to enhanced nutrient-reducing OSTDS or other equivalent wastewater system that achieves 65% reduction in total nitrogen.
- Other types of projects that improve water quality for Biscayne Bay or the Indian River Lagoon.

What if a project is eligible for other grant programs?

Applicants should submit separate applications for each eligible grant program on ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants.

How much funding is available?

There is \$20 million appropriated for The Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

There is \$25 million appropriated for The Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvements Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Additional funding may become available as previously awarded projects are cancelled or completed under budget.

How will the prioritization of projects be determined?

The department will consider and prioritize those projects that:

- Achieve effective nutrient load reductions;
- Demonstrate project readiness;
- Are cost-effective;
- Have a cost share identified by the applicant, except for rural areas of opportunity;
- Are in a location where reductions are needed most to attain the water quality standards of a waterbody not attaining nutrient or nutrient-related standards.

How many project proposals am I allowed to submit?

There is not a limit on the number of project proposals you are allowed to submit.

Are the application questions available?

Yes, a PDF version of the questions will be available alongside the webform. The PDF version is provided for informational purposes only and may not be submitted in place of the webform.

What costs are eligible under the Septic to Sewer projects?

Eligible costs include only the tangible activities of conversion to sewer, including construction of sewer, septic abandonment, laying lateral, and connection by the licensed plumber or contractor. Impact fees (also called infrastructure or capital fees) and similar fees are not eligible costs.

Are sewer connections required under this grant funding?

Please note that septic-to-sewer projects will not be eligible for funding if connections are not required.

If the project selected makes sewer connections available to properties currently served by onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS), you will be required to provide notification of the availability of sewer and of the requirement to connect within 365 days of the notification, per [s. 381.00655, F.S.](#) Proof of such notice will be required in the grant agreement following construction completion and prior to final reimbursement.