

**Florida Rural Infrastructure Fund Statewide Program**

**Application for Funding**

Applicant:

(Name of Applicant)

Project Title:

(Name of Project)

State Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Application Date:

Mailing Address: Department of Economic Opportunity

Bureau of Small Cities and Rural Communities

107 East Madison Street – MSC 400

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6508

Telephone: (850) 717-8405

Web:

[http://www.floridajobs.org/RIF](http://www.floridajobs.org/RHP)

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**Part I – Applicant Profile**

**Applicant Contact Information:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Entity Name: | | | | |
| Street Address: | | | | |
| Mailing Address (if different): | | | | |
| City: | | Zip Code: | | County: |
| Main Telephone: | Main Facsimile: | | Federal ID Number: | |
| Unique Entity Identifier in SAM.gov: | Entity’s Name in SAM.gov: | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Elected Official: | Title: |
| Telephone: | Facsimile: |
| E-mail Address: | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chief Financial Officer: | Title: |
| Telephone: | Facsimile: |
| E-mail Address: | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant Project Contact: | | | Title: | | |
| Street Address: | | | | | |
| City: | | | Zip Code: | | |
| Direct Telephone: | | | Facsimile: | | |
| E-mail Address: | | | | | |
| **Application Preparer Information** | | | | | |
| Preparer’s Name: | | Organization Preparing Application:  Local Government  Private Company  Regional Planning Council | | | |
| Street Address: | | | | | |
| City: | | State: | | Zip Code: | |
| Telephone: | | Facsimile: | | | |
| E-mail Address: | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| **Consultant Information (if applicable)** | | | | | |
| Consultant’s Name: | | | | Private Company  Regional Planning Council | |
| Street Address: | | | | | |
| City: | | State: | | Zip Code: | |
| Telephone: | | E-mail Address: | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| **Demographics and Area Data** | | | | | |
| U.S. Congressional District Number: | Florida Senate District Number: | | | | Florida House District Number: |
| Total Population: | Unemployment Rate: | | | | Poverty Rate: |
| Source: | Source: | | | | Source: |
| Source Date: | Source Date: | | | | Source Date: |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Indicate what RIF grant category is being applied for:  Total Project Participation Grant  Project Planning and Preparation Grant  Preclearance Review Grant | | |
| Indicate the total amount of RIF funding being requested: | | |
| If the proposed project is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), indicate which one: (See list of RAOs in application instructions.)  Northwest RAO  South Central RAO  North Central RAO | | |
| Answer the following questions by clicking on the correct check box. | | |
| **Historic Preservation**  Will the project impact a building, public improvement, or planned open space that is 50 or more years old? If yes, include the documentation specified in the application instructions. | Yes | No |
| **Interlocal Agreement**  For local government applicants: will project activities require an interlocal agreement? If ***yes***, the interlocal agreement(s) must be included. | Yes | No |
| **Regulatory Action**  Are improvements being made in this project to inadequate infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action that prohibits economic or community growth? If ***yes***, include a copy of the letter citing the regulatory action. | Yes | No |
| **Catalyst Site**  Is the project related to preclearance review and also located within a catalyst site as defined in Section 288.061, Florida Statutes? If ***yes***, include a map showing the boundary of the catalyst site and the project boundary within. | Yes | No |
| **Comprehensive Plan**  Is the proposed project consistent with the applicant’s Comprehensive Plan? The answer must be ***yes*** in order for the project to be funded through the RIF program and supporting documentation must be included with the application. | Yes | No |
| **State of Financial Emergency**  Is the local government currently identified as being in a State of Financial Emergency pursuant to Section 218.50 – 218.504, Florida Statutes? | Yes | No |

**Part II – Project Description and Timeline**

**Project Description**

Describe the proposed project in no more than three sentences:

Clearly summarize the proposed project as outlined in the application instructions.

Explain how the proposed project infrastructure meets the following criteria as “necessary” infrastructure investment:

1. Responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate minimum level of service, and
2. Cost-effective means for meeting that need, taking into account available alternatives.

**For broadband Internet infrastructure projects only:**

Projects must be designed to provide service to households and businesses with an identified need for additional broadband Internet infrastructure investment, such as lack of access to a connection that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds, lack of affordable access to broadband Internet service, or lack of reliable broadband Internet service.

Describe how the broadband Internet service need was determined for the proposed project.

Describe how you will partner with one or more dealers registered with the Department of Revenue as a provider of communications services in Florida, and ensure a publicly noticed competitive selection process.

**Proposed Timeline**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task/Activity Description** | **Task/Activity Duration** | **Deliverable** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
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**Part III – Economic Narrative**

Provide a summary of the project’s economic benefit, long-term viability, and potential local or regional economic impact. The summary should include a description of the current and anticipated economic conditions of the area.

Describe the proposed project’s potential for enhanced job creation and/or increased capital investment, including but not limited to the following information:

* The nature of the business activities which will be conducted at the site of, or which relate to the project.
* Description of the capital investment in real and personal property – do not include product inventory.

Describe the level of public and private commitment to the project. Include the extent of local expenditures for construction, use of local firms or resources, or purchase of local equipment or materials which have or will have ripple effects on the area’s economy.

**Part IV – Project Budget**

Provide a breakdown of the total budget for the proposed project, including both RIF funding and other sources of funding.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity/Task** | **RIF Funds** | **Other Funding sources** | **Total** |
| Administration | $ | $ | $ |
| Engineering | $ | $ | $ |
| Additional Engineering | $ | $ | $ |
| Project Planning Preparation | $ | $ | $ |
| Preclearance Review Activities | $ | $ | $ |
| Acquisition | $ | $ | $ |
| Wastewater Infrastructure | $ | $ | $ |
| Stormwater Improvements | $ | $ | $ |
| Water System Infrastructure | $ | $ | $ |
| Broadband Internet Infrastructure | $ | $ | $ |
| Other | $ | $ | $ |
| **TOTAL** | $ | $ | $ |

Provide an explanation of how the total infrastructure costs for the proposed project were estimated.

**Part V – Sources and Uses of Non-RIF Funds**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Amount**  **Contributed** | **Type**  **(Loan, Grant, Local Government Funds, Donated Land, or Other Funding)** |
|  | $ |  |
|  | $ |  |
|  | $ |  |
|  | $ |  |
|  | $ |  |
| Totals | $ | |

**Part VI – Participating Party Information (if applicable)**

Complete and attach a [Participating Party Information Form](http://www.floridajobs.org/RIF) for each entity creating or retaining jobs as a result of this project.

**Part VII – Procurements (if applicable)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Administrative Costs**  Will the applicant be using RIF funds to pay for administrative costs? | Yes | No |
| If **yes**, will administrative funds be used to pay for third-party professional services? | Yes | No |
| If **yes**, have professional services already been procured? (Include the documentation outlined in the application instructions.) | Yes | No |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Engineering Costs**  Will the applicant be using RIF funds to pay for engineering costs? | Yes | No |
| If **yes**, will engineering funds be used to pay for third-party professional services? | Yes | No |
| If **yes**, have professional services already been procured? (Include the documentation outlined in the application instructions.) | Yes | No |

**Part VIII – Application Authorization**

*I, the undersigned chief elected official or authorized representative of the applicant, certify that to the best of my knowledge:*

1. *This application is in all respects fair and submitted in good faith without collusion or fraud;*
2. *If selected through this application process, the recipient will work in good faith and in partnership with the Department of Economic Opportunity to manage its grant in a timely and accurate manner;*
3. *The information in this application is accurate; and,*
4. *The undersigned is duly authorized to bind the entity represented in this application.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Signature of Chief Elected Official or Designee** |
| Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Typed Name and Title: |
| Date: |
| If signed by a person other than the chief elected official, a signature authorization must be included. |
|  |
| **Signature of Application Preparer if not an employee of the Applicant** |
| Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Typed Name and Title: |
| Name of Firm or Agency: |



**Florida Rural Infrastructure Fund Statewide Program**

**Application Instructions**

**Part I – Applicant Profile**

The application profile must reflect the requested information about the applicant, including demographics, area data, and the person who prepared the application. The applicant’s name as it appears in the SAM.gov system must be included in the appropriate box on page 2 of the application.

**Application Category**

There are three categories of RIF grants that applicants can request funding for. Indicate which category is being applied for:

1. *Total Project Participation Grants*

To facilitate access to and maximize the use of state, federal, local, and private resources, grants may be awarded for up to 50 percent of the total infrastructure project costs. Eligible uses of funds include necessary improvements to water, wastewater, stormwater, and broadband Internet infrastructure for:

* Industrial or commercial sites;
* Upgrades to or development of public tourism infrastructure;
* Public access and availability of broadband Internet service;
  + Improvements to broadband Internet service and access must be conducted through partnership(s) with Department of Revenue as a provider of communications services.
  + Partnership(s) must be established through a competitive selection process that is publicly noticed.
* Inadequate infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action.

*(2) Project Planning and Preparation Grants*

To facilitate timely response and induce the location or expansion of specific job creating opportunities, grants may be awarded for water, wastewater, stormwater, and broadband Internet infrastructure feasibility studies, design and engineering activities, or other planning and preparation activities. Grants awarded under this category may be used in conjunction with Total Project Participation grants provided the total amount of both grants does not exceed 30 percent of the total project cost.

Maximum amounts of grants:

* $50,000 for employment project with a business committed to create at least 100 jobs;
* $150,000 for employment project with a business committed to create at least 300 jobs; and
* $300,000 for a project in a rural area of opportunity.

*(3) Preclearance Review Grants*

To enable rural communities to access the resources available under the Expedited Permitting – Preclearance Review Process (Section 403.973(18), Florida Statutes), grants may be awarded for surveys, feasibility studies, and other activities related to the identification and preclearance review of land which is suitable for preclearance review. Grant application criteria includes the extent to which administrative and consultant expenses are minimized.

Maximum amounts and match requirements:

* Projects located outside a Rural Area of Opportunity - $75,000 with 50 percent local funds match;
* Projects located within a Rural Area of Opportunity - $300,000 with 33 percent local funds match; and
* Projects located within a catalyst site (as defined in Section 288.056, Florida Statutes): maximum amounts same as above with local funds match requirement waived.

**Rural Area of Opportunity**

If the proposed project is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), indicate which one.

* *Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity:* Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington counties, and the area within the city limits of Freeport and Walton County north of the Choctawhatchee Bay and intercoastal waterway. To learn more about the Northwest RAO region, please contact [Opportunity Florida](http://www.opportunityflorida.com/).
* *South Central Rural Area of Opportunity:* DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties, and the cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay (Palm Beach County), and Immokalee (Collier County). For more information about the South Central RAO region, please contact [Florida’s Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative, Inc](http://flaheartland.com/).
* *North Central Rural Area of Opportunity:* Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union counties. For more information about the North Central RAO region, please contact [North Florida Economic Development Partnership](https://nflp.org/).

**Historic Preservation**

Answer “Yes” if any project activity will result in one of the following:

* Direct physical changes to a structure 50 or more years old, such as demolition (partial or complete), rehabilitation, restoration, remodeling, renovation, expansion, or relocation
* Direct physical changes to public improvements 50 or more years old, such as stone curbs or brick streets
* Direct physical changes to a planned open space 50 or more years old, such as a park or plaza
* Project activities occurring within 100 feet of a structure, public improvement, or planned open space 50 or more years old
* Project activities occurring in a Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

If this question is answered “Yes,” proceed as follows:

* Contact the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) during the application planning process. Properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places must be designed in accordance with the recommended approaches in the ***Secretary of the Interior’s Standards or Rehabilitation Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*** (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service). This publication and technical assistance may be obtained from the SHPO, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250.
* Provide original photographs to SHPO that can be used to determine the historical/architectural significance of the property. Photographs must show each side of the structure and general views of the property in its surroundings; they should be identified by street address and keyed to the service area map. If potentially significant historic properties are identified, SHPO will recommend the appropriate approach.
* Provide the following documentation:
  + The location/address;
  + The construction date;
  + The activity affecting the historic property; and
  + The results of any pre-application discussions with SHPO regarding the potential impact of the proposed project on historic properties

**Interlocal Agreements**

Indicate whether or not activities will require an interlocal agreement. If activities will take place, or services will be extended or provided, outside of the local government applicant’s jurisdiction, include an interlocal agreement signed by the chief elected officials, or legally designated individuals of the jurisdictions, that specifies:

* The units of local government (parties involved);
* The purpose of the interlocal agreement;
* A delineation of the cooperation between the parties involved;
* A description of the activities and the service area(s);
* The amount of funds being committed (and associated terms); and
* A statement that the project is not inconsistent with the local comprehensive plans of all involved jurisdictions.

**Regulatory Action**

If the proposed project will address inadequate infrastructure that has resulted in regulatory action that prohibits economic or community growth, the application must include a copy of the letter citing the relevant regulatory action.

**Catalyst Site**

If the proposed project is related to preclearance review and is also located within a catalyst site as defined in Section 288.061, Florida Statutes, the application must include a map showing the boundary of the catalyst site and the project boundary within.

**Comprehensive Plan**

The proposed project must be consistent with the applicant’s comprehensive plan and the application must include documentation to support this fact.

**State of Financial Emergency**

Indicate if the applicant is a unit of local government currently identified as being in a State of Financial Emergency pursuant to Section 218.50-218.504, Florida Statutes.

**Part II – Project Description and Timeline**

**Project Description**

Provide a narrative description of each proposed activity. Applications proposing more than one activity must include a description for each activity. Each description should include the following minimum information:

* Quantity of the activity
* If funds from other sources are being used, describe how the funds will be used
* Location of the activity within the applicant’s jurisdiction
* Cost of the activity
* How the proposed project infrastructure meets the following criteria as “necessary” infrastructure investment:
  + Responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate minimum level of service, and
  + Cost-effective means for meeting that need, taking into account available alternatives.
* For broadband Internet projects
  + A description of how the broadband Internet service need was determined for the proposed project
  + a description of how the applicant will partner with a DOR-registered dealer and ensure a publicly noticed competitive selection process
* A list of any major permits, comprehensive plan amendments, zoning changes, or similar approvals required
* For infrastructure projects, an indication of who will own and maintain the infrastructure once completed

In addition to describing the location of the project, the applicant must provide a project map, which, at a minimum, shows:

* A scale;
* A north arrow;
* The boundaries of the applicant’s jurisdiction;
* The specific location of the project activity within the applicant’s jurisdiction;
* The applicant’s administration building, from which it will be managing the project; and
* Street names and other identifying landmarks within the jurisdiction.

**Project Timeline**

Outline each step of the project, from grant award to closing out the agreement. Include any applicable environmental review and procurement steps. Provide an estimate of how long each step of the process will take, in months, and the associated activity/task deliverable.

**Part III – Economic Narrative**

Describe the proposed project’s economic benefit, long-term viability, and potential local or regional economic impact. The summary should include a description of the current and anticipated economic conditions of the area. Describe the project’s potential for enhanced job creation or increased capital investment, including but not limited to, the following information:

(1) The nature of business activities which will be conducted at the site of, or which relate to, the project, and

(2) A description of the capital investment in real and personal property, not including product inventory. Finally, describe the level of public and private commitment to the project. Include the extent of local expenditures for construction, use of local firms or resources, or purchase of local equipment or materials which have or will impact on the area’s economy.

**Part IV – Project Budget**

Complete the budget table included in the application based on the type of activity being applied for. If funds from another source are being used to assist with a particular activity, those funds should be listed separately from the RIF funds.

* Administrative costs cannot exceed eight percent of the total budget for a project and may include professional services and/or salaries and benefits for employees of the applicant providing grant administration services, or general expenses such as advertising costs.
* Engineering includes professional services for construction planning and design, construction engineering, and inspections, whereas “Additional Engineering” includes engineering services outside the scope of the general Engineering category. These services are subject to review and approval by DEO.
* The Project Planning and Preparation and Preclearance Review Activities budget categories should only be used if those respective grant categories are being applied for.
* Pursuant to 87 Federal Register 4411, costs for the acquisition of land are eligible, but only if needed for the purpose of locating eligible project components. Therefore, projects solely for the purpose of acquisition are ineligible. The applicant’s project description should specify which activity land is being acquired in support of.
* The remaining budget categories are broad infrastructure categories and should only be used for Total Project Participation Grants. Select the budget category that best fits the proposed project.

Applicants must also detail how they determined the total estimated costs associated with the project and upload any documentation used to make the determination. The written explanation should detail how the proposed budget is reasonable and appropriate considering the scope, substance, and duration of the proposed project. There is no specific format for providing budget assumption documentation, but it should clearly correspond with the type of activities and their associated costs entered in the budget table. The documentation should also demonstrate that the applicant has carefully considered the financial aspects of the project and has a solid rationale for the amount of RIF funding being requested.

**Part V – Sources and Uses of Non-RIF Funds**

Identify any additional sources of funding that will be contributed to the project. Additionally, include documentation that the funds are available for use, such as an award letter, and that they have been contributed to this project, such as a resolution or minutes from a council or commission meeting. If an application has been submitted, but not yet awarded, for other non-RIF funds, include a copy of the application. Please note: all other funds must be available for use prior to award of RIF funding.

**Part VI – Participating Party Information (if applicable)**

Complete a Participating Party Information Form for each entity creating or retaining jobs as a result of this project and upload them as part of the application. Participating Party Information Form available for download from [www.FloridaJobs.org/RIF](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/RIF)

**Part VII – Procurements (if applicable)**

In order for professional services to be paid with RIF funds, they must have been procured pursuant to 2 C.F.R. Parts 200.317-326. If DEO determines that the procurement or contracting process did not meet program requirements, or that an expense is ineligible, the associated expense(s) will be disallowed.

The following documentation must be included with the application in order to demonstrate that professional services were procured in accordance with program requirements:

* A copy of the Request for Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/RFQ).
* A copy of the RFP/RFQ advertisement, including efforts to solicit bids from Minority Business Enterprise/Women Business Enterprise firms.
* The ranking sheets used to select the administrative/engineering services firm.
* A copy of the contract between the applicant and the administrative/engineering services firm.

**Part VIII – Application Authorization**

The application certification statement must be signed by the applicant’s chief elected official. Any other signatory must be accompanied by a letter of signature authority signed by the chief elected official.

**Supporting Documentation Summary**

* Communications with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), if applicable
* Interlocal Agreements, if applicable
* Letter citing regulatory action, if applicable
* Catalyst Site Map, if applicable
* Comprehensive Plan documentation
* Project Map
* Cost Estimate documentation
* Documentation of other sources of funding
* [Participating Party Information Forms](http://www.floridajobs.org/RIF) for each Participating Party, if applicable
* Professional Services RFP/RFQ and advertisement, if applicable
* Professional Services ranking sheets, if applicable
* Professional Services contract, if applicable
* Letter of signature authority signed by chief elected official, if applicable