



**PENSACOLA & PERDIDO BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM**

**Community Grant Program
2025-2026 Funding Opportunity**



VOLUNTARY PRE-APPLICATION DATES

- **Voluntary Pre-Application Opening:** March 3, 2025
- **Informational Webinar:** March 10th 4:00-5:00PM CT
[Click here to register for the webinar.](#) If you are unable to attend, the recording will be available on our website 24-48 hours after the webinar.
- **Voluntary Pre-Application Closing:** April 1, 2025
- **Voluntary Pre-Application Feedback to Applicants:** May 15, 2025

FULL APPLICATION DATES

- **Full Application Opening:** July 1, 2025
- **Informational Webinar:** July 8th 4:00-5:00PM CT
[Click here to register for the webinar.](#) If you are unable to attend, the recording will be available on our website 24-48 hours after the webinar.
- **Full Application Closing:** July 31, 2025

Award Range: \$10,000 to \$75,000, contingent on budget availability and authorization from the PPBEP Board of Directors (available on reimbursement basis only)

Anticipated amount to be awarded: \$250,000

Eligibility: Local governments (including special districts) or nonstate entities (educational institutions and 501(c)3s). An eligible entity must serve as the fiscal host agency.

Location: Project must be located within the Perdido and/or Pensacola Bay watershed within the counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and/or Okaloosa. Please refer to the attached map for project area. Proposed monitoring activities that are in Alabama and within the Perdido and/or Pensacola Bay watershed could be permissible if the main proposed project components are in Florida.

SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION DATES:

- Committee Review: August 2025
- Committee Recommendation to Board of Directors: August 27, 2025 (*tentative*)
- Public Awards Ceremony: September 25, 2025 (*tentative*)
- Anticipated Implementation Period: October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026
- Final Reports and Reimbursement Requests due by February 26, 2027

Introduction:

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) is pleased to announce the release of the 2025-2026 Community Grant Program funding opportunity. This program will fund action projects that serve to restore, preserve, connect, inform, and educate.

The 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 for sponsoring our legislative appropriation.

How to Apply:

Go to <https://www.ppbeb.org/what-we-do/communitygrants> to download a Voluntary Pre-Application and/or Full Application.

Voluntary Pre-Applications must be submitted to PPBEP (info@ppbeb.org) by 11:59 PM CT on April 1, 2025.

Full Applications must be submitted to PPBEP (info@ppbeb.org) by 11:59 PM CT on July 31, 2025.

Voluntary Pre-Application Process:

A Voluntary Pre-Application will give interested applicants an opportunity to receive feedback from PPBEP staff before the full application period opens for the 2025-2026 Community Grant Award Cycle. While submission of a Voluntary Pre-Application does not guarantee funding or selection, it can help applicants strengthen their proposal by incorporating staff feedback in their full application.

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 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 or development; 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; monitoring to fill data gaps.

(Examples: protection of seagrass beds; education on fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife monitoring)

Watershed Awareness and Education: Promote watershed awareness and environmental education by engaging all age groups and demographics; provide access to natural resources. *(Examples: programs that directly involve youth in solutions to bay problems; programs directed at disadvantaged youth, homeowner education around smart fertilizer use)*

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

(Examples: projects that address historical and/or persistent challenges in underserved communities related to water resources and/or local water quality; green infrastructure demonstration projects)

Participatory Science: Engage community members through hands-on 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

Participatory Science *(involvement of community members in scientific monitoring/research)*

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 (local mileage to complete project work is an allowable expense; lodging, air fare, per diem, etc. are not allowed).
- Contingency funds
- Fines and penalties
- Insurance
- Food and Drink
- Maintenance (funds cannot be used to supplant general operating and maintenance of equipment and facilities, e.g. vessels, vehicles, and trailer maintenance)
- Improvements not accessible to the general public

Selection Criteria:

CCMP Action Plan Alignment (20 points)

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

Project Approach (20 points)

Applicant should describe in detail the project scope of work, need, objectives, and deliverables. 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.

Specifically, the strength of the program will be evaluated on the organization and clarity of the proposal, likelihood that the project will be successfully implemented, and identification of clear metrics to assess progress.

Estuary/Watershed Impact (25 points)

Applicant should describe in detail the anticipated short-term and long-term impacts that the project will have on the estuary/watershed. These impacts should be quantified when feasible. Additionally, applicant should note if their project supports or enhances any ongoing or existing measures/initiatives to benefit the estuary/watershed.

Demonstration of Applicant Ability (10 points)

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 is also required.

Community Impact (15 points)

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 points)

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 and at least six members from the Program's Committees, 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 retains the discretion to consider past performance of grant recipients.

Any individual whose organization is a fiscal partner on a proposal (receives grant funding) is ineligible to serve on the Selection Committee. Any member serving on the Selection Committee whose organization is listed as a non-fiscal partner (partner that will not receive funding) will be recused from reviewing the proposal that they are a partner on and will be asked to leave the room during discussion of the associated project.

The Selection Committee will make a formal recommendation, by way of staff, to the Board of Directors for final approval of recommended proposals. Any applicant that lobbies the Board of Directors, Selection Committee, or Staff regarding their proposals will be disqualified.

Contact Us:

Inquiries about the 2025-2026 Community Grant Program can be emailed to info@ppbep.org.

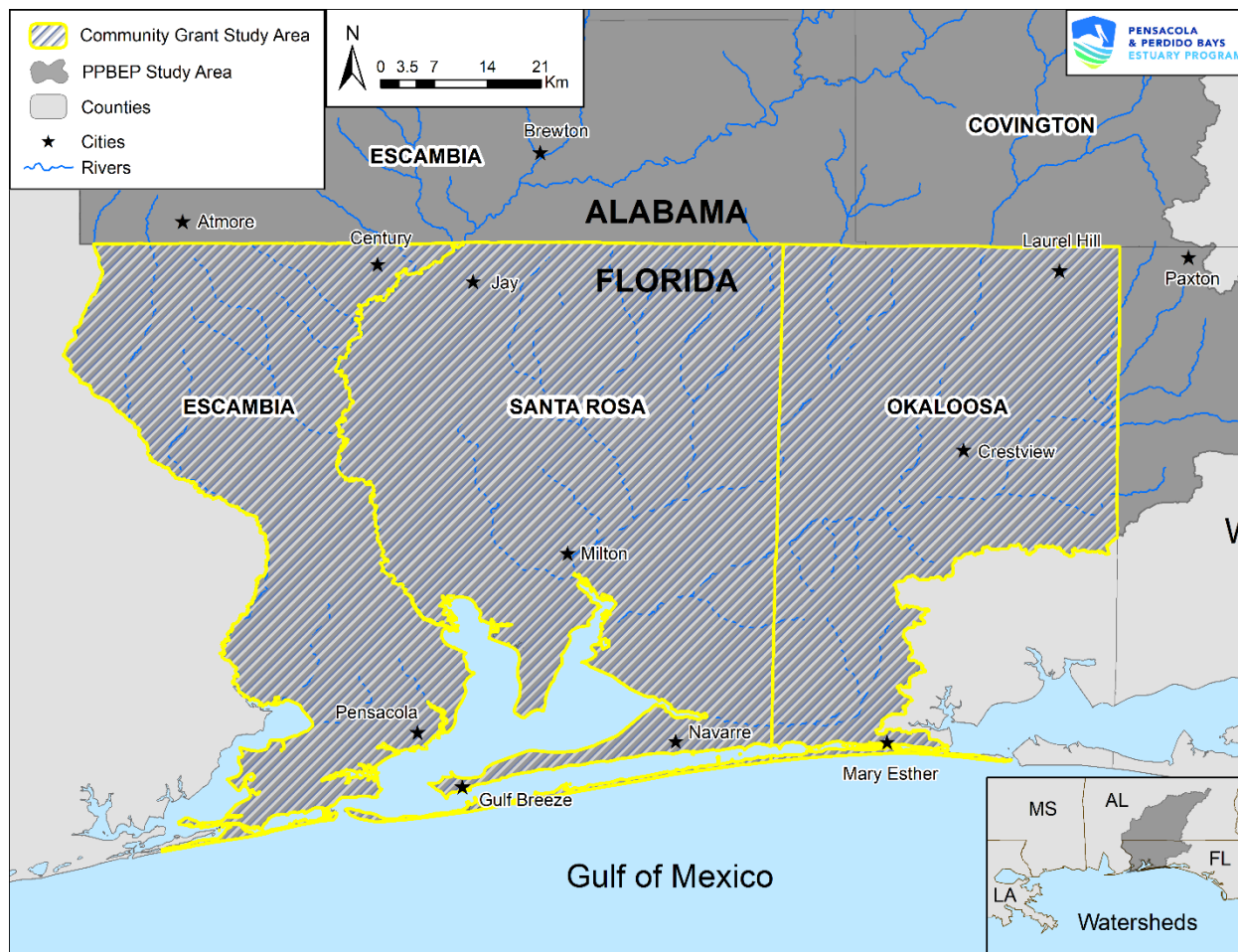


Figure 1: Projects located in the Pensacola or Perdido Bays Watersheds within Escambia, Santa Rosa, and/or Okaloosa counties are eligible