

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Rural Infrastructure Fund was created to facilitate the planning, preparation and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Rural communities, including: (1) a county government with a population of 75,000 or less; (2) a county government with a population of 100,000 or less that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or less; (3) a municipality located within a county described in (1) or (2) above; (4) an unincorporated federal Enterprise Community; and (5) a rural municipality with a population of 25,000 or less and an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or resource-based industries that is located in a county not defined as rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress factors identified in statute and verified by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

There are three types of grants available.

Total Participation Grants: Grants for up to 30 percent of the total infrastructure project costs related to specific job-creating opportunities may be awarded to applicants who have applied for the maximum available under other state or federal infrastructure funding programs.

Feasibility Grants: Grants may be awarded for infrastructure feasibility studies, design and engineering or other planning and preparation activities. The amount of the grant available in this category is dependent on the number of jobs which are expected to be created and the location of the project.

Preclearance Review Grants: Grants may be awarded for surveys, feasibility studies and other activities related to the identification and preclearance review of potential land use modification. The amount of the grant available is dependent on whether a project is in a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Call the contacts below for up-to-date information.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

State general revenue appropriation.

APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES

No deadline.

(over)

MATCHING/OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Varies by type of grant.

Total Participation Grants: Grants fund up to 30 percent of the total infrastructure project costs, or 25 percent of the appropriation, whichever is less.

Feasibility Grants: No match required. However, the award amounts are tied to project location or number of jobs being created.

- \$50,000 for projects creating at least 100 jobs.
- \$150,000 for projects creating at least 300 jobs.
- \$300,000 for projects in Rural Areas of Economic Concern.

Preclearance Review Grants: Maximum award of \$75,000 with a 50-percent local match. Maximum award of \$300,000 with a 33-percent local match for activities in a Rural Area of Economic Concern.

CONTACT

For projects supporting tourism development:

Cliff Nilson, Government Relations

VISIT FLORIDA

2540 W. Executive Center Circle, Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 488-5607, ext. 348

E-mail: cnilson@visitflorida.org

For projects supporting economic development:

Bridget Merrill, Vice President, Targeted Opportunities

Enterprise Florida, Inc.

The Atrium Building, Suite 201

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Tallahassee, FL 32303

(850) 298-6626

E-Mail: bmerrill@eflorida.com