

## 8 Funding Plan and Grant Management

### 8.1 City Stormwater Department Revenue Sufficiency Analysis

#### 8.1.1 Overview

As part of this Master Plan Update, Arcadis prepared a Revenue Sufficiency Analysis and forecast for the City of Sebastian's (City) Stormwater Department (Department) for the period FY2022 through FY2031. The Department's fiscal year runs from October 1st to September 30th. The purpose of this section is to present the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis and forecast, including the projection of revenues and expenses. Arcadis developed the projected CIP project needs for FY2022 through FY2031 based on modeling results and previously identified issues, and it is assumed that all funding for capital projects during the forecast period will come from the City's Discretionary Sales Tax (DST) Fund or another means of outside financing (grants, etc.). Relevant assumptions related to the development of the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis and associated forecast are also included throughout this section.

The financial forecast represents an estimate of the probable results of operations and reflects the Department's judgment as to the most likely set of conditions and course of action based upon present circumstances. Arcadis worked closely with the City and Department to obtain the information necessary to prepare the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis, and various financial and system information was provided to support the development of the analysis.

#### 8.1.2 General Methodology

The Revenue Sufficiency Analysis is a determination of the annual revenue from rates which, combined with other sources of funds, will provide sufficient funds to meet the fiscal requirements of the system. The Revenue Sufficiency Analysis does not include a determination of the actual rates and charges of the system but provides a forecast of the total system rate revenue needs as well as increases in rate revenue, if any, that are projected for each year of the forecast.

The process employed in the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis results in the identification of revenue requirements of the system, such as operating expenses, capital expenses (minor and major, transfers out and the maintenance of both restricted and unrestricted reserves at appropriate levels. These revenue requirements are then compared to the total sources of funds during each year of the forecast period to determine the adequacy of projected revenues to meet requirements. To the extent that the existing revenue stream is not forecasted to be sufficient to meet the annual revenue requirements of the system, a series of rate revenue increases are calculated to provide revenue sufficient to meet those needs. The overall goal of the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis is to determine the revenue necessary over the forecast period to:

1. Meet the operating and capital revenue requirements of the stormwater system, including funding of the CIP
14. Build up a working capital reserve level of 4-months of operating expenses

The CIP, including the timing of projects and estimated costs, was developed by Arcadis to fit within the funding limits defined by City staff; thus, the CIP and revenue enhancements were fully integrated into the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis.

### **8.1.3 Data Used in the Analysis**

This section of the report provides a summary of data used in the analysis as well as general assumptions made as part of the forecast. Where available, the analysis uses data sources from City planning documents such as the Comprehensive Annual Fiscal Report (Annual Report), Department projected operating results for FY2022, and the CIP.

#### **8.1.3.1 Data Items**

Key data items reviewed, discussed with the Department, and incorporated into the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis include the following:

- Financial management goals of the Stormwater Utility
- The beginning fund balance from the FY2022 Budget Book has been used as the beginning balance available in FY2022 (year 1 of the analysis).
- Sources of Funds from FY2022 projected operating results and the FY2023 Proposed Budget in the 2022/2023 Annual Budget
- Uses of Funds from FY2022 projected operating results and the FY2023 Proposed Budget in the 2022/2023 Annual Budget
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Arcadis' O&M modeling tool
- General assumptions related to:
  - Customer growth
  - Cost escalation factors

A discussion of the use of each of the above data items is presented below.

#### **8.1.3.2 Working Capital Reserves and Balances**

To better understand what funds the Stormwater Utility had on hand to start the forecast period, a detailed review of Stormwater's Working Capital Reserves and other cash balances associated with the FY2022 Budget Book was conducted. These data sources represent funds available at the end of FY2021, and therefore at the beginning of FY2022.

#### **8.1.3.3 Sources of Funds from FY2022-2023 Draft Stormwater Budget**

The City provided the FY2022-2023 Draft Stormwater Budget. From this document line-item revenue detail is obtained and serves as the basis for projecting financial performance in FY2022. In addition, line-item projected revenues for FY2023 through FY2031 are developed using the FY2022 projected revenues, provided by the City, as the basis.

#### **8.1.3.4 Uses of Funds from FY2022-2023 Proposed Stormwater Budget**

The City provided FY2022 projected expenses and the FY2023 Proposed Budget, and associated line-item expense detail, as the basis for the projection of financial performance for the forecast period. In addition, line-item projected expenses for FY2024 through FY2031 were developed using cost escalation factors for each line-

item. Cost escalation factors were reviewed by staff and were used to project line-item costs beyond the 2023 projections. For details on specific cost escalation factors see section 1.3.7.

### **8.1.3.5 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)**

The Department provided Arcadis with a forecast of annual funding (cash expenditure) requirements associated with the CIP for the FY2022 through FY2031 forecast period. Annual funding and cash expenditure provided in the CIP differs from “appropriated expenditure” in that the financial forecast considers the amount of actual costs projected to be expended in each year (whether paid for with cash or debt).

### **8.1.3.6 Arcadis O&M Model**

City staff did not have an estimate of the total labor and equipment costs incurred by SWMS maintenance activities, nor an estimate of the total time necessary to complete them. Therefore, Arcadis developed an MS-Excel O&M model that calculates the full labor and equipment cost per hour and applies those costs to each activity based on labor crew size and composition and equipment used, details of which were provided by City staff. Costs for maintenance activities performed by City contractors are also included in the total cost calculations. The model then generates a breakdown of total costs and full-time equivalent labor required for each maintenance activity on an annual basis. The model also generates a side-by-side comparison of budget costs relative to existing budget costs to show deviations.

#### **New Full Time Employee (FTE) Positions and Associated Benefits**

The O&M model prepared by Arcadis estimates that the Department has a need of approximately twenty FTEs versus the fourteen FTEs currently budgeted. To incorporate these six additional FTEs into the forecast, Arcadis has assumed an additional two FTEs per year for three years starting in FY2024. Not inclusive of additional costs associated with cost escalation assumptions, the addition of six FTEs is expected to add \$179,988 per year of costs by FY2026 (approximately \$60,000 per year between FY2024 and FY2026).

Additionally, Arcadis has incorporated the associated increase in costs for employee benefits as a result of the six additional FTEs using the same methodology as described in the previous paragraph. The addition of six FTEs is expected to add \$110,310 per year of benefits costs by FY2026 (approximately \$37,000 per year between FY2024 and FY2026).

#### **Other Contractual services**

The O&M model prepared by Arcadis assumes that the Contract Mowing Services cost will be \$87,000 beginning in FY2024 (an increase of \$78,380 from what was budgeted in FY2023) as a result of additional routine pond cleaning and Stormwater Park pump maintenance. New contracts are expected to be negotiated after every three-year period in the forecast, with each new contract incorporating a 10% increase in costs at the start of the contract and an additional 3% increase in the final year of the contract (based on the structure of the City’s current contracts allowing an adjustment for inflation of up to 3% in the final year of its current contracts). FY2024, FY2027, and FY 2030 are the new contract years incorporated during the forecast period, with the total cost increasing to \$111,681 by FY2031.

#### **Contracted Mowing Services**

The O&M model prepared by Arcadis assumes that the Contract Mowing Services cost will be \$853,000 in the final contract year of FY2024 (an increase of \$231,158 from what was budgeted in FY2023) as a result of optional mowing services that may be requested by the City. New contracts are expected to be negotiated after every three-year period in the forecast, with each new contract incorporating a 10% increase in costs at the start of the contract and an additional 3% increase in the final year of the contract (based on the structure of the City’s current

contracts allowing an adjustment for inflation of up to 3% in the final year of its current contracts). FY2025, FY2028, and FY 2031 are the new contract years incorporated during the forecast period, with the total cost increasing to \$1,205,191 by FY2031.

### **Operating equipment**

The O&M model prepared by Arcadis assumes an increase in need of operating equipment associated with maintenance activities due to increased maintenance frequencies for some activities and the resulting projected operational hours of equipment. Not inclusive of additional costs associated with cost escalation assumptions, the need for additional operating equipment associated with the planned maintenance activities is expected to add \$224,502 per year of costs by FY2026 (spread across three years at approximately \$75,000 per year between FY2024 and FY2026).

### **Sod/Cement/Culvert Pipes**

The O&M model prepared by Arcadis assumes that these costs will be reduced by a combined total of \$52,267 per year starting in FY2024 due to reductions in material usage projected by the O&M model based on discussions with City staff.

## **8.1.3.7 General Assumptions**

To develop the financial and rate projections, certain assumptions were made regarding elements of the Revenue Sufficiency Analysis. A summary of those assumptions is presented below.

### **Growth**

Based on discussion with the Department and reviewing the City's Comprehensive Plan, it was determined that 1.5% annual growth in the utility customer base would be projected during the forecast period.

### **Cost Escalation Factors**

Based on discussion with the Department, the following annual cost escalation factors were applied starting in FY2024:

- General Inflation - 3.11% (5-year Average using the CPI-U Index)
- Labor and Benefits – 3.00% (all personnel related costs)
- Utilities - 5.00% (water/sewer, electric, trash pickup/hauling)

### **CIP**

All capital projects and capital outlay (vehicles, equipment, etc.) during the forecast period assume full funding via the DST Fund or an alternative third-party funding source. No capital in the financial model is currently being funded from operating revenues or fund balance/cash reserves.

## **8.1.4 Financial Management and Goals of the Stormwater Utility**

### **8.1.4.1 Minimum Working Capital Reserves in the Operating Fund**

In order to maintain an appropriate level of liquidity, utilities typically establish some form of working capital target. This target typically ranges from an amount equal to 3 to 12 months of operating expense, depending on the unique operating/financial characteristics of the utility.

While maintaining sufficient levels of unrestricted reserves, or working capital, is critical to maintaining financial flexibility, it is also an important factor used by rating agencies to determine creditworthiness of utilities. While no singular criterion determines a utility's credit rating, liquidity is one of several important factors.

Utilities that keep too much cash on hand, while borrowing at the same time, can be viewed as building excessive cash reserves and paying interest expense in lieu of spending existing cash. However, the buildup of cash reserves beyond the 3 to 12-month level does not necessarily indicate excessive reserves so long as there is a plan to spend those funds in the near future on capital projects in lieu of additional borrowing.

The analysis presented herein considers a goal of an unrestricted working capital reserve amount greater than, or equal to, 4-months of operating expenses by FY2026.

### **8.1.5 Results of the Baseline Stormwater Revenue Sufficiency Analysis**

After a thorough review of the above-mentioned data elements, and working through several alternative financial plans, Arcadis developed a plan which provides for the continued financial strength of the stormwater utility. The resulting financial plan is presented and described in the following sections, and reflects the analysis and assumptions noted above. Should there be any change to the data or assumption used, this plan would need to be updated accordingly.

#### **8.1.5.1 Summary Pro Forma and Revenue Increases Required**

The revenue requirements and financial goals of the Department during the forecast period identified the need for additional revenue. The annual adjustments required during the forecast period are as follows:

- October 1, 2023: 41.00% revenue increase. If applied to the Stormwater Fee, the monthly fee would increase approximately \$4.10 per customer, from \$10.00 to \$14.10.
- October 1, 2024 (and annually thereafter): 3.00% revenue increase

Table 8-1 presents a summary stormwater pro forma financial forecast, including necessary revenue increases to 1) meet stormwater revenue requirements and 2) establish unrestricted cash reserves at targeted levels.

City of Sebastian Stormwater Master Plan Update

**Table 8-1. Summary Pro Forma**

Line No.	Description	Fiscal Year Ending September 30th									
		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
<b>Revenues</b>											
1	Rate Revenues	\$ 1,955,905	\$ 1,985,244	\$ 2,015,022	\$ 2,883,799	\$ 3,014,868	\$ 3,151,893	\$ 3,295,147	\$ 3,444,911	\$ 3,601,483	\$ 3,765,170
2	Rate Revenues from Increase	-	-	826,159	86,514	90,446	94,557	98,854	103,347	108,044	112,955
3	Miscellaneous Revenue	37,880	37,588	37,588	37,588	37,588	37,588	37,588	37,588	37,588	37,588
4	Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Interest Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,993,785</b>	<b>\$ 2,022,832</b>	<b>\$ 2,878,769</b>	<b>\$ 3,007,901</b>	<b>\$ 3,142,902</b>	<b>\$ 3,284,038</b>	<b>\$ 3,431,589</b>	<b>\$ 3,585,847</b>	<b>\$ 3,747,115</b>	<b>\$ 3,915,713</b>
<b>Revenue Requirements</b>											
7	Operating Expenses	\$ 1,742,340	\$ 2,149,474	\$ 2,631,935	\$ 2,940,732	\$ 3,173,613	\$ 3,276,444	\$ 3,440,871	\$ 3,513,636	\$ 3,627,656	\$ 3,811,388
8	Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Minor Capital Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Debt Service</b>											
11	Existing Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	New-Revenue Bond	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	New-General Obligation Bond	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	New-State Revolving Loan Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
16	Capital Projects Funded with Cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	<b>Total Revenue Requirements</b>	<b>\$ 1,742,340</b>	<b>\$ 2,149,474</b>	<b>\$ 2,631,935</b>	<b>\$ 2,940,732</b>	<b>\$ 3,173,613</b>	<b>\$ 3,276,444</b>	<b>\$ 3,440,871</b>	<b>\$ 3,513,636</b>	<b>\$ 3,627,656</b>	<b>\$ 3,811,388</b>
18	<b>Revenues Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 251,445</b>	<b>\$ (126,642)</b>	<b>\$ 246,834</b>	<b>\$ 67,169</b>	<b>\$ (30,711)</b>	<b>\$ 7,594</b>	<b>\$ (9,281)</b>	<b>\$ 72,211</b>	<b>\$ 119,460</b>	<b>\$ 104,325</b>
19	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 718,980</b>	<b>\$ 970,425</b>	<b>\$ 843,783</b>	<b>\$ 1,090,617</b>	<b>\$ 1,157,786</b>	<b>\$ 1,127,076</b>	<b>\$ 1,134,670</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,389</b>	<b>\$ 1,197,600</b>	<b>\$ 1,317,060</b>
20	<b>Revenues Over (Under) Expenses</b>	<b>251,445</b>	<b>(126,642)</b>	<b>246,834</b>	<b>67,169</b>	<b>(30,711)</b>	<b>7,594</b>	<b>(9,281)</b>	<b>72,211</b>	<b>119,460</b>	<b>104,325</b>
21	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 970,425</b>	<b>\$ 843,783</b>	<b>\$ 1,090,617</b>	<b>\$ 1,157,786</b>	<b>\$ 1,127,076</b>	<b>\$ 1,134,670</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,389</b>	<b>\$ 1,197,600</b>	<b>\$ 1,317,060</b>	<b>\$ 1,421,385</b>

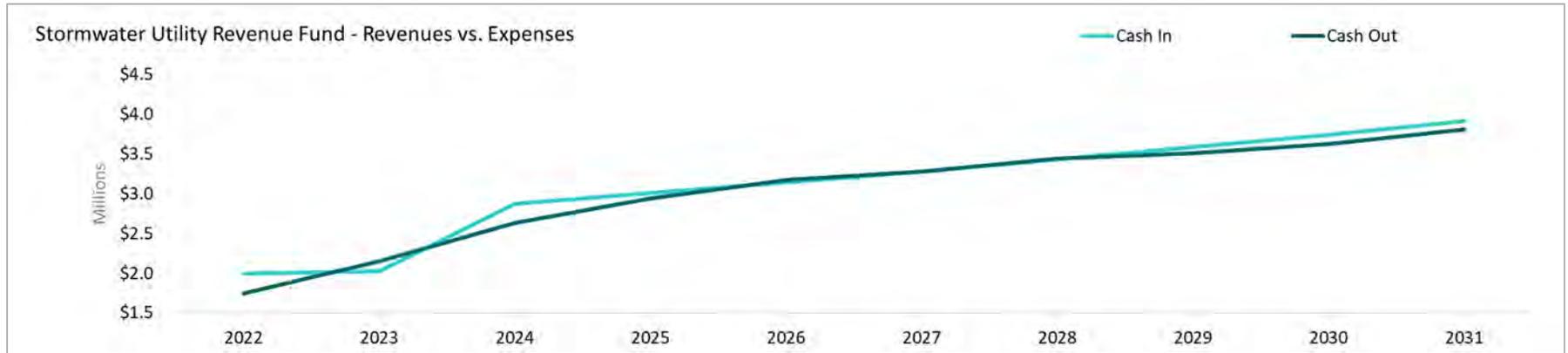


Figure 8-1. Revenues vs. Expenses (including annual revenue increases)

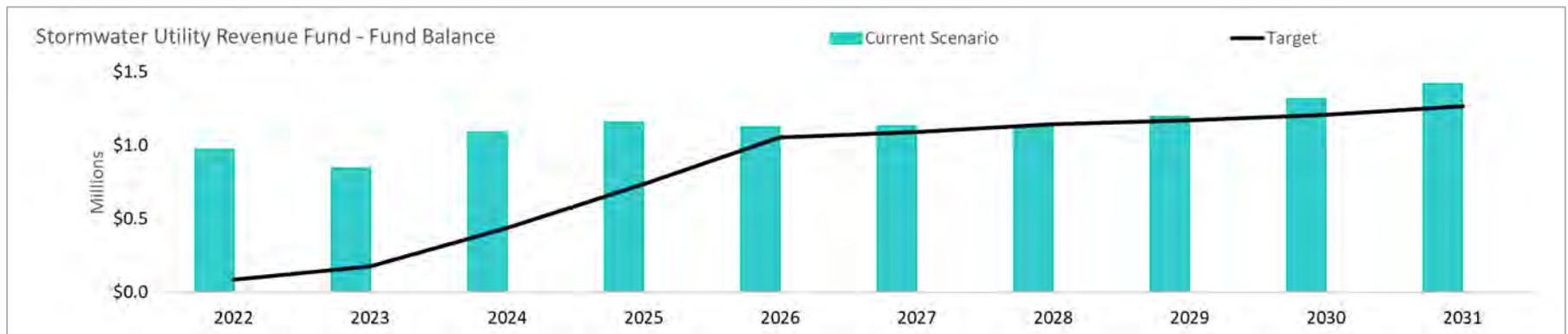


Figure 8-2. Stormwater Utility Revenue Fund – Fund Balance (including annual revenue increases)

## 8.2 Grant Funding Overview

Identifying the appropriate funding sources is essential for determining the types of financial assistance available. Revenue from the stormwater utility can be used to cover the local matching requirements for potential grants.

This section provides information on key agencies administering grant and loan programs, as well as a summary of how these programs best align with the CIP projects and long-term goals of the City. External funding sources are ideal opportunities to supplement capital budgets. The resources include federal and state grants, low- or no-interest loans, and special financing available for Water Infrastructure and Mitigation programs. While most of the programs identified in this section are managed by state agencies, both state and federal agencies administer grant and loan programs. Although some programs may be similar, each funding agency has its own eligibility criteria to determine which potential applicants can and cannot participate in the program.

Most state and federal funding opportunities are published on an annual basis through congressional and state appropriations, as well as after a major disaster declaration. State and federal agencies commonly replace or revise existing programs to incorporate innovative design and new regulatory requirements into eligibility qualifications. Changes in funding allocation, program criteria, and eligibility will be reflected in the most current issue of the publication, NOFO, or NOFA. It is important to note that the criteria established in prior year's announcements may not be applicable for the current year and these changes may impact the project scope. The City of Sebastian is encouraged to monitor new programs and opportunities and sign up for agency newsletters and/or Listservs to receive notifications directly.

Finally, due to unforeseen and unprecedented global events including the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the subsequent aftermath, the federal government has passed legislation to increase funding and expand programmatic criteria to help state and local governments adequately respond to and address many of the challenges and setbacks resulting from these events. Note, federal assistance to support infrastructure projects is considerable. With the authorization of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), existing federal programs have or will receive an infusion of funding that will allow agencies to expand their eligibility criteria. The increased allocation for various federal programs also allows agencies to evaluate a broader range of projects and provide greater level of assistance. In addition, BIL funds are available to eligible applicants potentially at a greater federal share for projects that can demonstrate benefits to eligible disadvantaged communities. The sources outlined below include the expanded guidance (as applicable) for existing federal programs.

### 8.2.1 Federal Funding Opportunities

#### 8.2.1.1 Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Revolving Fund

**Program Summary:** Funded through the EPA, Florida's State Revolving Fund (SRF) is made up of three programs:

1. **Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides low-interest loans to local governments to plan, design, and build or upgrade wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. CWSRF loan terms include a 20-year repayment and low-interest rates. Financing rates vary based on a variety of factors. Projects funded/awarded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) are eligible to receive funds in the form of a grant, principal forgiveness loan, or low-interest loan. Eligible projects include Sea walls; Levees/dikes/berms; installation of flood attenuation; diversion, retention infrastructure within or beyond the footprint of a treatment works that protects the treatment works including floodwater

channels/culverts; green infrastructure; and natural systems capable of mitigating a storm surge (e.g., barrier beach and dune systems, tidal wetlands, and living shorelines).

2. **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program provides low-interest loans to local governments and private utilities to plan, design, and build or upgrade drinking water systems. Discounted assistance (e.g., very low interest rates, grants, etc.) for disadvantaged communities is available. Interest rates on loans are below market rates and vary based on the economic wherewithal of the community.
3. **State Revolving Fund Management:** The SRF Management Program supports the Drinking Water SRF and Clean Water SRF programs by writing loan agreements, reviewing financials, approving procurement, processing disbursements and managing billing.

**Eligibility:** Local governments (city and county) and special districts are eligible to apply for and receive loan funds. For drinking water projects, private utilities are also eligible. Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, grant funds may be awarded to applicants for project that benefit disadvantaged communities equitably from investments in water infrastructure. The BIL requires that (at minimum 49-percent of) CWSRF General Supplemental Funding must be provided as grants and forgivable loans to applicants that meet the state's affordability criteria or certain project types.

**Submission Requirements:** Applying for SRF funding (CWSRF and DWSRF) requires the submission of a Request for Inclusion form, which can be submitted any time during the year. The information in the form is used to establish a project's eligibility for funding, including any principal forgiveness, and priority score which is then used for placement on the funding list ("priority list"). Projects are funded, in order of their priority score or until funds are exhausted. Once the project is included on the funding list, the process for applying for the loan may begin.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities
- Publicly owned stormwater Best Management Practices
- Living shorelines
- Upgrades, Repair, Replacement, or Installation and Construction
- Infrastructure projects that make water systems more resilient to all threats

### 8.2.1.2 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

**Program Summary:** The WIFIA Program is a federal credit program administered by the EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The WIFIA program offers loans with low, fixed interest rates, and a length of up to 35 years. WIFIA loans can be combined with private equity, revenue bonds, corporate debt, grants, and SRF loans. The EPA is permitted to provide credit assistance in the form of secured (direct) loans or loan guarantees. The maximum amount of WIFIA credit assistance to a project is 49% of eligible project costs in almost all instances (total federal assistance may not exceed 80% of a project's eligible costs). The minimum project amount for large communities is \$20 million, and the minimum project amount for small communities (population of 25,000 or less) is \$5 million.

**Eligibility:** Borrowers may include local, state, tribal, and federal government entities, partnerships and joint ventures, and corporations and trusts.

**Submission Requirements:** For a projects to be considered during the availability period, EPA must receive a Letter of Intent (LOI) via SharePoint. **LOI submission can begin on September 6, 2022.**

**Eligible Activities:** The WIFIA program can fund projects that are eligible for the CWSRF (notwithstanding the public ownership clause) and projects that are eligible for the DWSRF that support the following activities (but not limited to):

- Brackish or seawater desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects
- Acquisition of property (if it is integral to the project or will mitigate the environmental impact of a project)
- A combination of projects secured by a common security pledge or submitted under one application by an SRF program

**Eligible development and implementation activities include:**

- Development phase activities, including planning, preliminary engineering, design, environmental review, revenue forecasting, and other pre-construction activities
- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and replacement activities
- Acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, and acquisition of equipment
- Capitalized interest necessary to meet market requirements, reasonably required reserve funds, capital issuance expenses, and other carrying costs during construction

### 8.2.1.3 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Nonpoint Source Funds

**Program Summary:** Funded through EPA, the Nonpoint Source program supports projects that reduce pollution from nonpoint sources, with a focus on impaired water bodies and goals identified in Total Maximum Daily Loads and restoration plans. Under this program, applicants can request funding through the following grant opportunities:

**Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants:** Federal funds to address nonpoint source pollution. Approximately \$6 million is awarded annually to the department by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The grant stipulates that a minimum of 50% (~\$3 million) of the state's grant funds must go towards projects that implement adopted EPA-approved nine element Watershed Based Plans (WBPs), e.g., Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) or Reasonable Assurance Plans (RA Plans). The remaining 50% or less of the funding is not limited to projects that implement the BMAPs but are mostly used by the state administratively to run the grant program, therefore these funds are more limited for project use.

**State Water-quality Assistance Grants (SWAG):** Funds allocated by the state legislature to implement best management practices to reduce pollutant loads to have urban stormwater discharges meet water quality standards. Approximately \$5 million is appropriated annually to the department through the Florida legislature for our State Water-quality Assistance Grant (SWAG). Projects must be shovel ready capital improvement construction projects treating impaired waters.

**Eligibility:** All local government including county and municipal governments, special districts, water management districts, other state agencies, public universities/colleges, and national estuary programs located in Florida are eligible to apply for funding. Federal-funded projects (319h Grants) generally require a minimum 40% non-federal match (Section 319(h) funding should generally not exceed 60% of the total eligible project cost). CWSRF loan funds can be the match.

**Submission Requirements:** Applications for submission to Florida DEP may be submitted any time. Submissions are reviewed in the fall and spring or as needed. Applications with higher local matches are more competitive.

**Eligible Activities:** eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution in priority watersheds including demonstration and evaluation of Best Management Practices
- Stormwater treatment
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- Groundwater protection
- Hydrologic restoration

#### **8.2.1.4 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Management Program**

**Program Summary:** The Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) and its activities are funded annually by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Each year, the FCMP makes a portion of NOAA funds available as pass-through grants for projects and activities that protect and manage natural & cultural resources and improve waterfront communities along Florida's coast. The FCMP awards grants through two competitive programs:

**Coastal Partnership Initiation (CPI) Grant:** Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) Grants CPI grants provide funds ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000 for innovative local coastal management projects that inspire community action and promote the protection & management of coastal resources in the following three areas:

- **Resilient Communities:** projects that prepare for and respond to effects of climate change, natural hazard events and disasters.
- **Coastal Resources Stewardship:** projects that promote local stewardship and appreciation of fragile coastal resources.
- **Access to Coastal Resources:** projects that revitalize, renew, and promote local interest in their waterfront districts.

**Eligibility:** Funding for the CPI program is available for local projects specifically for state agencies & water management districts. Eligible applicants include local governments within the 35 coastal counties required to include a coastal element in the local comprehensive plan. Public colleges, universities, regional planning councils, non-profit groups and national estuary programs may also apply as long as an eligible local government agrees to participate as a project partner.

**Submission Requirements:** Each year in August or September, the FCMP publishes a Notice of Availability of Funds in the Florida Administrative Register to solicit proposals from eligible local government, education, and non-profit entities.

**Eligible Activities:** CPI funds are available to support habitat restoration, parks, waterfronts, public access facilities, environmental education and coastal planning.

**State Agency and Water Management District Grant Program:** The FCMP provides federal NOAA funds for state agencies and water management districts for projects related to coastal resource protection. Projects must contribute to the protection, management and enhancement of Florida's coastal resources.

**Eligibility:** Projects must be completed within a 12-month period. Project proposals should be between \$15,000 and \$74,000, with anticipated start dates in July 2022.

**Submission Requirements:** FY23 application cycle information currently not available. The FY 2022-23 grant application cycle closed on Nov. 30, 2021.

**Eligible Activities:** Eligibility activities include but are not limited to: Construction, Land Acquisition, Planning, Design and Coordination Activities, Habitat Restoration, Invasive exotic plant removal and habitat restoration.

### **8.2.1.5 Florida Division of Emergency Management Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program**

**Program Summary:** The FEMA BRIC program is an annual recurring program administered by the FDEM that provides funding to eligible entities to reduce natural hazard risks and future losses caused by acute events and chronic stressors, driven by climate change, which are either observed or expected. For FY 2022, the priorities for the program are to incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities; incorporate nature-based solutions including those designed to reduce carbon emissions; enhance climate resilience and adaptation; and increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes. BRIC projects are eligible under separate program categories including:

**State/Territory Competition:** The Capability-and-Capacity-Building program provides financial assistance for activities that will enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. The maximum allocation for a state or territory under this category is \$2,000,000, covering all activities/projects.

**National Competition:** Mitigation Projects grant funds are available to support cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards and the effects of climate change. Applicants may submit an unlimited number of project applications each valued up to \$50,000,000. All National Competition projects must meet the rigorous quantitative and qualitative criteria and capture one or more of the following:

- Is an infrastructure project
- Incorporates of nature-based solutions for hazard mitigation
- Has mandatory state-wide building code adoption requirement
- Has Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Rating of 1 to 5
- Is generated from a previous FEMA HMA Project Scoping award or any other federal grant award, or the subapplicant is a past recipient of BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance
- Has a non-federal cost share of at least 30% or, for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities a non-federal cost share of at least 12%
- Any community with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Social Vulnerability Index (CDC SVI) of 0.60 to 0.79, designated as an Economically Disadvantaged Rural Community, or any community with a CDC SVI of 0.80 or higher.

**Eligibility:** State, local and tribal entities are eligible to apply for funding. Mitigation projects must comply with federal environmental and historic property (EHP) regulations, laws, and executive orders, as applicable, and

must align with the State Mitigation Plan and Local or Tribal Mitigation Plan. Subapplicants are required have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects (with the exception of mitigation planning). Mitigation activities are required to demonstrate cost-effectiveness. Applicants applying for mitigation projects must provide a BCA or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness.

**Submission Requirement:** FY23 application cycle information currently not available. FY22 application cycle closed. Deadline to submit subapplication to the state was November 14, 2022 by 5:00 P.M. The Notice of Interest was due to FDEM no later than September 20, 2022 for the FY22-23 application period. Cost Share/Local Match requirement is a minimum of 25% non-federal sources for the local match portion and federal funding is available for up to 75% of eligible costs. Small, impoverished communities are eligible for cost share up to 90% federal/10% non-federal.

**Eligible Activities:** BRIC activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Building codes activities (State/Territory Competition C&CB)
- Partnerships, project scoping (State/Territory Competition C&CB)
- Hazard mitigation planning and planning related activities, and other activities (State/Territory Competition C&CB)
- Non-critical Structure Elevation (National Competition Mitigation Projects)
- Dry Floodproofing (National Competition Mitigation Projects)
- Mitigation Reconstruction (National Competition Mitigation Projects)

### 8.2.1.6 Florida Division of Emergency Management Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

**Program Summary:** The FEMA FMA program is administered by the FDEM and provides funding to eligible entities including local governments—cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and federally recognized tribes. FMA funding is available annually regardless of whether a disaster has occurred in the previous year. FMA funds are available to support projects that either reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the NFIP. Eligible project types include:

**Individual Flood Mitigation Projects:** Grant funds can support projects that will 1) mitigate flood damage to at least 50% of structures that meet the definition of a severe repetitive loss (SRL) property, 2) mitigate flood damage to at least 50% of structures that meet the definition of a repetitive loss (RL) property, or 3) mitigate flood damage to at least 50% of structures that meet the definition of an SRL property. Project must also demonstrate:

- **Substantial Damage:** Structures that were determined Substantial Damage by the community within five (5) years of the submission deadline.
- **CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI):** CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and NFIP Properties: Projects that benefit area(s) with average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.6 (greater or equal to 0.8 maximum scoring).

#### Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)/Repetitive Loss (RL) Property

**Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project:** All Localized Flood Risk Reduction projects must demonstrate that the proposed project benefits NFIP insured properties. Projects are eligible to receive up to \$50 million of federal share. All Localized Flood Risk Reduction subapplications submitted for funding must demonstrate or incorporate the following:

- NFIP policy that is active as of the FMA application start date and is verified within the benefitting area of the project.
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI): CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and NFIP Properties: Projects that benefit area(s) with average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.6 (greater or equal to 0.8 maximum scoring).
- Consideration for Climate Change and Other Future Conditions
- Incorporation of Nature-Based Solutions
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) Properties
- National Violation Tracker (NVT): Communities in good standing in the NFIP
- Community Rating System (CRS) Participation: Community floodplain-management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards.
- Cooperating Technical Assistance Partners Program (CTP) Participation
- FEMA Generated Projects or Other Federal Grant Award: Application generated from a previous federal grant award.
- Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB): C&CB activities should result in a resource, strategy, or tangible mitigation product that will reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future flooding, increase resilience, and promote a culture of preparedness, and projects must demonstrate that it will reduce flood claims against the NFIP based on the following (but not limited to):
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and NFIP Properties: Projects that benefit area(s) with average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.6 (greater or equal to 0.8 maximum scoring)
- National Violation Tracker (NVT): Communities in good standing in the NFIP
- Community Rating System (CRS) Participation: community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards.

**Eligibility:** State Agencies, Federally-Recognized Tribes, Local governments, and Federally-recognized Native American Tribal Governments are eligible to submit a subapplication. Owners of structures, residential or non-residential, that have been previously flooded must consult with their local or Native American Tribal government about submitting an application on their behalf for grant funds. All subapplicants must be participating in the NFIP, and not be withdrawn, on probation, or suspended. Structures identified in the subapplication must have an NFIP policy in effect at the application start date and must maintain it through completion of the mitigation activity and for the life of the structure. Community Flood Mitigation Projects are only eligible for 75% of the federal cost share. FEMA may contribute 100% of the federal cost share for Individual Mitigation Projects that include SRL properties and up to 90% of the federal cost share for RL properties. Mitigation projects must comply with federal EHP regulations, laws, and executive orders, as applicable. The EHP review process must be completed before funds are released to carry out the proposed project. Mitigation activities are required to demonstrate cost-effectiveness. Applicants applying for mitigation projects must provide a BCA or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness. Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects (with the exception of mitigation planning). Project scoping, community flood mitigation projects, individual flood mitigation projects, and technical assistance applications must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the current FEMA-approved State or Tribal

(Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan, and the local mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the project is located. The FMA program will prioritize assistance that benefits disadvantaged communities.

**Submission Requirements:** FY23 application cycle information currently not available. FY22 application cycle closed. Deadline to submit subapplication to the state was November 14, 2022 by 5:00 P.M. The Notice of Interest was due to FDEM no later than September 20, 2022 for the FY22-23 application period.

**Eligible Activities:** FMA activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Localized flood control (Local Flood Risk Reduction)
- Floodwater storage and diversion (Local Flood Risk Reduction)
- Floodplain and stream restoration (Local Flood Risk Reduction)
- Stormwater management (Local Flood Risk Reduction)
- Wetland restoration/creation (Local Flood Risk Reduction)

### 8.2.1.7 Florida Division of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

**Program Summary:** The FEMA HMGP is administered by the FDEM and provides funding to eligible entities including state, local, tribal, and territory governments to support rebuilding efforts that reduce or mitigate future disaster-related losses. Grant funding through the HMGP is only made available following a presidentially declared disaster. HMGP funds are available for a broad range of uses, and projects do not have to align with a specific disaster (i.e., if a flood declaration is issued, an applicant can submit a project for tornado protection). Eligible project types and activities include:

- Flood Control and Drainage Improvement projects to reduce potential flood damage
- Utility Mitigation

**Eligibility:** The process of selecting eligible mitigation projects to be submitted for funding consideration has been delegated to each county's Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) Grant-funded projects must comply with federal EHP regulations, laws, and executive orders, as applicable. The EHP review process must be completed before funds are released to carry out the proposed project. Mitigation activities are required to demonstrate cost-effectiveness. Applicants applying for mitigation projects must provide a BCA or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness. Applicants also must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for project, project scoping, and technical assistance subapplications. Federal funding is available for up to 75% of eligible costs and the remaining 25% of eligible costs must be derived from non-federal sources (local match).

**Submission Requirements:** The grant application cycle for all HMGP disaster declarations are closed.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Retrofitting of existing buildings to make them less susceptible to damage from a variety of natural hazards.
- Development and adoption of hazard mitigation plans, which are required for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to receive funding for hazard mitigation projects.
- Aquifer storage and recovery, floodplain and stream restoration, flood diversion and storage, or green infrastructure methods to reduce the impacts of flood and drought.
- Utility and infrastructure retrofits to reduce risk of failure caused by natural hazards

- Acquisition of hazard-prone property to remove people and structures from harm's way.
- Slope stabilization projects to reduce risk to people and structures

### 8.2.1.8 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-DR

**Program Summary:** The Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program provides funding after Presidentially Declared Disaster for projects that focus on long-term recovery efforts. Grants may fund Disaster Relief, Long Term-Recovery, Restoration of Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Revitalization. Funds may also be used to address an unmet need that arose from a previous disaster. Eligible projects include (but not limited to):

- Infrastructure: Replacement, relocation, or repair of damaged public facilities except for buildings for the general conduct of government.
- Planning and Capacity Building: Studies, analysis, data gathering, preparation of plans, and identification of actions to implement plans.
- Preparedness and Mitigation: Rebuilding activities, preparedness and mitigation measures.

**Eligibility:** Funds are awarded to state and local governments which become grantees. Those who receive grant money include state agencies, non-profit organizations, economic development agencies, citizens and businesses. All projects supported by HUD CDBG assistance must meet one of the CDBG's three National Objectives: benefiting low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons, addressing a severe and recently arising urgent community welfare or health need, and preventing or eliminating slum and blighting conditions. Cost share not required.

**Submission Requirements:** Following future disasters, subapplicants should consult with FDEO for program deadlines and submission guidance. Variable (disaster-dependent)

#### **Eligible Activities:**

- Construction
- Acquisition
- Preconstruction (design, engineering, planning)
- Rehabilitation/reconstruction
- Road and Bridge Repair – Water & Wastewater Facilities
- Job training and workforce development
- Loans and grants to businesses
- Improvements to commercial/rental districts

### 8.2.1.9 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-MIT

**Program Summary:** The Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program provides assistance to areas impacted by recent disasters to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate long-term disaster risks, reduce future loss, and protect community services that benefit human health and safety or economic security. Programs include:

- General Planning Support Program (GPS): support high-quality mitigation planning that will build a foundation for continuous coordination and data-driven outcomes.

- Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP): critical facilities are defined as the buildings/structures that serve a public safety purpose for local communities.
- General Infrastructure Program (GIP): funding to units of general local government to, upgrade water, sewer, solid waste, communications, energy, transportation, health and medical and other public infrastructure projects.

**Eligibility:** Local government including educational institutions, state agencies, and non-profits are eligible to apply. Projects must be in conformance with the State Mitigation Plan and Local or Tribal Mitigation Plan, beneficially impact HUD or state designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, be cost-effective, and meet one of the CDBG's three National: benefiting low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons, addressing a severe and recently arising urgent community welfare or health need; or preventing or eliminating slum and blighting conditions. Cost Share not required.

**Submission Requirement:** Following future disasters, subapplicants should consult with FDEO for program deadlines and submission guidance. Application deadline for Round II is closed, however there is a future round - Round III (note: General Infrastructure Program (GIP) for Hurricane Michael closed on June 24, 2022). Round III will commence in 2022 with \$150 million in funding, plus all remaining unobligated funds being available for allocation.

**Eligible Activities:** eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Dry and wet proofing (CFHP)
- Energy resiliency Participant outreach (CFHP)
- Construction (GIP)
- Rehabilitation or construction of stormwater management systems (GIP)
- Improvements to drainage facilities GIP
- Modernization and resiliency planning (GPS)
- Comprehensive, capital improvement, and community development mitigation planning (GPS)
- Floodplain and wetland management plans (GPS)
- Upgrading mapping, data and other capabilities to better understand evolving disaster risks (GPS)
- Planning and public service activities necessary to reduce flood insurance premiums in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) voluntary Community Rating System incentive program (GPS)

#### **8.2.1.10 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Small Cities CDBG Program**

**Program Summary:** The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) administers the Small Cities CDBG Program. This competitive grant program awards funds to local governments in small urban and rural areas. The program provides an opportunity for communities to obtain funds for projects that they cannot otherwise afford. CDBG funds can also provide administrative support for local governments that may not have the staffing resources necessary to administer their projects. Examples of CDBG-funded projects include (but not limited to):

- Water and Sewer Improvements
- Drainage and Stormwater Improvements

**Eligibility:** Activity must meet at least one of the following National Objectives: benefiting to Low-and Moderate-Income Persons, eliminating of Slum and Blight, and addressing an Urgent Need. The condition must have

occurred within 18 months of application. Local governments applicants must demonstrate an inability to finance the activity on its own and that other funding is not available.

**Submission Requirements:** FY23 application cycle information currently not available FY22 application cycle closed (June 6, 2022 and closes July 21, 2022).

**Eligible Activities:** eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Construction
- Rehabilitation or construction of stormwater management systems
- Improvements to drainage facilities
- Modernization and resiliency planning
- Capital improvements

### 8.2.1.11 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

**Program Summary:** Public Works program provides funding to build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance economic development goals. Under the American Rescue Plan, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) allocated \$3B in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide. Funding includes support for economic development assistance to support long-term community economic recovery planning and project implementation, redevelopment and resilience. Projects must be aligned with a current CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy and clearly lead to the creation or retention of long-term high-quality jobs. Funds may be used for a wide variety of infrastructure projects including water and sewer system improvements. The goal of the program is to support projects that: lead to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advance innovation, enhance the manufacturing capacities of regions, provide workforce development opportunities, and grow ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment.

**Eligibility:** State, county, tribal, city and township, and special district governments, Institutions of higher education and Nonprofits are eligible to apply for funding. Cost share requirements include federal: 50% local: 50%. Projects may receive an additional amount up to 30% of the total project cost, based on the needs of the region in which the project will be located.

**Submission Requirements:** There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until a new NOFO is published, this PWEAA NOFO is cancelled, or all funds have been expended. Applications for submission to EDA are available on Grants.gov. Applicants must register prior to submitting the application.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Construction
- Non-construction
- Planning
- Technical Assistance
- Revolving Loan Fund

### 8.2.1.12 US Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

**Program Summary:** American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program funds are intended to provide support local governments to facilitate the ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds can also be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to address the consequences of deferred maintenance in drinking water systems and removal, management, and treatment of sewage and stormwater, along with additional resiliency measures needed to adapt to climate change. The State of Florida, through the Florida Division of Emergency Management (Division), will disburse Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to non-entitlement units of local government through the Supplemental Resilient Florida Grants program. All county governments in the State of Florida (regardless of population) will receive funding directly from Treasury and must apply directly to Treasury to receive such funding.

**Eligibility:** Eligible entities include Counties, municipalities and other eligible entities as identified in Florida statute, local governments designated as non-entitlement. Cost share not required. Projects must be complete by Dec. 31, 2026 (no extensions permitted).

**Submission Requirements:** The City may request their allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Treasury Submission Portal (<https://api.id.me/en/session/new>).

**Eligible Activities:**

- Planning
- Pre-construction
- Implementation projects that address risks of flooding or sea level rise

## 8.3 State Funding Opportunities

### 8.3.1 St. Johns River Water Management District Districtwide Cost Share Funding Program (FY2023-24)

**Program Summary:** The Cost Share Program is a partnership between the District and local governments to ensure the completion of shovel-ready stormwater/flood protection projects designed to reduce flooding risks and improve water quality. The cost-share funding can support the following project types:

- Improved nutrient treatment processes of existing wastewater treatment facilities
- Pumping stations and storage facilities
- Transmission and distribution systems
- Improved landscape irrigation efficiencies
- Low impact development (LID) projects with a net water quality benefit
- Regional flood control projects
- Natural systems restoration and enhancement

**Eligibility:** Applications for cost-share funding for projects that benefit the District's core missions from Dec. 1, 2022, through 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2023. Projects are eligible for a maximum district cost-share of \$3 million per project or per applicant and funding is limited exclusively to construction-related costs. Projects should be completed within two years and must start no later than June 30, 2023. The district will fund up to 25 percent of

the construction costs for selected alternative water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural systems projects and up to 50 percent for water conservation projects.

**Submission Requirements:** Applications due January 31, 2023 at 5 p.m. through the Online Application System.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Construction
- Construction engineering and inspection services
- Water quality best management practices
- Retrofitting of stormwater outfalls with tidal backflow prevention valves
- Reconstruction of weirs, construction of watershed management collection and stormwater treatment systems
- Stormwater management system expansion and reconstruction
- Plumbing retrofits (conservation-related)
- Piping and other materials directly related to construction of the project

### 8.3.2 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Program

**Program Summary:** The Resilient Florida Grant Program includes a variety of grants that are available to counties, municipalities, water management districts, flood control districts and regional resilience entities aimed to address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces, eligible applicants may receive funding assistance to analyze and plan for vulnerabilities, as well as implement projects for adaptation and mitigation.

**Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan:** Grant program aimed to effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces, eligible applicants may receive funding assistance to analyze and plan for vulnerabilities, as well as implement projects for adaptation and mitigation. Beginning December 1, 2021, and each December 1 through 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will develop a Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan. The plan must consist of ranked projects that address risks of flooding and sea level rise to coastal and inland communities in the state. All eligible projects submitted to DEP must be ranked and included in the plan.

**Supplemental Resilient Florida Grants:** state-directed American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). \$20 million allocated for planning and pre-construction. SLFRF funds are a one-time appropriation to the program. The projects funded by the SLFRF are subject to legislative review and approval and must be submitted to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2022. The projects can be awarded when funds are released by the U.S. Department of Treasury

**Eligibility:** Counties, municipalities, water management districts, flood control districts and regional resilience entities. Local governments are eligible to apply for implementation project funding after conducting a vulnerability assessment, evaluation, report, or other similar document that demonstrates a risk of flooding or risks due to sea level rise to a critical asset or the project area. Minimum of 50% match unless qualified as a financially disadvantaged small community. Project to be considered for eligibility must be included in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan and or Plan update. By September 1 of each (through 2024, county and local government entities, and special districts must submit to DEP a list of proposed projects that address and mitigate the risks of flooding or sea level rise on water supplies or water resources of the state. Each project

included in the plan must have a minimum 50-percent cost share unless the project assists or is within a financially disadvantaged small community.

**Submission Requirements:** FY23 application cycle information currently not available. FY22 application cycle closed.

**Eligible Activities:**

- Planning
- Pre-construction
- Implementation projects that address risks of flooding or sea level rise

## 8.4 Grant Funding Recommendations

The project recommendation list was developed in an effort to pair CIP projects with external funding sources. Identifying appropriate funding agencies was key in determining the types of support available. Both state and federal agencies administer programs that may align with of the long-term funding goals of City. The completion of this assessment revealed that any funding opportunities selected would need to support repair and replacement costs associated with aging infrastructure, while also requiring limited or no cash contributions by the City (“local match”).

Once the City is prepared to move forward from prioritization and project selection to proposal development, it will be critical to establish clear milestones to ensure that planning, design, and construction timelines align with application requirements and deadlines. To avoid missing out and the substantial grant funding opportunities available including BIL funding, each project scope/description must clearly demonstrate that the proposed activities are eligible and meet the primary objectives of the federal or state program. While the projects included in the funding table below appear to be in the best position to move forward with an application, eligibility is ultimately determined by the funding agency and each funding agency has their own eligibility criteria.

To strengthen the competitiveness of any application, it may be useful to link the primary need to repair aging City infrastructure with other beneficial outcomes including, for example, enhancing protection against threats in areas that are or have been susceptible to natural hazards or disaster-related events; and/or demonstrating the project will be located in or benefit small or disadvantaged communities. Making the case that the project will reduce hazards and impact vulnerable communities will increase the range of funding options available to the City. For example, the City may be eligible to apply for grant funding offered by FEMA through any of the mitigation and resilience programs if the project can demonstrate the following factors:

- The project is located in a floodplain
- The project will reduce or eliminate flood risk to residents and/or buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- The project will reduce or eliminate risk to a natural hazard, the facility or equipment has failed or become damaged as a result of extreme weather events and chronic stressors
- The project will cost beneficial and minimize any expected future losses, or
- The project includes studies/plans (ex. project scoping, mitigation planning) yet to be conducted but necessary for pending upgrades or replacement of the facility or equipment.

Based all of the information provided and gathered, including the fiscal needs and challenges identified by the City, the table included below provides an overview of funding that could potentially support CIP projects.

**Table 8-2. Funding Recommendations by Project Type**

Project Type	Funding Source	Funding Mechanism	Eligible Activities	Cost Share Requirements (Federal/Local)	Funding Cap (Per application)	Application Deadline
Bulkhead Dredging	CWSRF	Low-interest Loan	Stormwater Best Management Practices Retrofits of Stormwater BMPs Stream Restoration Buffer Restoration Upgrades, Repair, Replacement, or Installation and Construction	Low-interest loans with an interest rate at 3%	Project dependent	FY22 Application Closed. FY23 submission info not available.
Bulkhead	(S)/WIFIA	Credit Assistance	Planning and Feasibility Analysis Environmental Review Permitting Preliminary Engineering and Design Work Construction, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Replacement Acquisition of real property including water rights or land relating to the project	Low-cost supplemental loan (0% interest to market rate)	Up to \$20M or \$5M for Small Community	LOI Submission Open
Bulkhead Dredging	Nonpoint Source	Grant	Construction, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Replacement of Stormwater Infrastructure Activities to Manage, Reduce or Recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water	60:40	Project dependent	Application Cycle Open
Use of Dredge Material (from canals, waterways, etc.)	BRIC (National Competition)	Grant	Floodplain Restoration Mitigation Reconstruction	75:25	Up to \$50M	FY22 Application Closed. FY23 submission info not available.
Bulkhead Dredging	FMA	Grant	Localized flood control Floodwater storage and diversion Floodplain and stream restoration Stormwater management	75:25	Up to \$100K Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans \$900K Project Scoping \$300K C&CB	FY22 Application Closed. FY23 submission info not available.
Dredging	CDBG-DR	Grant	Preparedness and Mitigation Construction Acquisition Preconstruction (design, engineering, planning) Rehabilitation/reconstruction	N/A	Project dependent	Consult with FDEM for submission
Dredging	CDBG-MIT (Round III)	Grant	Construction Rehabilitation or construction of stormwater management systems	N/A	Project dependent	Consult with FDEO for submission

**Table 8-2. Funding Recommendations by Project Type**

Project Type	Funding Source	Funding Mechanism	Eligible Activities	Cost Share Requirements (Federal/Local)	Funding Cap (Per application)	Application Deadline
			Improvements to drainage facilities			
Use of Dredge Material (from canals, waterways, etc.)	EDA Public Works	Grant	Construction, Design, and Engineering of Critical Infrastructure	50:50	Up to \$30M	Open
Bulkhead Dredging	SLFRF	Grant	Resiliency measures needed to adapt to climate change	N/A	Consult with FDEM	Open Consult with FDEM for submission
Any (Stormwater & Flood Protection)	St. Johns RWMD Cost Share Program	Grant	Construction and Construction engineering Reconstruction of Weirs Construction of Watershed Management Collection and Stormwater Treatment Systems Stormwater Management System Expansion and Reconstruction	N/A	Up to \$3M	Applications due January 31, 2023

**Table 8-3. Funding Recommendations by Source/Opportunity**

Funding Opportunity	Eligible Entities	Program Criteria
<b>Bridge Investment Program</b> <a href="https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL).shtm">https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL).shtm</a>	State, Tribal Government, MPOs (> 200,000 people), Local Governments Special Purpose District	Administered by FDOT Pending release of guidance: grant (BIL) program to support replacement or rehabilitation of culverts to improve flood control and improve habitat connectivity for aquatic species. Planning, Large Project (>\$100M), and Project (<\$100M) competitive grant program open June to September Up to 5% of funds available for solely culverts Cost Share: TBD
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) <a href="https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL).shtm">https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL).shtm</a>	State, Tribal Government, MPOs (> 200,000 people), Local Governments Special Purpose District,	Administered by FDOT Pending release of guidance: grant (BIL) program to support planning, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure to increase resilience from the impacts of sea level rise, flooding, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters. Cost Share: TBD
Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants (RAISE) <a href="https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL).shtm">https://www.fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL).shtm</a>	State, Tribal Government, Local Government	Administered by FDOT Pending release of guidance: grant (BIL) program to support projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent

**Table 8-3. Funding Recommendations by Source/Opportunity**

Funding Opportunity	Eligible Entities	Program Criteria
	Special Purpose District	stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species. Cost Share: TBD
FEMA-PA <a href="https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery/public-assistance-program/">https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery/public-assistance-program/</a>	State, Tribal Government, Local Governments, Private Non-Profit Organizations	Administered by FDEM Grant program to support recovery from major disasters or emergencies declared by the president for debris removal and emergency protective measures, repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities. PA funding information for Hurricane Ian and Nicole pending. Cost Share/Local Match: 75%/25% (federal/non-federal)
FEMA-HMGP <a href="https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/">https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/</a>	State, Tribal Government, Local Governments, Private Non-Profit Organizations	Administered by FDEM Grant program to support rebuilding efforts that reduce or mitigate future disaster related loses. Only available following a presidentially declared disaster, however projects do not have to align with a specific disaster. HMGP funding information for Hurricane Ian and Nicole pending. Cost Share/Local Match: 75%/25% (federal/non-federal)
CDBG-DR <a href="https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/disaster-recovery-initiative">https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/disaster-recovery-initiative</a>	State and State Agencies, Local Governments, Non-Profit Organizations, Economic Development Agencies	Administered by DEO Grant program to support disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in a Presidentially declared area for the covered disaster. CDBG-DR funding information for Hurricane Ian and Nicole pending. Cost Share/Local Match: 100% (federal)
CDBG-MIT <a href="https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation">https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation</a>	State Agencies, Local Governments, Non-Profits, Educational Institutions	Administered by DEO Grant program to support disaster mitigation projects in areas impacted by presidentially declared disasters. CDBG-DR funding information for Hurricane Ian and Nicole pending. Cost Share/Local Match: 100% (federal)

**Notes:**

The funding opportunities presented in this Table 2 reflect funding that may *potentially* be available in 2023 to support various mitigation and infrastructure projects. At the time of this report, limited information was available on the specific program criteria, funding cycle timelines, and funding availability. The City is strongly encouraged to review and monitor these programs periodically.