



**Opening:** July 12, 2023

**Closing:** August 3, 2023

**Award Range:** \$10,000 to \$50,000 (available on reimbursement basis only)

**Anticipated amount to be awarded:** \$250,000

**Eligibility:** Local governments or nonstate entities (educational institutions and 501(c)3s)

**Location:** Project must be located within the Perdido and/or Pensacola watershed within the counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and/or Okaloosa. Please reference attached map for project area.

**Projects must be completed by May 31, 2024.**

**Schedule:**

- Application Opening: July 12, 2023
- Application Closing: August 3, 2023
- Committee Review: August 24, 2023
- Committee Recommendation to Policy Board: August 30, 2023
- Recipients Announced: August 31, 2023
- Community Grant Symposium: September 22, 2023
- Anticipated Implementation Period: October 2, 2023 - May 31, 2024
- Final Reports and Reimbursement Requests due by June 15, 2024

**Introduction:**

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program is pleased to announce the release of the 2023-2024 Community Grant Program funding opportunity. This program will fund action projects that serve to restore, preserve, connect, inform, and educate.

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) is a stakeholder-driven, science-based organization charged with restoring and preserving the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Systems, and their associated watersheds. PPBEP is guided by a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which serves as a blueprint for the restoration and preservation of the area and waterways. Through these actions, PPBEP's vision is to create a healthy and sustainable environment, economy, and community. The funding opportunity includes seven eligible project categories that align with the Estuary Program's CCMP.

The Community Grant Program is made possible through the support of the Florida Legislature. The Estuary Program offers our deepest appreciation to Representative Andrade and Senator Broxson for sponsoring the Estuary Program's funding request.

**How to Apply:**

Go <https://www.ppbec.org/what-we-do/programs-and-projects/community-grants> to download an application. Applications must be submitted to PPBEP ([info@ppbec.org](mailto:info@ppbec.org)) by 11:59 PM CDT on August 3, 2023.

**Priority Consideration:**

Priority consideration will be given to “shovel ready” action projects that align with PPBEP’s CCMP Action Plan. Projects that leverage funding will also receive priority consideration. Please see the provided Draft Action Plan documents:

[Main Action Plan](#)

[Education and Outreach Action Plan](#)

**Proposal Categories:**

**Water Quality:** Achieve water quality improvement in one or both bay systems and/or their associated waterways to reduce nutrients and bacteria.

*(Examples: "best management practices" for agriculture; innovative retention/filtering techniques)*

**Sedimentation:** Reduce sediment loading by identifying and/or addressing root causes and sources. *(Examples: sedimentation monitoring or fingerprinting; erosion impact assessment)*

**Habitat Restoration:** Restore and/or enhance native habitat(s) to achieve sustainable and healthy systems.

*(Examples: restoration of natural shorelines/enhancement of seawalls; planning/action projects addressing oysters, seagrasses, coastal and freshwater wetlands, and other estuarine habitats)*

**Fish and Wildlife Conservation:** Reduce threats to native fish and wildlife through the protection of natural resources.

*(Examples: awareness of threats to wildlife from monofilament line; protection of seagrass beds; education on fish and wildlife habitat)*

**Watershed Awareness and Education:** Promote watershed awareness and environmental education by engaging all age groups and demographics.

*(Examples: programs that directly involve youth in solutions to bay problems; programs directed at disadvantaged youth, homeowner education around smart fertilizer or living shorelines)*

**Resilience:** Promote capacity building and/or construct pilot resilience demonstration projects, such as living shorelines, green infrastructure, or low impact development.

*(Examples: projects that address historic and/or persistent environmental inequalities related to water resources and/or local water quality; living shoreline and green infrastructure demonstration projects)*

**Community Science:** Engage community members through hands-on community science to provide data on watershed conditions.

*(Examples: Water quality monitoring; habitat monitoring; or field research that engages community members)*

**Project Approach:** *Projects should use one or more of the approaches below to implement the proposed work.*

Research (that informs management and restoration efforts)

Restoration

Education & Outreach

Community Science

**Match:**

Match is not required but is strongly encouraged. Projects that include cash or in-kind match, to include volunteer labor, will receive greater consideration.

**Ineligible Costs:**

- Land acquisition
- Lobbying expenses
- Conference registration
- Travel expenses
- Contingency funds
- Fines and penalties
- Insurance

**Selection Criteria:****CCMP Action Plan Alignment (20)**

The proposed project should align with the PPBEP's draft CCMP Action Plan. The proposal should explicitly state which Goals and Actions will be supported through the proposed work. Proposal categories are based off of the CCMP Action Plan.

**Project Approach (20)**

Applicant should describe in detail the project scope of work, need, objectives, and deliverables. Specifically, the strength of the program will be evaluated on the originality of the proposed project and the extent to which it addresses a need or provides a benefit to the systems. Another important measure of the strength of the proposal is the likelihood that the project will be successfully implemented.

**Estuary/Watershed Impact (25)**

The project's goal and objectives must explicitly state how the project will target watershed and/or bay issues that result in the restoration, enhancement, and/or protection of the bay systems and associated watersheds.

**Demonstration of Applicant Ability (10)**

The project team must have adequate education and/or experience to carry out the project design. The team must include the necessary personnel and expertise for the project as proposed. Responsibilities and division of labor should be designated. For projects planned on public lands or facilities, applicants must obtain permission for access to or use of those lands or facilities. Permission for use of private property not controlled by applicant also is required.

**Community Impact (15)**

Projects must demonstrate the community impact for the project. All proposals, regardless of scope, should reflect some measure of community support. Greater consideration will be given to projects that demonstrate clear impacts within underrepresented communities.

**Cost Justification (10)**

Cost justification requires that the proposal and the budget give enough detail to show that costs are appropriate to the scope of work. Reimbursement will be based on expenses assigned to cost categories in a budget that must be approved by the Estuary Program before a project begins.

**Selection Process:**

A Selection Committee comprised of one member of Estuary Program staff, two members of the Technical Committee, two members of the Education Committee, and two members of the Environmental Justice Committee will review and rank submitted proposals based on the selection criteria outlined above. To fund a variety of projects that cover multiple areas of the PPBEP Action Plan and geographic territory, the Selection Committee may select lower ranked projects over higher ranked projects based on the numeric ranking criteria as outlined above. The Committee will make a formal recommendation, by way of staff, to the Policy Board for approval of the shortlisted proposals. Any member serving on the Selection Committee will forfeit the right to submit or partner on a submitted Community Grant Proposal.

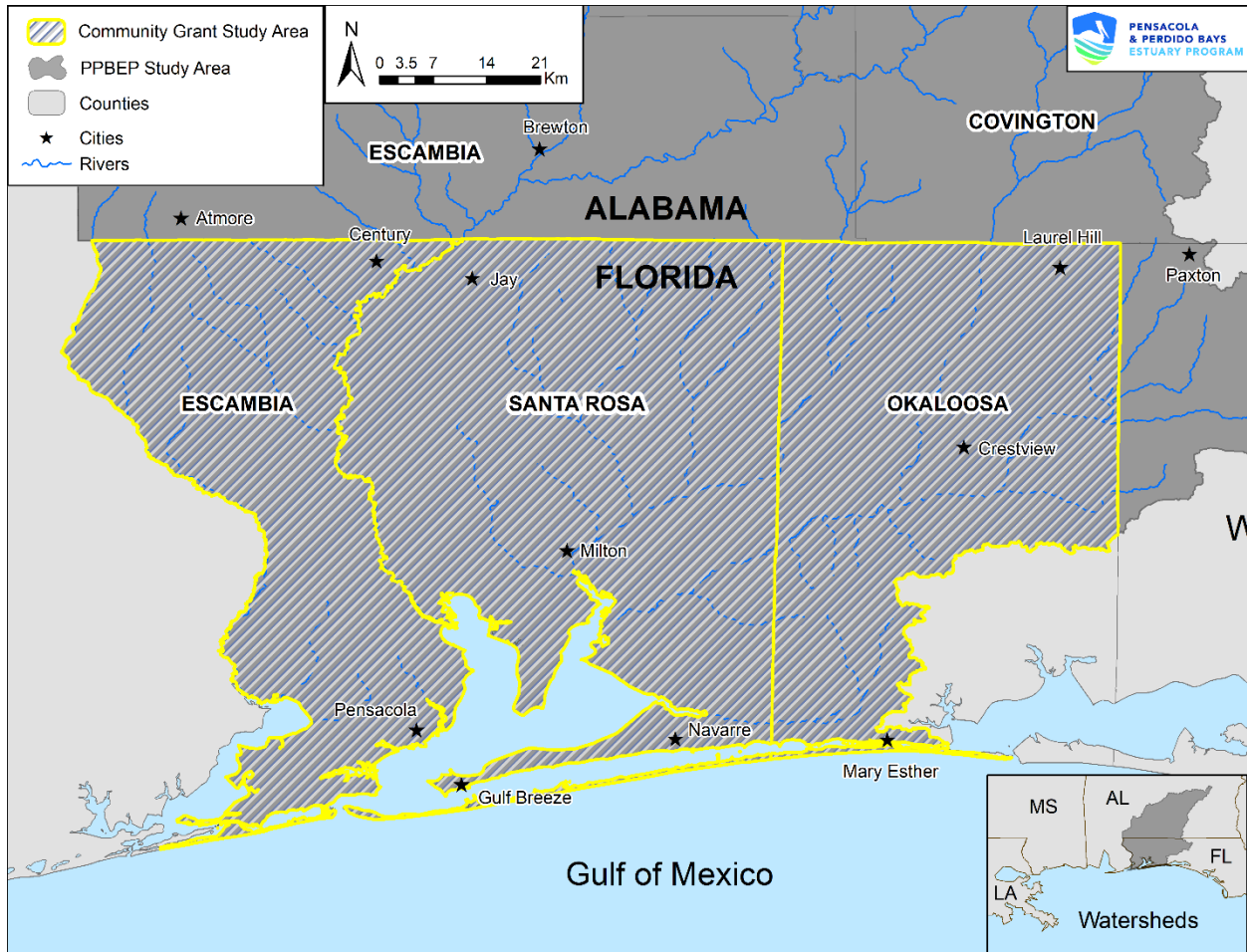


Figure 1: Projects located in the Pensacola or Perdido Bays Watersheds within Escambia, Santa Rosa, and/or Okaloosa counties are eligible