



## **Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal**

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed.

### **Governmental Entity Information**

Name of Governmental Entity: Okeechobee Utility Authority

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: ██████████

#### **Contact Information:**

Primary Contact Name: John Creasman

Title: Chairman, Okeechobee Utility Authority

Mailing Address: 100 SW 5th Avenue  
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Phone Number: 863-763-9460

Email: johnc@candblivescan.com

### **Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility**

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible governmental entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. (View Florida's [Targeted Industries here.](#))
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public.



**1. Program Requirements:**

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

A. Provide the title and a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.

Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) Eastern Expansion of Sewer Lines to assist in attracting new commercial and industrial companies into the area. Currently, OUA east side infrastructure is limited: Please see attached Force Main maps

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B. Is this infrastructure owned by the public?

Yes       No

C. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?

Yes       No

D. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity?

Yes       No

E. Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

These improvements will help expand the future Commercial/Industrial use areas on the east side of Okeechobee County allowing for growth, jobs, higher wages, workforce housing and increased revenues for the County. Our current projections indicate our growth will be focused on this area.

Please see attached maps showing designated potential Commercial/Industrial properties. Being able to provide affordable sewer connections to these properties makes them much more appealing to prospective companies and will enable Okeechobee County to prosper when new companies come into this area.

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F. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;
- Economic diversification; or
- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry (View Florida's [Targeted Industries here.](#))
  - As part of this response, describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include a description of the number of jobs that will be retained or created, the average wages of such jobs, and in which industry(ies) the jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or grow jobs or make capital investment.
  - Further, include the economic impact on the community, region, or state and the associated metrics used to measure the success of the proposed project.

If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

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The addition of new commercial and industrial companies seeking properties in Okeechobee County will spur excellent job producing wages in excess of \$15 an hour. Companies focused in light and heavy manufacturing such as Bio-Char Technology, Pure Algae Growth Systems, LM Heavy Civil, MRM Manufacturing and Steel Homes Manufacturing forecast approximately 600 new, high skilled jobs. This expected growth will greatly increase capital investments, property and sales taxes as well as increasing monies spent locally by residents making good wages. Quality of life benefits will also increase as the County governments gain the funds needed for improved transportation and infrastructure, recreational facilities and other required services demanded by this new growth. Okeechobee County provides for unlimited opportunities to accommodate diverse industries regardless of size and scale.



**2. Additional Information:**

A. Is this project an expansion of an existing infrastructure project?

Yes  No

B. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.

Commencing within six months of approval of grant, 18-24 months construction.

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C. What is the location of the public infrastructure? (Provide the road number, if applicable.)

East side of Okeechobee County extending from NE 39th Blvd to Highway 441SE.

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D. Who is responsible for maintenance and upkeep? (Indicate if more than one are applicable.)

Federal  State  County  City  Other OUA

E. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?

Okeechobee County, South Florida Water Management District, FDOT and FDEP.

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F. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?

All permits will be obtained prior to the start of construction after acceptance of DEO grant.

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G. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?

Please see overlay maps attached

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H. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

Yes  No

If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

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I. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

All engineering and planning has been completed and is ready to go.

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J. Does this project have a local match amount?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

OUA will provide a match of \$2.5M. Please see Program Budget for additional details.

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K. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal.

None.

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### 3. Program Budget

**Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding:** Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

**A. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:**

Construction	<u>\$ 20,748,000</u>		
Reconstruction	<u>\$ -0-</u>		
Design & Engineering	<u>\$ 3,112,200</u>		
Land Acquisition	<u>\$ -0-</u>		
Land Improvement	<u>\$ -0-</u>		
Other	<u>\$ -0-</u>	Please Specify:	<u>N/A</u>
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b><u>\$ 23,860,200</u></b>		

**B. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:**

City/County	<u>\$ 2,500,000</u>		
Private Sources	<u>\$ 13,060,200</u>		
Other (grants, etc.)	<u>\$ 4,800,000</u>	Please Specify:	<u>Federal</u>
<b>Total Other Funding</b>	<b><u>\$ 20,360,200</u></b>		
<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 3,500,000</u></u></b>		

**Note:** The total amount requested must equal the difference between the public infrastructure project costs in 3.A. and the other public infrastructure project funding sources in 3.B.

**C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.**

Please see attachment.

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#### 4. Approvals and Authority

- A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

Approval of the Okeechobee Utility Authority

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- B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

- i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

The OUA Board meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month.

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- ii. State whether that group can hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

Yes they can at any time upon reasonable public notice.

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- C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.



I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described governmental entity.

Name of Governmental Entity: Okeechobee Utility Authority

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: John Creasman, Chairman

Representative Signature: 

Signature Date: 10/23/17