



REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA) FOR DEFENSE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Project Year 2023-24

Bureau / Department

**Division of Economic Development
Florida Department of Commerce**

Program Name

Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program

Solicitation Number

COM 24-RFA-002-DIG

APPLICATION DEADLINE

November 27, 2023

5:00 PM, EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Released: October 5, 2023

Application Due Date: November 27, 2023

***Disclaimer – NOTE:** The receipt of applications in response to this grant opportunity does not imply or guarantee that any one or all qualified applicants will be awarded a grant from FloridaCommerce.*

This Grant opportunity is not a competitive solicitation subject to the notice or challenge provisions of Section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes.

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SECTION 1: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1.1 Overview

The program is administered by the Division of Economic Development (DED) within FloridaCommerce. The DED is issuing this Request for Application (RFA) to solicit grant applications from eligible applicants to support local infrastructure projects that benefit both the local community and the military installation. Infrastructure projects to be funded under this program include those related to encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security.

1.2 Program Authority

Section 288.980(5), F.S., establishes the Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program to support local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state, which benefit both the local community and the military installations. FloridaCommerce is authorized to award grants on a competitive basis to support activities related to the Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program.

1.3 Funding Purpose

FloridaCommerce announces the availability of FY 2023–2024 funds for eligible applicants to support local infrastructure projects that benefit both the local community and military installation. Infrastructure projects to be funded under this program include those related to encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security. **On-base military construction projects will not be funded.** If such funds are not appropriated or available for the stated purpose, such event will not constitute FloridaCommerce’s or the State’s default with respect to any prospective grant award or Agreement resulting from this solicitation.

1.4 Funding Priorities

Funding is anticipated to be provided pursuant to the FY 2023–2024 General Appropriations Act, to support local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state. Infrastructure projects must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- A.** Improve community and military infrastructure through the following types of projects: encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security.
- B.** Current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the United States Department of Defense’s total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness.
- C.** Availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace; including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas, and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in defense missions at existing military installations.
- D.** Ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving military installations to support operations and training. OR
- E.** Reducing the cost of operations and manpower implications.

1.5 Eligibility

Eligible Applicants must meet the minimum criteria set forth in s. 288.980(3)(c) and s. 288.980(5), F.S. Applicants will not be eligible to receive funding if: a. Applicant has more than three open DIG grants, or b. have an open agreement that has received more than two extensions. Eligible Applicants must:

- A.** Be an economic development applicant serving in the official capacity of a governing board of a county, municipality, special district, or state agency that will have the authority to maintain the project upon completion, and which represent a community or county in which a military installation is located.
- B.** Represent a local government with a military installation or military installations that could be adversely affected by federal actions.
- C.** Agree to match at least 30 percent of any grant awarded. The matching funds must be received from the identified sources and types indicated in the Project Budget. The term for the matching funds must be concurrent with the

Agreement period. Matching funds may consist of “cash contributions” or “in-kind contributions”, as defined in Section 4.3., Instructions for Preparation of the Application.

- D. Prepare a coordinated plan of action or scope of work delineating how the eligible project will be administrated and accomplished, which must include a plan for ensuring close cooperation between civilian and military authorities in the conduct of the funded activities and a plan for public involvement. If part of an existing strategic plan, a copy of the plan must be included with the Grant Application.
- E. Provide documentation describing the potential for changes to the mission of a military installation located in the Applicant’s community and the potential impacts such changes will have on the Applicant’s community.
- F. Provide all documentation and submission requirements as instructed by this RFA.

1.6 Solicitation Number

24-RFA-002-DIG

1.7 Maximum Funds Available

\$7,000,000.00

1.8 Matching Requirement

At least a 30 percent match of any grant awarded is required.

1.9 Type of Award

Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant (DIG) Grant

1.10 Grant Award Period

July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

Grant Agreement terms may be negotiated between FloridaCommerce and Applicant(s) considering the Applicant’s proposed project timeline and may be less than 36 months.

1.11 Use of Grant Funds

Allowable and unallowable expenditures are defined by one or more of the following:

- A. Program expenditures must be in accordance with the requirements of the State of Florida Reference Guide for State Expenditures (https://www.myfloridacfo.com/docs-sf/accounting-and-auditing-libraries/state-agencies/reference-guide-for-state-expenditures.pdf?sfvrsn=b4cc3337_2);
- B. Sections 112.061, 215.97, and 215.971, F.S.; and
- C. Other fiscal requirements set forth in program laws, rules, and regulations.

1.12 Funding Guidelines

Grant recipients may only be reimbursed for allowable project costs resulting from obligations incurred during the Agreement period. Activities for which state funds may **NOT** be spent include the following (this also applies to any subcontractors or consultants that are paid with Grant funds):

- A. Staff salaries;
- B. Purchase of equipment, furniture, or fixtures;
- C. Receptions, gifts, gift cards, awards, trophies, or membership dues;
- D. Lobbying any branch of state government;
- E. Administration of the project in excess of 10 percent of the Grant award;
- F. Project costs incurred related to the Agreement prior to its beginning date or after its ending date;
- G. Travel expenses not made pursuant to S. 112.061, F.S.;
- H. Business entertainment expenses, including meals or activity fees;
- I. Participation in trade shows, air shows, consultant events, and congressional delegations for more than three key staff members and/or officers of the prospective Grantee per activity;
- J. Participation in activities or events that are not located in the Continental United States (CONUS); and

K. On-base military construction projects.

1.13 Submission of Multiple Applications is PROHIBITED

An Applicant can be the prime Grant recipient for only one Application. An Applicant may be a supporting partner for another community's/organization's proposal.

1.14 Number of Awards

FloridaCommerce anticipates that multiple grant awards will be awarded pursuant to this solicitation. FloridaCommerce will determine the number of grant awards, at FloridaCommerce's sole and absolute discretion, based on the availability of funds and the quality of the submitted Applications. FloridaCommerce reserves the right to offer grant awards for less than the amount requested in the Applicants' Applications as FloridaCommerce deems is in the best interest of the State of Florida and FloridaCommerce. The receipt of proposals in response to this RFA does not imply or guarantee that any one or all proposals will be awarded a Grant. **Additionally, prior to the final offer of the Grant award, FloridaCommerce reserves the right to negotiate with Applicant all aspects of the Applicant's Application, including but not limited to, the scope of work and funding.**

Section 2: Timeline and Contact Information

2.1 Timeline

A. Listed below are the important actions and dates/times by which the actions must be taken or completed. If FloridaCommerce finds it necessary to change any of these dates/times, then FloridaCommerce will include such changes in a subsequently published addendum. The time referenced in the table below is Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Please note that any updates, addenda, and clarifications to this RFA will be posted as an addendum on FloridaCommerce's website at www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs. **It is the Applicant's responsibility to monitor FloridaCommerce's website at www.FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs for any RFA updates.**

Applications are due by 5:00 PM, EST, on Monday, November 27, 2023. Any application received after this time will be ineligible for consideration.

- i. Applications shall be submitted via email to: DefenseGrants@commerce.fl.gov;
- ii. The anticipated posting of awards will be within 30 days of the close of the application cycle.

2.2 Contact Information

Cory Strickland
Partnership Manager
Florida Department of Commerce
107 E. Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: 850-717-8984
Email: DefenseGrants@commerce.fl.gov

Website: <https://floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/military-community-programs/florida-defense-infra-structure-grant-program>

2.3 Notes

A. All work undertaken for this project is subject to public record requests including contract details and compensation.

- B. ALL EMAILS TO FloridaCommerce REGARDING THIS RFA MUST CONTAIN THE RFA NUMBER (24-RFA-002-DIG) IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL.**

SECTION 3: Program Requirements and Guidance

3.1 Questions

Applicants must submit their questions concerning this RFA via e-mail to: DefenseGrants@commerce.fl.gov and clearly identify the author of each e-mail. Each Applicant must carefully examine the specifications set forth in this solicitation with respect to the work to be performed. Communication with the evaluation committee members during the application cycle is strictly prohibited.

ORAL AND TELEPHONE INFORMATION

Oral and telephone information shall not bind FloridaCommerce. Applicants must not rely upon oral or telephone information. Applicants are strictly prohibited from discussing their application with any member of this RFA's Evaluation Team.

3.2 Submission of Applications

Applications must be in compliance with the instructions given herein. Applicants must submit their Applications to this RFA electronically to: DefenseGrants@commerce.fl.gov by the date and time specified in Section 2, part 2.1. Specific to this application cycle, if you have already submitted an application and been awarded, you may request additional funding, by submitted the documentation as required in Section 4.3.E.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE EXACT TIME SPECIFIED WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

3.3 Withdrawal of Applications

An Applicant may withdraw its submitted Application by e-mail request of same to FloridaCommerce no later than 72 hours (Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays excluded) after the Application's due date and time indicated in Section 2, Part 2.1. Any Application that expresses a shorter duration of validity may, in FloridaCommerce's sole and absolute discretion, be accepted or rejected.

3.4 Cost of Preparing Applicant's Application

FloridaCommerce is not liable for any costs Applicant incurred in responding to this RFA, including, but not limited to, those for oral presentations, if applicable.

3.5 Disclosure and Ownership of Applications by the Department

An Applicant's Application is a public record subject to the production, disclosure, inspection, and copy provisions of Chapter 119, F.S., and Section 24(a) Article I of the Florida Constitution. An Applicant's Application, upon submission, and any resulting Agreement therefrom shall be FloridaCommerce's property except with respect to those parts asserted with the formalities described in Section 3.6, Exemption from Disclosure as a Public Record, to be confidential or exempt pursuant to Chapter 119, F.S. FloridaCommerce, in FloridaCommerce's sole and absolute discretion, shall have the right to use, reproduce, and publish all Applications and Agreements.

Pursuant to S. 215.985(14), F.S., the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS), has developed a web-based system that provides information and documentation about government agreements called the "Florida Accountability Contract Tracking System" or "FACTS." All or parts of the Applications to this solicitation may become published on FACTS as attachments to subsequently executed agreements.

3.6 Exemption from Disclosure as a Public Record

Applicants must submit Applications' contents which are asserted to be exempted by law from disclosure as a public record on a page or pages separately from the rest of the Applications' submissions, and must clearly mark each such alleged exempted parts "exempt," "confidential," or "trade secret" (as applicable), including the statutory basis for each

such claim of exemption specifically identified in writing on each and every such page by an authorized representative of the Applicant's organization with legal authority to make this determination on behalf of the Applicant. Failure to segregate and so identify any such content shall constitute a waiver of any claimed exemption as applied to the portion of the Application submission or other document in which the content is set forth. Concurrently, Applicant must provide FloridaCommerce with a separate redacted copy of its Application clearly titled "Redacted Copy," containing FloridaCommerce's solicitation name, number, and the name of the Applicant. **If Applicant fails to submit a Redacted Copy with its Application, FloridaCommerce is authorized to produce the entire document(s), data or records submitted by Applicant in answer to a public records request.**

Any claim of exemption from public disclosure is waived upon submission, unless documented as set forth above. FloridaCommerce will attempt to afford protection from disclosure of any trade secret as defined in s. 812.081, F.S., or s. 688.002, F.S., where identified as such in the reply, to the extent permitted under s. 815.045, F.S., or s. 288.075, F.S., and Chapter 119, F.S. Each Applicant acknowledges that the protection afforded by s. 815.045, F.S., is incomplete, and hereby agrees that by submitting its Application no remedy for damages may arise from any disclosure by FloridaCommerce.

By submitting its Application, Applicant shall protect, defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless, FloridaCommerce from any and all claims, demands, liabilities and suits of any nature arising out of, because of, or due to failure of FloridaCommerce to release information redacted by the Applicant, and to further indemnify FloridaCommerce for any other loss FloridaCommerce incurs due to any claim being made against FloridaCommerce regarding portions of its Redacted Copy being confidential, proprietary, trade secret or otherwise not subject to disclosure.

3.7 Type of Agreement Contemplated

Applicants should anticipate that all Agreements awarded hereunder will be paid on a cost-reimbursement basis. FloridaCommerce reserves the right, in FloridaCommerce's sole and absolute discretion, to award another type of Agreement if doing so will be most advantageous to FloridaCommerce and the State of Florida, price and other factors considered.

3.8 Application Acceptance Period

FloridaCommerce intends to execute the Agreement(s) as soon as practicable after posting of FloridaCommerce's award decision. FloridaCommerce, at FloridaCommerce's sole and absolute discretion, may rescind FloridaCommerce's award to Applicant and terminate discussions with Applicant(s) if Applicant does not sign the proposed agreement within 60 days after the receipt of the proposed agreement.

3.9 Laws and Permits

Applicants should anticipate they will be required to comply with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, regulations and codes whenever work is being performed under resulting Agreements, and Applicants shall have the obligation to obtain and maintain all permits and licenses for the duration of the Agreements.

3.10 Vendor Registration

Applicants should anticipate that, prior to entering into an Agreement with FloridaCommerce, the selected Applicant will be required to register with the Florida Department of Management Services' (DMS) MyFloridaMarketPlace Vendor Registration System. Information about the registration process is available at the MyFloridaMarketPlace website at http://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp_vendors/requirements_for_vendor_registration. Applicants who do not have Internet access may request assistance from MyFloridaMarketPlace Customer Services at (866) 352-3776.

The following DMS Class/Group codes pertinent to vendor registration are provided below:

80101504, Strategic planning consultation services

92111905, Military Relations

92112300, Military Bases

92101503, Community Outreach

A list of Commodity Codes can be found here:

https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/commodity_codes

3.11 Florida Department of State Registration Requirements

All entities identified under Chapters 607, 617, 620, 621 and 865, F.S., shall be appropriately registered with the Florida Department of State prior to entering into an Agreement with FloridaCommerce.

3.12 Conflict of Interest

Each Applicant upon filing its Application represents and warrants that it presently has no interest in and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner of degree with the performance of the services required to be performed under any Agreement resulting from this solicitation. Applicants should anticipate that each Grantee is required to provide written notification to FloridaCommerce within five business days of the discovery of a potential conflict of interest under any Agreement. FloridaCommerce shall have final and absolute authority to determine whether a conflict of interest exists.

3.13 Submittal Requirements

Applicants shall submit one complete, electronic copy of the signed original Grant Application, including all required attachments and documentation, compiled into a single file, and transmitted via e-mail as required in Section 3.2., Submission of Applications. The original shall be labeled “Original Grant Application.” The software used to produce the electronic files must be Adobe Acrobat version 6 or newer. The electronic files must be logically named and clearly distinguishable from each other.

If the Applicant fails to submit the signed copy of its original Grant Application, as a courtesy, FloridaCommerce may contact the Applicant by telephone for submission of this document via e-mail. FloridaCommerce may do so, at FloridaCommerce’s sole and absolute discretion, only when the Application has satisfied all other requirements of the solicitation.

As more particularly detailed in Section 3.6, Exemption from Disclosure as a Public Record, if Applicant considers any portion of its Grant Application to be confidential, the Applicant shall **also** submit one electronic **redacted** copy of the Application suitable for release to the public, transmitted via e-mail as required in Section 4, Application Submission Requirements. Any confidential or trade secret information should either be redacted or completely removed in full compliance with Section 3, Part 3.6, Applicant’s Duties to Assert Exemption from Disclosure as a Public Record, above. The redacted copy shall be labeled “Redacted Copy”, must include the statutory basis for each asserted exemption, and must include a transmittal letter authorizing release of the redacted version of the Application if FloridaCommerce receives a public records request.

3.14 Records Retention

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to retain all financial and program records in an auditable manner. Records must be made available to the FloridaCommerce, Florida Department of Financial Services, the Florida Auditor General, or their designees.

Records must be maintained for five (5) years from the last activity of the program or longer if there is an ongoing investigation or audit.

Section 4: Application Submission Requirements

4.1 Definitions

- **Activity:** Defined as studies, presentations, analyses, plans, and modeling, as well as construction, land purchases, and easements. Activity(ies) can also be defined, as related to this RFA, as deliverables.

- **Agreement:** A written agreement between FloridaCommerce and the Grantee, including all documents, exhibits and attachments specifying services to be performed or provided by the Grantee, billing rates for these services and the manner in which the Grantee shall be reimbursed for these services, which shall be executed by both the Grantee and FloridaCommerce.
- **Agreement Manager:** A person designated by FloridaCommerce who is charged with monitoring an Agreement through the term of the agreement and who is specifically responsible for enforcing performance of the Agreement terms and conditions, and maintaining all financial information; i.e., payment history, payment method, payment tracking, etc. The Agreement Manager serves as the liaison between FloridaCommerce and the Grantee regarding performance issues pertaining to the Agreement.
- **Applicant:** The person or entity applying in response to this RFA.
- **Application:** The offer extended to FloridaCommerce in response to this RFA.
- **FloridaCommerce:** Florida Department of Commerce.
- **FloridaCommerce Business Hours:** 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM (EST), Monday through Friday, during which time FloridaCommerce conducts routine business.
- **FloridaCommerce Non-Business Hours:** FloridaCommerce-observed holidays, weekends, and evening time frames during which FloridaCommerce is closed to conducting routine business.
- **FloridaCommerce-Observed Holidays:** FloridaCommerce currently observes the following holidays. If any of these holidays fall on a Saturday, then the preceding Friday is observed. If any of these holidays fall on a Sunday, then the following Monday is observed.
 - New Year's Day
 - Martin Luther King Day
 - Memorial Day
 - Independence Day
 - Labor Day
 - Veteran's Day
 - Thanksgiving Day and the following day
 - Christmas Day
- **Diversification:** The process of leveraging civilian infrastructure and services to enable a more capable installation and/or modernized manufacturing/defense industrial base ecosystem; and to transition the defense entity's core capabilities into commercial and non-Department of Defense government markets.
- **Grantee:** The person or entity that enters into an Agreement to provide contractual services to FloridaCommerce.
- **Grantee's Personnel:** Persons directly employed by the Grantee.
- **Invoice:** Grantee's itemized document stating prices and quantities of goods and/or services delivered and sent to FloridaCommerce for verification and payment.
- **Project Manager:** FloridaCommerce's staff member(s), manager(s), grantee(s) or consultant(s) with overall responsibility and authority to oversee the contractual services being performed or provided by the Grantee for FloridaCommerce as described in the Agreement.

- **Project Timeline:** A timeline of the project to include start to finish. The starting point may include initial procurement or solicitation of a contractor or subcontractor, or the permitting process. The finish point will mean completion of the project.
- **Subcontractor:** A person or entity contracting to perform part of another's entire Agreement, upon FloridaCommerce's approval; also referred to as subgrantee.
- **Subgrantee:** A person or entity contracting to perform part of another's entire Agreement, upon FloridaCommerce's approval; also referred to as subcontractor.
- **Written Notice:** Written Notice is herein defined as notice in writing, signed and may be an e-mail notice of the original.

4.2 Application Format

The Application shall be prepared by each Applicant utilizing 8.5 inch x 11 inch paper and at least an 11-point font size or larger. The Application, including attachments, submitted electronically, shall not exceed 40, single-sided, pages in length. Applicants are advised that it is not necessary to file Applications with elaborate brochures and artwork, expensive paper and bindings, or other costly visual presentation aids. It is necessary, however, that Applications be filed in complete accordance with the instructions herein.

4.3 Instructions for Preparation of the Application

The instructions for this RFA are designed to help ensure that all Applications are reviewed and evaluated in a consistent manner, as well as to minimize costs and application time. If the specific instructions of this RFA are not followed as listed, your application may not be received or be eligible for review.

The requirements listed below are mandatory for each submitted Application to be considered for review:

Applicants must prepare Applications with the following sections, tabbed for ease of identification and review, and in the order outlined below:

A. Cover Letter

The Cover Letter must include the following information:

- i. RFA Title and Number;
- ii. Due Date of the Application;
- iii. Include the following statement: "By virtue of submission, (the Proposer) declares that all information provided is true and correct and hereby affirm that the authorized representative has authority to bind the applicant."; and
- iv. Original or electronic signature of a representative who is authorized to contractually bind the Applicant.
- v. If requesting additional funding to an awarded FY 2023-2024 grant, you must provide a justification of the need for additional funding.

If an Applicant fails to submit a signed transmittal cover letter with its Application, FloridaCommerce may, at FloridaCommerce's sole and absolute discretion, consider the applicant ineligible for review. **Please note that, in the event the Applicant submits an Application as a joint venture, each member of the joint venture must complete and sign a separate Transmittal Cover Letter.**

- B. **Table of Contents:** The Table of Contents must contain section headings and subheadings along with corresponding page numbers.

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C. Applicant Information: This section must be completed in its entirety.

The Applicant's Application must contain the following information in the format specified below:

1. **Project Title:**
2. **RFA Title and Number:**
3. **County(ies) and Bases/Installation(s) Affected:**
4. **Applicant Legal Name and Contact Information**
 - a. Organization Name:
 - b. Federal Tax Identification Number:
 - c. Mailing Address (including city, state, zip):
 - d. Contact Information (including telephone number and e-mail):
5. **Primary Responsible Contact Information**
 - a. Name:
 - b. Title:
 - c. Mailing Address (including city, state, zip):
 - d. Contact Information (including telephone number and e-mail):
6. **Secondary Responsible Contact Information**
 - a. Name:
 - b. Title:
 - c. Mailing Address (including city, state, zip):
 - d. Contact Information (including telephone number and e-mail):
7. **Applicant's Grant Manager Information**
 - a. Name of Grant Manager:
 - b. Title:
 - c. Mailing Address (including city, state, zip):
 - d. Contact Information (including telephone, fax, e-mail):
8. **Category of the Proposed Project (select all that apply)**
 Encroachment Transportation and Access Utilities Communications
 Housing Environment Security
9. **Project Role of the Applicant**
Is the Applicant an economic development organization serving in the official capacity of a governing board of a county, municipality, special district, or state agency which will have the authority and responsibility to maintain the project upon completion?
 Yes | No
10. **Other Funding**
Does the project relate to other local, state, or federal budgets?
 Yes | No
 - a. If yes, what?

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D. Project Description: This section must be completed in its entirety.

- i. **Executive Description:** The Applicant must provide, in a few sentences, a description which outlines the project purpose, approach and methodology to be employed. The Applicant must provide a brief summary describing how each of the activities listed will benefit the military installation and surrounding community and illustrate how the methodology will serve to accomplish the project requirements and meet the proposed project schedule.

| Executive Description |
|------------------------------|
| |

- ii. **Economic Impact Statement:** A description of the positive economic impact the proposed infrastructure project will have on the local military value of the installation and surrounding community.

| Economic Impact Statement |
|----------------------------------|
| |

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- iii. **Plan of Action:** Provide in one to two sentences a response to the items below.
(If additional space is needed, attach a PDF document with your entire answer)

| Plan of Action | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a. | How will this project benefit both the local community and the military installation? |
| a. | What is the community's commitment and support for the proposed plan of action and the interaction between the Applicant, local government, local economic development organization, local military facilities, and the public? |
| b. | How will the project improve community and military infrastructure through the following types of projects: encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security? |
| c. | What are the current mission capabilities of the installation(s) and surround community(ies)? |
| d. | What is the impact on operational readiness of the U.S. Department of Defense's total force including the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness? |
| e. | What, if any, is the potential for changes to the mission of the military installation and the potential impacts such changes will have on the local community? |
| f. | What is the availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace; including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas, and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in defense missions at existing military installations? |
| g. | What is the ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving military installations to support operations and training? |

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| |
| <p>h. How will the project reduce the cost of operations and manpower implications?</p> |
| <p>i. How will the project connect to a broader economic development vision of the community and military installation and benefit additional current tor future businesses?</p> |

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- iv. **Project Timeline:** The Applicant must provide a project schedule, which includes ALL projected milestones and final completion dates for each identified activity to support the budget provided in Section 4.3, Part E, to include:
 - a. Proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete the project;
 - b. What permits are necessary for the commencement and/or completion of the project; and
 - c. Whether or not this project is ready to commence upon grant award approval and contract execution.

| Project Timeline |
|------------------|
| |

E. Application Scope of Work and Budget: This section must be completed in its entirety.

The Applicant must include a completed copy of each requirement requested in this RFA, within their initial Application. Application attachments and appendices should be kept to a minimum. If you have already been awarded for a grant in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, you may request additional funding for your project. **In order to request additional funding, you must submit updated versions of every financial table in this RFA, the Scope of Work, the Deliverables table, and provided in the cover letter a justification of the need for additional funding.**

Each Applicant must include the following mandatory documents for Evaluation as Attachments to the Application using the Attachments’ titles referenced below.

- i. Prepare a coordinated plan of action or scope of work delineating how the eligible project will be administrated and accomplished, which must include a plan for ensuring close cooperation between civilian and military authorities in the conduct of the funded activities and a plan for public involvement. If part of an existing strategic plan, a copy of the plan must be included with the Grant Application;
- ii. **Estimated Project Budget** –Applicant must submit an estimated budget for each cost associated with the proposed project. If the project is expected to be phased through multiple years, break out each phase and the associated costs. Administrative Costs shall be limited to no more than 10% of any grant issued pursuant to s. 288.980(7), F.S. All proposed costs for the project activities described in the Application are required to be presented in a line-item budget format that is accompanied by a budget narrative that supports, justifies, and clarifies the various line items. Any costs provided in the “Other” category must be specified.

| Phase | Cost |
|------------------------|------|
| Design and Engineering | \$ |
| Permitting | \$ |
| Construction | \$ |
| Other (Specify) | \$ |
| Total: | |

iii. Matching Funds Criteria and Documentation

The Applicant must agree to match at least 30 percent of any grant awarded. Match documentation must include firm amounts and sources of local match; references to anticipated or expected matching funds availability will not be accepted. Matching funds demonstrate support for the proposed project’s compliance with s. 288.980(3)(c)2, F.S.

Matching funds contribution may either be cash or in-kind services:

- a. **“Cash Contributions”** may include cash contributions from the Applicant as well as cash contributions from outside sources that are: directly applied to the proposed project activities, directly support the proposed project through acquiring materials and supplies, buying equipment, paying for staff time used to work on the proposed project activities, and paying expenses such as travel, telephone, postage, or printing.

- b. “In-Kind Contributions” may include: the reasonable value of the partial use of equipment, software, or staff from other divisions of the Applicant or from participating partners; the reasonable rental value of office space; or the reasonable value of volunteer time and expenses, calculated based on the value of the work done, and not the amount charged in the performance of the volunteer’s normal occupation. For this purpose, the value of volunteer time shall be deemed not to exceed \$40 per hour.

A greater match amount will result in the awarding of bonus points, which will positively impact the scoring criteria.

| Match Contributing Entity | Type of Contribution (Cash/In-Kind) | Amount Contributed |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Federal | | \$ |
| State | | \$ |
| Local | | \$ |
| Private | | \$ |
| Revenue Bonds | | \$ |
| Other (Specify) | | \$ |

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iv. **Scope of Work**

- i. The Applicant must submit a Scope of Work to cover the anticipated Agreement period. The applicant must provide, for each deliverable, a title and brief description of what the activity will accomplish.
 - a. List ALL proposed deliverables and defined objectives for each; and
 - b. If the proposed Application is a continuation of work completed through previously funded grant opportunities, describe the previous outcomes and how the continuation directly relates to the previous work completed.
- ii. This section should have sufficient detail to allow FloridaCommerce to understand precisely what the Applicant will do for each individual task that will be a part of the project, when they will do it, how they will do it, for whom they will do it, by whom it will be done, where it will take place, what impact the funding will have, etc. Failure to provide specificity about the scope of the project may result in significant delays, or non-award.

| Deliverable & Task Title What is the specific title of the task? What is the specific title of the deliverable? | Description What will be accomplished? What services/tasks will be provided? | Deliverable/What will be submitted to show completion of the task? What will need to be done to complete the project? | Cost of Activity |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Task: | | | |
| Deliverable 1: | | | \$ |
| Deliverable 2: | | | \$ |
| Task: | | | |
| Deliverable 3: | | | \$ |
| Deliverable 4: | | | \$ |
| Task: | | | |
| Deliverable 5: | | | \$ |
| Deliverable 6: | | | \$ |
| | | | Total: \$ |

v. Financial Summary

The Applicant must prepare and submit an itemized program budget, which includes the following:

- a. A detailed line-item breakdown of anticipated expenses and expenditures for both the local match and state funds.
- b. Breakout of activities in funding categories and specific activities.
- c. Correlate activities to the plan of action.
- d. Cover only the anticipated Agreement period.
- e. Due to the increase in funds, there is no limit on the amount you may apply for. Please note that your requested amount may be subject to negotiations.

Only cost allocations under the terms of this solicitation and applicable State cost principles shall be included in the budget. All requested costs must be reasonable and necessary.

| Budget Category | Local Program/Match Expenditures Grantee | State of Florida DIG Expenditures | Total Program Expenditures |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Task/Purchase: | | | |
| Deliverable 1: | | | |
| Deliverable 2: | | | |
| Task/Purchase: | | | |
| Deliverable 3: | | | |
| Deliverable 4: | | | |
| Task/Purchase: | | | |
| Deliverable 5: | | | |
| Deliverable 6: | | | |
| Total: | | | |

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vii. Signatures

In accordance with s. 288.980(5), F.S., grant requests will be accepted only from economic development applicants that will have the authority to maintain the project upon completion. The Applicant, Base Commander, and Local Economic Development Official must complete this section, as it is related to the proposed project specified in the submitted Grant Application.

Applicant

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| By | _____ |
| | Signature |
| | _____ |
| | Printed Name |
| Title | _____ |
| Date | _____ |

Base Commander (or Designee)

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| By | _____ |
| | Signature |
| | _____ |
| | Printed Name |
| Title | _____ |
| Date | _____ |

Local Economic Development Official (or Designee)

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| By | _____ |
| | Signature |
| | _____ |
| | Printed Name |
| Title | _____ |
| Date | _____ |

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F. Addenda

Proposal Applications to this RFA must include the following documents and certifications:

- i. Qualification Questions (Attachment 1);
- ii. Certified Minority Business Enterprise Certification (CMBE); if applicable. Attach a copy of the organization's CMBE Certification, if certified with DMS;
- iii. Map(s) of the property(ies) or project site(s), to include parcel identification number(s);
- iv. Copy of an existing local, county, or military installation strategic plan;
- v. Letters of support for the project, if applicable.

4.4 Terms and Conditions

All Applications are subject to the terms and conditions of the sections of this solicitation. In case of conflict among such terms and conditions, then the Special Instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Applications shall have precedence over the Applicant's Grant Application.

An Applicant's Application's additional terms and conditions shall have no legal significance and shall not supersede FloridaCommerce's terms and conditions. By submitting its Application, an Applicant agrees with the immediately preceding sentence. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this solicitation, including but not limited to, the failure to provide mandatory information to be included in each Application, shall be grounds for rejecting an Application.

All work shall be performed in accordance with this RFA and any Agreement resulting from this solicitation.

4.5 Employment of FloridaCommerce Personnel

The Applicant shall not knowingly engage, on a full or part-time basis, any personnel who are in the employment of FloridaCommerce, without prior written approval of FloridaCommerce.

Further, the Applicant shall not knowingly engage any former employee of FloridaCommerce where such employment conflicts with s. 112.3185, Florida Statutes, titled "Additional standards for state agencies employees."

4.6 Applicant's Responsibility

The Applicant hereby agrees to be solely responsible for obtaining all materials and determining the best methods that will be utilized to meet the intent of the requirements of this solicitation.

4.7 Strict Enforcement

FloridaCommerce reserves the right to enforce strict compliance with any requirement of this solicitation.

Section 5: Evaluation and Award

5.1 RFA Process

The RFA process consists of four sequential phases: 1) Application Preparation; 2) Completeness Check; 3) Evaluation; and 4) Negotiation, as further delineated below.

- A. In the Application Preparation Phase**, the Applicants will prepare and submit an Application to FloridaCommerce based on the requirements identified in Section 4, Application Submission Requirements, of this RFA and any addenda to the RFA.
- B. In the Completeness Check Phase**, FloridaCommerce will review the Applications received to determine whether the Applications are substantially complete. This step will address whether: the required forms are present and properly signed; the Application appears to have addressed the grant Application contents required; and there is not an easily discernible or obvious error that may be promptly corrected. Should such an error be detected, FloridaCommerce, in FloridaCommerce's sole discretion, may notify

the Applicant, and the Applicant will have two workdays to take corrective action to adjust the Application. During the correction period, the Applicant is permitted to only take action to correct completeness errors cited by FloridaCommerce and not to supplement its application by adding material for any other purpose. FloridaCommerce is under no obligation to detect and/or offer the opportunity for completeness and/or correction. FloridaCommerce's election to offer this opportunity should not, and does not, give rise to an expectation that the Application is correct and complete. Applicant is solely responsible for completing the corrective measures and ensuring their receipt by FloridaCommerce.

- C. In the Evaluation Phase**, an evaluation team will evaluate and score the Applications according to the evaluation criteria published in Section 5, Evaluation and Award, of this RFA.
- D. In the Negotiation Phase**, negotiations will be conducted according to the negotiation methodology published in Section 5.3, Negotiations, of this RFA. The ranking of Applicants' Applications will not create a presumption of preference in the negotiation process or for any prospective award or Agreement resulting from this solicitation.

5.2 Evaluation Criteria

A. General

- i. Applications will be scored on the following criteria:
 - a. Military value;
 - b. Project probability;
 - c. Dual military/community benefit;
 - d. New missions;
 - e. Resiliency; and
 - f. Efficiency
- ii. FloridaCommerce reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Applications received and reserves the right to make an award without further discussion or evaluation of the Applications submitted;
- iii. An incomplete Application includes, but is not limited to, one which:
 - a. Fails to comply with any statutory requirements;
 - b. Does not materially conform with the requirements and instructions contained herein;
 - c. Fails to utilize or complete prescribed forms; or
 - d. Has improper or undated signatures.
- iv. In determining whether an Applicant is responsible, FloridaCommerce may consider any information or evidence which comes to its attention and which reflects upon an Applicant's capability to fully perform any resulting Agreement requirements and/or the Applicant's demonstration of the level of integrity and reliability which FloridaCommerce determines to be required to assure performance of any resulting Agreement. FloridaCommerce may deem the Applicant as non-responsible.

B. Criteria

See Attachment 2 – Evaluation Criteria

C. Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee will consist of one member from each of the following: FloridaCommerce, The Florida Defense Support Task Force, and The Florida Defense Alliance.

To ensure uniform ratings, committee members will evaluate grant Applications utilizing the evaluation criteria in Attachment 2. Each member will perform independent evaluations per each Application.

5.3 Negotiations

FloridaCommerce reserves the right to negotiate with selected Applicants all aspects of the Applicant's Application, including but not limited to, the scope of work and funding prior to any prospective final offer of the Grant award. Negotiations may continue with selected Applicants until acceptable Agreement terms are agreed upon, or it is determined that an acceptable Agreement cannot be reached.

5.4 Award

Upon completion of the negotiations process, if applicable, the Negotiation Team will reach a consensus on which Applicant(s) it believes offers the best value to the State and recommend award(s) accordingly. Upon consideration of the recommendation, the Secretary of FloridaCommerce, or a duly authorized designee, shall make the award decision. FloridaCommerce reserves the right to award any or all parts of the solicitation to a single or multiple Applicants.

Grant awardees will be notified in writing by FloridaCommerce.

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**ATTACHMENT 1
QUALIFICATION QUESTIONS**

Applicant must submit a Yes/No response to the following Qualification Questions. Applicants are to meet the qualifications identified in the following Qualification Questions in order to be considered responsive. **FloridaCommerce will not evaluate Applications from Applicants who answer “No” to any of the Qualification Questions, following the RFA Completeness Check.**

| Number | Qualification Questions | Yes | No |
|--------|---|-----|----|
| 1. | Does the Applicant certify that the person submitting the Application is authorized to respond to this RFA on Applicant’s behalf? | | |
| 2. | Does the Applicant certify that it is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Section List, created pursuant to Section 215.473, F.S., or engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria? | | |
| 3. | Does the Applicant certify that it is not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, created pursuant to Section 215.4725, F.S., or engaged in a boycott of Israel? | | |
| 4. | Does the Applicant certify that it meets the criteria of an Eligible Applicant as defined in Section 288.980(5), F.S? | | |
| 5. | Does the Applicant certify that the proposal Application does <u>NOT</u> include on-base military construction projects? | | |
| 6. | Does the applicant have more than three open DIG grants? | | |
| 7. | Does the applicant have an open DIG grant that has been extended two or more times? | | |

*Authorized Representative’s Signature

*Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

*This individual must have the authority to bind the Applicant.

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**ATTACHMENT 2
EVALUATION CRITERIA**

All Applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on community need, commitment, previous performance, and proposed actions in accordance with the following criteria:

| EVALUATION CRITERIA (New Applications) | MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Applicant provided an eligible project per the requirements of s. 288.980, F.S.; | 10 |
| 2. Applicant prepared a coordinated plan of action or scope of work delineating how the eligible project will be administered and accomplished; | 10 |
| 3. Applicant provided a clear description and explanation of the proposed tasks and deliverables expected to be completed in the proposed project; | 10 |
| 4. Applicant provided documentation describing the potential changes to the mission of its local military installation(s) and the potential impacts such changes will have on the local community; | 10 |
| 5. Applicant agreed to match at least 30% of any grant awarded, based on the match documentation provided; | 10 |
| 6. Project provides value to both the local community and the military installation; | 5 |
| 7. Project provides a description on the current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the United States Department of Defense's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness; | 5 |
| 8. Project will improve the military installation and relative importance to the overall mission; | 5 |
| 9. Project enables the base to better accommodate contingency, mobilization, resiliency, and future total force requirements; | 5 |
| 10. Project supports the military installations efforts in encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security; | 5 |
| 11. The plan of action or scope of work is cost effective and reasonable to the provided deliverables and tasks to be completed; | 5 |
| 12. Project provides a local economic benefit to the community; | 5 |
| 13. Project has a reasonable estimated length of time for completion; | 5 |
| 14. Applicant provided letters in support of the project. | 5 |
| Bonus: Matching Funds Proposed Greater Than 30 Percent | |
| • 81 – 100% | 5 |
| • 56 – 80% | 3 |
| • 31 – 55% | 2 |
| Total Possible Points | 100 |

| EVALUATION CRITERIA (Additional Funding Request) | MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Applicant's request for additional funds is cost effective and reasonable to the updated scope of work. | 20 |
| 2. Applicant provided an updated budget to match the additional funds request. | 20 |
| 3. Applicant agreed to match at least 30% of any grant awarded, based on the match documentation provided. | 20 |
| 4. Applicant provided an updated plan of action or scope of work. | 20 |
| 5. Applicant's request for additional funds provides a local economic benefit to the community. | 20 |
| Total Possible Points | 100 |

**ATTACHMENT 3
APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

To ensure that your Application can be accepted, please be sure the following items are completed and enclosed. This checklist is provided merely for the convenience of the Applicant and may not be relied upon in lieu of the instructions or requirements of this solicitation.

Check off each of the following:

- ___ 1. The Transmittal Cover Letter has been completed, signed by authorized representative, and enclosed in the Application.
- ___ 2. The Qualification Questions (Attachment 1) have been completed as required in this solicitation, signed by an authorized representative, and enclosed in the Application.
- ___ 3. The Grant Application has been completed, in its entirety as required by this RFA; reviewed for accuracy; signed by an authorized representative; and all attachments have been enclosed in the Application.
- ___ 4. The Certified Minority Business Enterprise Certificate (CMBE) has been attached, if applicable.
- ___ 5. The electronic, signed, original application must be received, at the location specified, prior to the Application due date and time designated in the RFA document.
- ___ 6. The Applicant shall submit one electronic, signed, original grant Application titled "Original Grant Application."
- ___ 7. If Applicant considers any portion of its Grant Application to be confidential, the Applicant shall submit one electronic, signed, redacted copy of the Application titled "Redacted Copy."

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