

Funding Opportunities for Local Governments in Florida

State Funding Opportunities:

1. Resilient Florida Program

- Administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), this program provides grants for local governments to develop resilience plans and implement projects aimed at addressing the effects of sea-level rise, flooding, and extreme weather events.
- Focus Areas: Flood mitigation, resilience infrastructure, floodplain and wetland restoration.

2. Florida Communities Trust

- Provides funding to local governments and eligible nonprofits for acquiring parks, open spaces, beaches, and natural areas. Supports outdoor recreation and natural resource protection goals identified in local comprehensive plans. Requires a 25% local match, except for nonprofits and small governments (municipalities under 10,000 or counties under 75,000 population).
- Focus Areas: Land acquisition, restoration, conservation, and green space preservation.

3. Water Management District Grants

- Florida's five water management districts offer grants and cost-share programs to local governments for water-related projects, including floodplain restoration, stormwater management improvements, and resilience planning.
- Focus Areas: Flood mitigation, aquifer recharge, wetland restoration.

Federal Funding Opportunities:

1. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)

- Includes programs like the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). These provide grants for flood mitigation projects, including floodplain restoration and improved stormwater management.
- Focus Areas: Floodplain restoration, stormwater infrastructure upgrades, resilience planning.

2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Assistance to States

- Offers technical assistance and comprehensive plans that can address flood control, wetland restoration, and resilience projects. This option makes sense for large-scale floodplain and wetland restoration efforts and requires a 50% cost share.
- Focus Areas: Floodplain restoration, flood risk reduction, ecosystem restoration.

3. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grants

- Provides funding for projects that enhance resilience, restore coastal and wetland ecosystems, and improve flood management. Programs like the Coastal Resilience Fund are highly applicable for Florida.
- Focus Areas: Wetland restoration, flood resilience, wildlife habitat improvement.

4. Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

- Provides funding (from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) for disaster recovery projects that include flood control, infrastructure improvements, and wetland restoration following federally declared disasters. This federal funding is allocated to states or local governments after disasters. Advocates can work with local government to ensure they are prepared to take advantage of these funds when the need arises.
- Focus Areas: Post-disaster flood control and resilience.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

- Provides funding and technical assistance for flood prevention and watershed protection through programs like the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program.
- Focus Areas: Floodplain restoration, watershed management, disaster recovery.

6. NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants

- Offers funding for projects that enhance resilience to coastal flooding and sea-level rise, including wetland and floodplain restoration.
- Focus Areas: Coastal resilience, flood mitigation, ecosystem restoration.