



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Alternative Water Supply Grants

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Alternative Water Supply Funding

Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature have recognized the importance of alternative water supply (AWS) and the protection of Florida's natural systems with an investment of \$335 million since Fiscal Year 2019-20. Projects funded through this program are intended to prioritize regional projects in the areas of greatest need as well as projects that provide the greatest benefit. Examples of projects funded include reclaimed water, aquifer recharge, water conservation, etc.

Local cooperators interested in alternative water supply funding are encouraged to work with their local Water Management District (District) to develop a proposal. Projects approved at the District are then submitted to DEP for funding consideration. To assist Districts and local cooperators, DEP has the [Water Management District AWS Project Submittal Worksheet \(/water-policy/water-policy/forms/aws-submittal-spreadsheet\)](#) to provide guidance on the information DEP requires for consideration.

In addition to coordinating alternative water supply projects with the Districts, local cooperators can now also apply for water project funding through the DEP grant portal on our [Protecting Florida Together](#)

(<https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/>) website under Grants (<https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/grants-submissions>).

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ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What types of projects are eligible?

Eligible projects are conservation, reuse and other water supply and water resource development projects.

Who is eligible to receive grant funding?

Local governments and non-state entities may apply. This includes counties, municipalities, special districts or any other political subdivision of the state as well as public utilities, public universities and colleges and non-profit organizations. Priority funding will be given to regional projects in the areas of greatest need and for projects that provide the greatest benefit.

What are the minimum and maximum request amounts?

There are no set minimum or maximum funding amounts. Funding is limited to the annual appropriation provided by the legislature.

When is the proposal period open?

There is not a set timeframe for when the grants portal opens. To receive updates, sign up for notifications through the [Preference Center | Water Quality Dashboard](#).

When will awards be announced?

There is not a specific date for award announcements. Selected applicants will be notified individually by the program.

What is the performance period for the grant?

The performance period is project-specific and will be approved by the department and incorporated into the terms of the grant agreement. However, the department strongly considers project readiness as part of its selection process.

What if a project is eligible for multiple grant programs?

Applicants should submit separate proposals for each grant program for which they are eligible on [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants](#). It is recommended that you review each grant program within the portal and submit for all grants for which you may be eligible.

How much funding is available?

This Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Grant Program is funded through annual legislative appropriations. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 appropriation is \$50 million.

Are Word versions of the proposal questions available?

Yes, a .docx version of the questions will be available alongside the webform for informational purposes only. All project proposals must be submitted online via the [Protecting Florida Together Grants Portal](#). Email submissions will not be accepted.

Is there a match requirement?

There is not a required match for this program, but the local cost share is a consideration during project selection. You may include expenditures you have or will incur related to the project.

Who should submit the proposal?

The entity requesting the funds should submit the proposal and provide their contact information. For projects with more than one cooperator, only one proposal should be submitted and all cooperators may be listed in the application — coordinate with your partners to ensure timely submission.

Do the portal submissions replace the submittals to the water management districts?

The AWS Grant Program also accepts proposals directly from the water management districts (WMDs). If you have applied to your local WMD, you should not submit the same proposal in the portal unless you have updated information. The department does coordinate with the local WMD to evaluate regional objectives for all submitted projects.

How many project proposals am I allowed to submit?

There are no limits on the number of unique projects that can be submitted by an allowable entity.