Central Florida Water Initiative



Cost-Share Funding Available for Alternative Water Supply and Water Conservation Projects

The St. Johns and South Florida water management districts are now accepting applications for 2027 cost-share projects.

The **St. Johns River Water Management District (District)** collaborates closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), local governments, private sector and agricultural partners to implement impactful projects benefiting the water resources in northeast and east-central Florida.

The District is now accepting applications on behalf of DEP for funding for alternative water supply and water conservation projects within the District's 18-county service area. The District will be providing the list of reviewed, ranked and Governing Board approved applicants to DEP for funding consideration by May 31, 2026. Project types and guidelines:

Alternative water supply (AWS):

Eligible projects for consideration are construction-ready and provide an AWS benefit within the District. The funding priority is for regional projects in the areas of greatest need and those that provide the greatest benefit to the protection of Florida's natural systems.

Water conservation:

Water conservation is the prevention and/or the reduction of water use to improve efficiency of use and to avoid using water when not needed for the intended purpose.

Applications are due no later than Jan. 29 by 5 p.m. For detailed information and application submissions, visit <u>sirwmd.com/localgovernments/funding/districtwide</u>.

The **South Florida Water Management District (District)** is now accepting applications for cost-share projects to develop alternative water supplies (AWS) and to advance water conservation initiatives. This initiative is part of the State of Florida's continuing efforts to implement cost-effective strategies to conserve its precious water resources while meeting the state's water needs. Partnering with local governments and other entities for implementation of water conservation projects and development of alternative water projects is an important and effective way to help accomplish this goal. All local governments applying for this grant must have an adopted irrigation ordinance

consistent with the District's year-round Irrigation Rule in place in order to be eligible for funding consideration. All local governments must also have an approved Water Supply Facilities Work Plan per statute to be eligible for funding consideration.

Governor Ron DeSantis requested annually recurring cost-share funding for developing water supply and water resource development projects. The District is requesting applications for funding consideration for AWS and water conservation projects within the District's 16-county service area in anticipation of cost-share funding being appropriated for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. This funding cycle corresponds to a project start date occurring on or after October 1, 2026.

Eligible projects for consideration should be construction-ready AWS projects or ready-to-implement water conservation technology programs or projects that provide the most immediate benefits. The deadline to apply is **February 26, 2026, at 4 p.m.** Projects may receive <u>up to 50</u> percent cost-share of eligible project costs. Two informational webinars are scheduled on January 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. and on January 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Register for the webinar on January 13, 2026 here: Informational Webinar (FY27 Cooperative Funding Program Overview #1)

Register for the webinar on January 28, 2026 here: <u>Informational Webinar (FY27 Cooperative Funding Program Overview #2)</u>

To apply for the funding, register for the informational webinars, and other details, visit SFWMD.gov/CoopFunding. If you need assistance with the application process or technical support, contact coopfunding@sfwmd.gov.