

Franklin County RESTORE Act Project

Submission Guidance Document

RESTORE Act Overview

On April 20, 2010, the largest offshore oil spill in the United States occurred, exacerbating the effects of previous natural disasters. Oil flowed unchecked for three months. The cause was an explosion of the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Before the well was capped, millions of barrels of crude oil were released, closing tens of thousands of square miles of federal waters to fishing, and causing extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats, and tourism.

On July 6, 2012, the President signed into law the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act). The Act established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury Department. Eighty percent of the civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will be deposited into the Trust Fund and invested. Under the RESTORE Act, amounts in the Trust Fund will be available for programs, projects, and activities that restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region. Under the RESTORE Act, the U.S. Treasury Department will administer two grant programs, called the Direct Component and the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.

Franklin County RESTORE Act - Direct Component Allocations

The Franklin County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee (RAC) was established in November 2015 to assist in the development of a plan for implementing RESTORE Act funding to be received locally through the Direct Component Program. As of December 2016, Franklin County had been allocated a total of \$19,480,787 in Direct Component Funds 1 (including Transocean and Anadarko settlements). Currently, \$3,729,229 is available to Franklin County. However, before Franklin County can access these funds, the U.S. Treasury Department requires a Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) to be submitted, which is the plan that outlines how these funds will be spent.

Franklin County's MYIP is being developed over a period of approximately one and a half years, beginning in June of 2016 and ending in November of 2017. The County has hired a consulting team (Dewberry Engineers, Inc. with support from Ecology and Environment, Inc.) to assist the County staff, the RAC, and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in developing the MYIP. Many public meetings have been held to date, and the RAC and BOCC have approved a County Needs Assessment document and Project Selection Criteria, which will be used in scoring eligible projects. The Adopted Needs Assessment and Adopted Selection Criteria and Scoring documents can be found at www.franklincountyrestore.com.

The next step in the rigorous process of developing the MYIP is prioritizing a subset of eligible, locally supported projects on which to focus. Franklin County is currently soliciting project proposals for potential inclusion in the MYIP. This document will guide eligible organizations through the project submission process. The Project Portal will open on May 15, 2017 and will be closed on July 15, 2017.

Are You Eligible to Submit a Project?

Access to and management of federal funds is a highly complex and intricate process. The County must produce and maintain a detailed record of accounting procedures as they relate to the use of federal funds. Because of this and other factors, project submissions in Franklin County are limited to the eligible entities listed and described in Table 1, below. Individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible to apply. If you have a project idea, you are encouraged to contact and collaborate with an eligible entity listed below.

Table 1 – Eligible Entities

Type of Entity	Description
Government/Instrumentalities	Local governments, including counties, cities, and towns; Quasi government entities created by state statute or local authority such as regional planning councils, transportation authorities, water districts, or utility districts; Federal and state governments established and recognized by the U.S. Constitution and State Constitution and any legally established agencies thereof; Instrumentalities operated for public purposes, including schools, hospitals, libraries, soil and water conservation districts, fire associations, etc.
Institutions of Higher Education	Any public or private educational institution that provides a bachelor’s degree, 2-year degree, or 1-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association.
Non-Profit Organizations	An organization possessing a valid tax exempt status with the IRS, such as a 501(c)3 status.

What Types of Projects are Eligible for Funding?

In accordance with the RESTORE Act, Direct Component funds can be used for the following eligible activities:

- Restore and protect natural resources
- Mitigate damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Implement Federally approved conservation plans
- Workforce development and job creation
- Improve State parks located in coastal areas affected by the spill
- Infrastructure projects benefitting the local economy or ecological resources
- Coastal flood protection
- Planning assistance
- Promotion of tourism
- Promote consumption of seafood for the Gulf Region

What Type of Projects will Receive the Highest Scores?

All proposed projects must meet certain Programmatic Criteria, including feasibility, demonstration of public benefit and reasonable timing, partnerships and leveraging of additional funds, as well as sustainability and efficiency. Franklin County has also recognized community needs within five unique categories:

1. Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources;
2. Workforce Development and Job Creation;
3. Infrastructure Benefitting the Economy or Ecological Resources;
4. Coastal Flood Protection and Related Infrastructure; and
5. Tourism, Recreational Fishing, and Seafood.

Projects within one category may have benefits in one or more of the additional categories. Within each category, the County has prioritized two to five individual criteria. The County’s adopted priorities, with maximum scores and relative scores weights (in no particular order) are provided in Table 2 below:

Table 2 –Selection Criteria with Maximum Scores

Criteria Category	Max Score
Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources	17%
Improves water quality of Apalachicola Bay and its tributaries.	8.5
Improves estuarine habitat, including oysters, seagrasses, and marsh.	8.5
Workforce Development and Job Creation	18%
Enhances existing assets.	6.4
Attracts and/or expands new industries.	9.0
Identifies and/or improves workforce gaps.	2.6
Infrastructure Benefitting the Economy or Ecological Resources	21%
Provides stormwater management and/or flooding controls.	9.6
Provides technology and/or technology access.	4.8
Provides waterway navigation/access.	6.6
Coastal Flood Protection and Related Infrastructure	18%
Provides for disaster planning, response, and or recovery.	6.4
Provides flood protection and/or flood mitigation.	7.0
Enhances emergency services.	4.6
Tourism, Recreational Fishing and Seafood	26%
Enhances and/or markets existing assets.	3.7
Provides new tourism destinations and/or opportunities.	7.0
Provides for oyster recovery and/or improvement.	6.2
Provides public waterfront access, including parking.	6.8
Provides fisheries attraction (i.e. reefs) and/or fisheries monitoring.	2.3
Total	100
BONUS CRITERIA - Programmatic	20%
Provides public benefit.	12
Provides leveraging of RESTORE funds.	8
Total Maximum Points	120

Each section of the Project Application contains several short-answer/essay style questions with associated word limits and maximum points possible. The points shown on each question represent the maximum points allocated to that question from the Project Selection Criteria that will be used in scoring each project. The maximum number of possible points for the priority criteria is 100 (Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources, 17 points; Workforce Development and Job Creation, 18 points; Infrastructure Benefitting the Economy or Ecological Resources, 21 points; Coastal Flood Protection and Related Infrastructure, 18 points; and Tourism, Recreational Fishing & Seafood, 26 points). An additional 20 points may be acquired in the Bonus Points section for public benefits and additional leveraging of external funds.

It is possible to receive partial points for any given question. Projects will be ranked comprehensively (according to the total points acquired across all criteria). Therefore, it is in your best interest to answer as many questions as possible. If a question does not pertain to your proposed project, enter “n/a” in the text box.

The full detailed description of the County’s Project Selection Criteria can be found at www.franklincountyrestore.com.

How do I Submit a Project?

1. Verify you are an eligible entity.
2. Verify your project contains at least one of the eligible activities listed by the RESTORE Act.
3. The Project Portal can be accessed online by navigating to the Franklin County RESTORE website at www.franklincountyrestore.com.
4. The Project Portal will be open from May 15, 2017 to July 15, 2017. Click on the “Submit a Project” link located on the left-hand side of the Franklin County RESTORE home screen to begin. This link will redirect you to the Project Portal submission process.
5. Register and create username and password. Password must contain:
 - A minimum of 1 lower case letter [a–z] and
 - A minimum of 1 upper case letter [A–Z] and
 - A minimum of 1 numeric character [0–9] and
 - A minimum of 1 special character: ~`!@#%&*()- _ += {} [] | \ ; : " < > , . / ?
6. Log in: Enter username and password
7. Add a project:
 - a. **Tab 1: Project and Title Location**
 - i. Enter project title
 - ii. Enter project address; if address unknown, enter zip code and drag dot to location
 - iii. Save location
 - iv. Click on “Project Form” tab when complete
 - b. **Tab 2: Complete Project Details**
 - i. Click on “Project Form” tab
 - ii. Answer all questions, following the instructions on the screen
 - iii. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required
 - iv. If no response, enter N/A
 - v. Click the “Save Details” button often as you work, so your progress will not be lost
 - c. **Tab 3: Add attachments (Optional)**
 - i. Add up to 3 attachments
 - ii. Acceptable file type: PDF only
 - iii. Name each attachment
 - iv. File size limit: 2MB each
 - d. **Tab 4: Project Submission**
 - i. Congratulations! You have completed all steps and are now ready to submit your project; click the “Submit Project” button.
 - e. **Editing Before Submission, Before Project Close Date**
 - i. Navigate to: Home > Projects > My Projects
 - ii. Click “View or Edit” button
 - f. **Editing After Submission, Before Project Close Date**
 - i. Navigate to: Home > Projects > My Projects
 - ii. Click “View or Edit” for selected project
 - iii. Click on “Tab 4 Status”

- iv. Choose “Edit Application” button
 - v. Confirm in pop up window
 - vi. The application is now editable
 - vii. You must resubmit it when finished
- g. **Revoking Your Application**
- i. Navigate to: Home > Projects > My Projects
 - ii. Click “View/Edit” for selected project
 - iii. Click on “Tab 4 Status”
 - iv. Click on “Delete Application”. Please be aware that deleting your application will remove it and all its contents from the website. Once deleted, this information is not recoverable.
- h. **Saving Your Application**
- i. Click the printer icon, which is located below the status bar
 - ii. Click open to view your application in a pdf format
 - iii. Click save to download and save your application to your computer

Please save a copy of your application.

All applications must be submitted by July 15, 2017, no exceptions. You will not be able to edit your project after the submittal deadline.

Questions?

All documents and meeting information can be found on the Franklin County RESTORE website at www.franklincountyrestore.com.

For online technical inquiries, contact Cameron Morris at cmorris@dewberry.com or (850) 571-1190.

To contact a Franklin County representative, email Alan Pierce, RESTORE Coordinator, at alanp@franklincountyflorida.com or call (850) 653-9783, Ext. 161.