

## PPBEP COMMUNITY GRANT FINAL REPORT FORM

<b>Agreement No.:</b>	FY2023-01 (October 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023)		
<b>Grantee Name:</b>	Franklin's Promise Coalition, Inc.		
<b>Grantee Address:</b>	60 Island Drive, Eastpoint Florida 32328		
<b>Grantee's Representative:</b>	Joseph Taylor	<b>Telephone No.:</b>	850-323-0176
<b>Project Title:</b>	EscaRosa OysterCorps		
Please submit any high-resolution photos related to the project, if available (include photo credit for possible use by PPBEP for use in our e-newsletter, annual report, social media, or website) with your report as image files to <a href="mailto:lmcdonald@ppbep.org">lmcdonald@ppbep.org</a> .			

**RESULTS: Describe the progress made toward the goals and objectives as stated in the funded grant application.**

To provide key materials necessary to restore oyster and salt marsh habitat, this project produced a total of 41,680 lbs (20.84 Tons) of shells collected from participating local restaurants and Escambia County for restoration efforts. *Original goal was to reclaim no less than 18 tons of oyster shells.*

A total of 215 oyster prisms were constructed by conservation crew members during the project period. *Original goal was to construct no less than 200 oyster prisms.*

5,960 *Spartina alterniflora* and 6,300 *Patens* were harvested during the project period, which ultimately provides an estimated 21,260 stock plants (after splitting) for coastal restoration use in the EscaRosa OysterCorps area. Due to limited nursery bed space at the EscaRosa site, the vast number of plants needed for this project are stored at the OysterCorps native plant nursery for dedicated use in EscaRosa. *Original goal was to harvest and/or split Spartina alterniflora and Patens plants to produce no less than 20,000 stock plants at the end of the project.*

Conservation OysterCorps crew members gained 3,156.5 hours of field experience during the project period, allowing them an opportunity to help restore coastal habitat and get valuable experience to help fill the coastal restoration sector job force pipeline. *Original goal was to provide no less than 2,700 hours of field experience to include coastal restoration training to no less than four conservation crew members.*

A total of 569.5 hours of training was provided (an average of 142 hours per member) to conservation crew members during the project period. Over fifty of these hours were targeted at Professional Development (job readiness and career pathways training) that included Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training, Goal Setting and Resume Creation, developing resumes and exploring career options, creating personal digital portfolios, interviewing skills and mock interviews, and independent professional development skills. Other training included Corp Program Orientation (15 hours each member). Crew members were provided US IFAS Florida Sea Grant training, centered around how to build oyster prisms, a process developed by NOAA and US IFAS Sea Grant, as well as the history of oyster reef building and related coastal experiments in the State of Florida. *Original goal was to provide four members with a 15-hour Corp Program Orientation and 75 hours of additional training in job readiness and career pathways training.*

In partnership with Chris Verlinde, US IFAS Sea Grant, on May 9, 2023 conservation crew members provided a session to teach eleven (11) Pace High School students on how to monitor living shorelines with the use of a *Candy Land* game exercise. After the game the students went out to the beach to apply what they had learned, ending with a nice Paten planting along the shoreline. On May 5, 2022, eleven (11) ED Corps students were involved with preparation and demonstration exercises (prism construction, reclaimed shell-filled bags, and plant propagation) at the Apalachicola National Estuary Research Reserve's *2023 Estuary Days*. The engagement also focused on how plants and shells are used to restore and protect coastal habitats. Additionally, four (4) conservation crew members are enrolled on a virtual high school program path. These activities resulted in a total of 26 students that were engaged during the project. *Original goal was to engage no less than 24 high school students in hand-on learning experiences.*

*See attached project accomplishments matrix.*

**IMPACT: Summarize the organization's key evaluation results related to the funded grant (number of people reached, samples taken, etc.):**

There were no key evaluation results related to the funded grant, however the previous section describes the progress made during the project period.

**SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES: Describe the significant successes and challenges the organization experienced related to the funded grant.**

Successes: EscaRosa OysterCorps is pleased to report that tasks within the grant have been met or exceeded in most cases. Our crew members were given the opportunity to focus on oyster shell reclamation, shell utilization for habitat restoration such as construction of oyster prisms and reclaimed shell-filled bags, as well as a nursery operation for growing native marsh plants. Conservation corp members received hands-on as well as targeted professional training throughout the project. Mentoring and engaging with high school students was an exceptionally good experience for our young adults, as they recognize these are the future protectors of our natural and coastal resources.

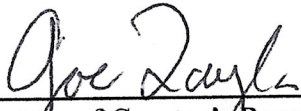
Challenges: Conflicts with school calendars caused some minor delay in student engagement, but overall the task was undertaken and accomplished within the project timeline. We were fortunate to engage restaurants in shell reclamation, unfortunately the return was below original expectations due to the continued limited oyster availability to restaurants. To ensure success, through collaboration with Escambia County, we were able to secure shells used to construct oyster pillows for living shoreline construction.

**LESSONS LEARNED: Describe what the organization learned based upon the results, successes, and challenges reported. Address programmatic, evaluative, or organizational changes that will be made based upon these lessons learned.**

Franklin's Promise Coalition appreciates the opportunities this project has provided. The project allowed OysterCorps to expand its existing shell collection program in Santa Rosa County, and the OysterCorps Pilot Program in Franklin, Gulf and Bay Counties in partnership with the Northwest Florida Water Management District with funding provided by the Florida Coastal Management Program. The project further allowed conservation crew members an avenue to experience and learn from efforts that enhance and protect coastal resources in Pensacola and Perdido Bays by improving water quality, habitat restoration, building awareness of the watershed, and understanding the vital contributions needed to restore and protect our fragile coastal habitat.

The combination of these projects has sparked a future for OysterCorps, operating as a training academy within the Conservation Corps of the Forgotten and Emerald Coasts. We have recognized that the potential for OysterCorps is on a good forward path. Experiences and lessons learned during these projects are now the catalyst for Franklin's Promise Coalition to seek and secure additional funding sources to continue, develop and strengthen the OysterCorps Program with projects across North Florida.

This report is submitted in accordance with the reporting requirements of Agreement No. FY2023-01 and accurately reflects the activities associated with the project.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Grantee's Representative

6/7/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Taylor, Executive Director

Print Name and Title

**PPBEP Community Grant Activity Summary**

Franklin's Promise Coalition, Inc.

Project Period: October 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

	Deliverable 1 Reclaim Shell (Tons)		Deliverable 2 Oyster Prisms		Deliverable 3 Harvest/Split Plants		Deliverable 4 Field Experience (hours)		Deliverable 5 Orien/Training (hours)		Deliverable 6 Engage Student		
	Required	Accomplished	Required	Accomplished	Required	Accomplished	Required	Accomplished	Required	Accomplished	Required	Accomplished	
<b>Task 1</b>	2	2.5	25	85	3000	Harvest	3160	750	1541	15	338	6	0
Nov-Dec 2022													
<b>Task 2</b>	7	11.475	75	72	3000	Harvest	3100	750	761.5	30	109.5	6	0
Jan-Feb 2023													
<b>Task 3</b>	7	6.615	75	58	12,000	Harvest	3,000	750	630	30	122	6	22
Mar-Apr 2023						Split	3,000						
<b>Task 4</b>	2	0.25	25	Inc w/ #3	20,000	Harvest	3000	450	224	15	0	6	4
May-23						Split	6000						
	<b>18</b>	<b>20.84</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>20,000</b>	Stock	<b>21,260</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>3,156.5</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>569.5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>