



Cost-Share Funding Available for Water Resources Projects

The St. Johns and South Florida water management districts are now accepting applications for 2025 cost-share projects.

The **St. Johns River Water Management District** collaborates closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), local governments, private sector, and agricultural partners to implement impactful projects benefiting the water resources within the District's 18-county service area.

The District will be accepting applications that will be forwarded to FDEP for funding consideration in three key project areas: alternative water supply, water conservation and initiatives focused on enhancing springs within the District. Each application will be thoroughly reviewed, scored, ranked and presented to the Governing Board for consideration and approval. The approved list will be submitted to FDEP in May 2024 for their consideration.

Project types and eligibility criteria:

1. Alternative water supply:

- Funding priority for regional projects addressing critical water needs and safeguarding Florida's natural systems.
- Consideration factors include regional benefits, support for water bodies with adopted minimum flows and levels (MFLs), dual benefits for water supply and quality, and cost-effectiveness.

2. Water conservation:

- Encouraging prevention and reduction of water usage for enhanced efficiency.
- Eligible projects encompass residential, recreational and commercial/industrial conservation efforts.

3. Springs enhancement, restoration and/or protection:

- Projects focusing on measurable benefits to springs within the District.

- Criteria include nutrient reduction, quantity improvements, applicant's commitment, readiness, proximity to priority focus areas, cost-effectiveness, alignment with restoration, prevention or recovery plans such as Basin Management Action Plans, Reasonable Assurance Plan, or MFL Recovery or Prevention Strategy, as well as whether the project integrates into a multi-year or phased implementation plan.

Applications are due no later than Feb. 16 by 5 p.m. For detailed information and application submissions, visit www.sjrwmd.com/localgovernments/funding/districtwide.

The **South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)** is now accepting applications for cost-share projects to develop alternative water supplies (AWS). 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. SFWMD 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 2024-2025. This funding cycle corresponds to a project start date occurring on or after October 1, 2024.

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, 2024**, at 4 p.m. Projects may receive up to 50 percent cost-share of eligible project costs.

Two informational webinars are scheduled in January 2024:

[Register here for the webinar on January 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

[Register here for the webinar on January 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.](#)

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 Stacey Payseno at spayseno@sfwmd.gov or 561-682-2577 or Robert Wanvestraut at rowanves@sfwmd.gov or 561-682-6615 or Adel Pena at apena@sfwmd.gov or 561-682-2544.