



Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program

Community Grant Program 2021-2022 Funding Opportunity



Opening: July 6, 2021

Closing: August 3, 2021

Award Range: \$10,000 to \$50,00 (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, 2022.

Schedule:

- Application Opening: July 6, 2021
- [Informational Webinar](#): July 13, 2021 at 3:00PM CT
- Application Closing: August 3, 2021
- Committee Review: August 25, 2021
- Committee Recommendation to Board: September 1, 2021
- Recipients Announced: September 24, 2021
- Anticipated Implementation Period: October 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

Introduction:

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program is pleased to announce the release of the 2021-2022 Community Grant Program funding opportunity. This program will fund action projects that serve to restore, preserve, connect, inform, and educate. The funding opportunity includes seven eligible project categories that support the Estuary Program's core vision.

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) is a stakeholder-driven, science-based organization charged with restoring and preserving the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System, 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 area waterways. Through these actions, PPBEP's vision is to create a healthy and sustainable environment, economy, and community.

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 Program's funding request.

How to Apply:

Go <https://www.ppbep.org/what-we-do/programs-and-projects/mini-grant-projects> to download an application. Applications must be submitted to Logan McDonald (lmcdonald@ppbep.org) by 11:59PM CDT on August 3, 2021.

Priority Consideration:

Priority consideration will be given to “shovel ready” action projects and projects that inform, engage, and educate the community. Projects that leverage funding will also receive priority consideration.

Proposal Categories:

Water Quality: Achieve water quality improvement in one or both bay systems to reduce nutrients, bacteria, and/or sedimentation.

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

Habitat Restoration: Restore and/or enhance native habitat to achieve a sustainable and healthy bay system.

(Examples: restoration of natural shorelines/enhancement of seawalls; 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 or green infrastructure.

(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.)

Research: Conduct research that directly informs management and restoration efforts

(Examples: assessment of fish communities on oyster reefs, water quality or sediment studies, habitat monitoring, etc.)

Citizen Science: Engage community members through hands-on citizen science to provide data on estuarine conditions.

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

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:**Project Approach (40)**

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 bay. 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 bay issues that result in the restoration, enhancement, 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 program 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. More 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 (seven members) comprised of one member of Estuary Program staff, three members of the Technical Committee and three members of the Education Committee, will review and rank submitted proposals based on the selection criteria outlined above. The Committee will make a formal recommendation, by way of staff, to the Board for approval of the shortlisted proposals.



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