



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2645

1. Project Title Northwest Florida Estuary Water Quality Protection and Restoration

2. Senate Sponsor Ben Albritton

3. Date of Request 01/26/2022

4. Project/Program Description

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the U.S. Congress enacted the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), thereby establishing the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. Florida is among the five states eligible to receive funding pursuant to this program. Since the Trust Fund's establishment in 2017, however, Florida Panhandle's coastal counties have lacked a coordinated effort for pursuit, resulting in inadequate local government leveraging of RESTORE Act funds and missed opportunities to achieve transformational environmental change. The UF Center for Coastal Solutions (CCS) team will use the SAS Monitoring Network to fill the region's gaps in expertise and resources to achieve needed environmental and economic insights and provide data-driven guidance on restoration project investment opportunities to enable larger, coordinated project submissions from Panhandle Counties.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Board of Governors

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	3,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 1,936,970

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

We anticipate RESTORE ACT Funds will be available to support this in future years.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Revenue: UF received \$76M - Direct Student Aid & \$93M - Institutional Support Expenses: 1) \$76M - Direct Student Aid; 2) \$73M - a number of campus operations like: \$5M IT infrastructure & equipment for remote/distance learning; \$9M reimbursements for housing & study abroad; \$11M campus health & safety; \$48M for lost revenues in the student union, educational business activities, parking, research service centers, museums & performing arts centers; 3) \$20M - other COVID- related developing costs

11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Funds are requested to support 1 month of salary, fringe, and associated IDC for Project Director Dr. Christine Angelini, Co-PIs Drs. Court, Allen, Larkin and Associated extension personnel, Verlinde, Tiu and Bodrey.	104,977
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Funds for 5 post-doctoral students (salary, fringe, IDC) are requested. The post-docs will support the operational activities and research. Funds are requested for one Research Coordinator and one Grants Writer. These two positions will keep track of project activities across all partners, lead communication related to all project workshops, the project website, and project deliverables and reports. The Research Coordinator will specifically plan all project meetings and set deliverable dates.	579,838
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$15,3000 is requested to cover the expense of HiPerGator Core purchases for data analysis and storage, along with \$47,737 in necessary materials and supplies, include but not limited to software, and laptop purchases. \$28,406 is requested to support expenses for the FL Sea Grant workshops, meetings with stakeholders and data collection meetings. Associated IDC is charged on these costs. \$4000 is requested to support participate support stipends for those anticipated to attend the workshop.	126,955
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Research and Data Analytics: + Gather, clean, integrate data from entire 8-county Panhandle region and surrounding waterways + Evaluate water quality, environmental health, regional and sector specific economic trends and relationships. + Identify hotspots of water quality degradation, habitat loss and economic decline. + Propose solutions to address drivers of WQ, habitat and economic declines. + Probe potential effectiveness of investments in local infrastructure, habitat restoration e	2,188,230
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)

3,000,000

12. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

RESTORE Act funding streams provide the opportunity to secure regional water quality improvements and sustain healthy waters on a generational scale. In order to achieve these goals, the region needs to apply advanced data analytics, regional coordination, and proactive pursuit of large grants that are proven to achieve long standing, transformational improvements in the region's infrastructure and environment. UF Center for Coastal Solutions (CCS) will leverage existing IFAS partner resources (Team) to fill the region's gaps in expertise and resources via a public-private partnership with a track-record of success in leveraging diverse data sets to achieve the insights needed to understand why water quality and environmental conditions are changing and the economic consequences of these changes. Our team will then provide data-driven guidance on future investments, based on the unique attributes of the estuaries and communities spanning the Panhandle.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

- + Gather, clean, integrate data from 8-county Panhandle region, starting with Escambia and Santa Rosa
- + Evaluate water quality, environmental health, regional and sector specific economic trends and relationships
- + Identify hotspots of water quality degradation, habitat loss and economic decline
- + Propose solutions to address drivers of water water habitat and economic declines
- + Probe potential effectiveness of investments in local infrastructure, habitat restoration and economic stimuli in the Panhandle region
- + Review and evaluate existing projects and proposals to gain an understanding of community priorities and how these may integrate into future proposals
- + Conduct stakeholder workshops to gather regional input on potential investments
- + Based on research, data analytics, project evaluation, and stakeholder input, work with local, state and federal partners to support develop region-wide, data-driven RESTORE Act proposals

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Local counties and regional partners will be able to leverage the water quality and economic analytics capabilities of the UF CCS team and SAS Monitoring Network, which will lead to the preparation and submission of larger scale, transformative grant proposals. The Team will collaborate and coordinate with these local partners in developing grant proposal content and submittal with DEP's Deep Water Horizon program and potential grantees to develop large scale proposals with a higher likelihood of funding. Citizens will have an upfront opportunity to provide direct input through community outreach programs.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

This project targets citizens and future generations in the 8-county Panhandle region; however, visitors to this region from Florida and other states will all benefit from this project.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

- The successful implementation of this project will enable:
- + New discoveries of key drivers of water quality hazards and ecosystem changes, as well as effects of environmental changes on key economic sectors;
 - + Higher confidence forecasting of water quality / environmental / economic changes, including predictive simulations of management changes and infrastructure investments;
 - + Improved access to high quality and informative visualizations of water quality and economic data as well as their relationships to support decision making about local environmental and economic policy decisions as well as infrastructure investments;
 - + The development of regionally transformative environmental protection and restoration projects that will be submitted for RESTORE Act funding.
- This outcome will be determined by successful funding of supported RESTORE act applications.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?



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Suggested penalties include withholding payments and assessing potential financial or liquidated damages.

- 13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.**

Not applicable.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☒ University or College
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number