



Florida Panhandle Regional Recreation Economy Summit

Resource Guide

This document includes funding and technical assistance programs that could potentially support communities in growing the regional recreation economy. This guide is not intended as a comprehensive inventory but rather a snapshot of resources to facilitate regional collaboration, capacity-building and action plan implementation.



Economics of a Regional Recreational Economy

FEMA – Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

Supports partnerships and community capacity-building by investing in hazard mitigation projects focused on public infrastructure, nature-based solutions and building codes.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

BRIC Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (application period closed on 1/29/2021, up to \$600,000)

CONTACT: David Vandewater, David.Vandewater@fema.dhs.gov

WEBSITE: <http://www.fema.gov/bric>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

Provides technical assistance with a focus on capacity-building and implementation through facilitated workshops and action planning.

CONTACT: Chip Gurkin, Gurkin.charles@epa.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities>

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Business Development Program

Funds projects that benefit small rural businesses.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Rural Business Development Enterprise Grant (application period open, \$10,000 up to \$500,000)

- Planning, acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way
- Transportation improvements
- Construction, conversion, renovation of buildings
- Pollution control and abatement
- Rural business incubators

CONTACT: Loria Phillips, loria.phillips@usda.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants/fl>

Florida DEO – Community Development Block Grant Program

Funds projects that benefit people with low to moderate incomes or address blight through commercial revitalization, economic development, housing rehabilitation or neighborhood revitalization.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus Small Cities (pre-application cycle open from 2/1/2021 to 3/15/2021)

- Water, sewer drainage and stormwater improvements



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- Rehabilitation of substandard housing
- Street and sidewalk improvements
- Economic development activities that create jobs for low to moderate incomes
- Downtown revitalization, including facade improvements, streetscaping and underground utilities
- Park facilities and community centers

CONTACT: CDBG-DR@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/community-development-block-grant-program>

Florida DEO – Rebuild Florida Hurricane Michael

Distributes long-term recovery funds from HUD to communities impacted by Hurricane Michael.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

General Infrastructure Repair Program (application period closed on 11/2020, minimum \$250,000)

- Repairs to infrastructure, public facilities, disaster shelters, shelter for unhoused
- Debris removal
- Repair to public facilities such as emergency community shelters
- Demolition, rehabilitation of publicly or privately owned commercial or industrial buildings
- Dune restoration

CONTACT: Mario Rubio, Mario.Rubio@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/disaster-recovery-initiative/hurricane-michael>

Florida DEO – Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund

Provides long-term loans for businesses impacted by Hurricane Michael in Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla and Washington counties.

Allowable loan uses include:

- Acquisition of land for business development
- Business acquisition or expansion
- Landscape and property improvements
- Machinery and equipment
- Purchase order or inventory, line of credit

Florida DEO – Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund

Provides more flexible loans to local governments or economic development organizations in rural counties.

Allowable loan uses include:

- Acquisition of land
- Building construction or improvements
- Equipment purchase



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CONTACT: Mario Rubio, Mario.Rubio@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.floridajobs.org/RLP>

Florida DEO – Small Business Loan Program

Provides loans to small businesses for construction renovation, startup costs, business procurement or working capital.

CONTACT: Mario Rubio, Mario.Rubio@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/Small-and-Minority-Business-Development-Resources/Small-and-Minority-Business-Programs/small-business-loan-program>

Florida DEO – Rural Infrastructure Fund

Supports planning, preparation and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Total Project Participation Grants (first-come, first-serve, up to 50% of costs)

- Development or upgrades to public tourism infrastructure

Project Planning and Preparation Grants and Preclearance Review Grants (first-come, first-serve, \$300,000 if in Rural Area of Opportunity)

- Feasibility studies, design, surveys and engineering activities

CONTACT: Mario Rubio, Mario.Rubio@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/rural-community-programs/rural-infrastructure-fund>

Florida DEO – Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

Coordinates state and regional grant programs to provide targeted support for rural, economically distressed counties.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Regional Rural Development Grant (rolling, up to \$150,000 if involve multiple counties in Rural Area of Opportunity)

- Capacity building activities for regional rural economic development or tourism organizations

CONTACT: Mario Rubio, Mario.Rubio@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-partnerships/rural-economic-development-initiative>

Florida DEO – Competitive Florida Partnership

Facilitates implementation of a community's economic development vision through partnerships and knowledge-sharing among peers.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Partnership Grant (FY20-21 application period closed, anticipated 6/2021, \$40,000)

- Asset-based economic development strategy through community partnerships

CONTACT: Joshua Askey, Joshua.Askey@deo.myflorida.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-partnerships/competitive-florida>

Florida Department of Transportation – Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program



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Develops statewide system of separated, paved bicycle-pedestrian trails based on Florida Office of Greenways and Trails Priority Land Trail Network.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

SUN Trail Grant (application period closed, anticipated 12/2021)

- Feasibility, preliminary and environmental planning
- Design
- Construction, reconstruction or resurfacing of trail surfaces or bridges

CONTACT: Robin Birdsong, Robin.Birdsong@dot.state.fl.us

WEBSITE: <http://www.floridasuntrail.com/>

Florida Office of Greenways and Trails – Trail Town Program

Recognizes communities where trails support local economies by designating and promoting Trail Towns.

CONTACT: Britney Moore, Britney.Moore@FloridaDEP.gov

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/trail-town-program>

Apalachee Regional Planning Council – Technical Assistance

Provides technical assistance, including grant writing support.

CONTACT: Ben Chandler, bchandler@arpc.org

WEBSITE: <https://www.arpc.org/technical-assistance>

Emerald Coast Planning Council – Technical Assistance

Provides technical assistance, including grant writing support.

CONTACT: Ada Clark, ada.clark@ECRC.org

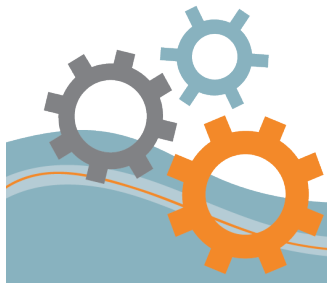
WEBSITE: <https://www.ecrc.org/programs/grants.php>

Explore Northwest Florida

Markets outdoor recreation in the northwest region, develops promotional materials and hosts ecotourism summits.

CONTACT: Betty Webb, bettytaylor.webb@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <https://explorenwflorida.com/>



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Landscape and Watershed Resiliency

Florida National Scenic Trail

Partners with state agencies, local governments, non-profits and private landowners to improve the congressionally designated Florida National Scenic Trail by funding projects related to trail development, design, signage, maintenance and promotion. Coordinates with the Florida Trail Association to maintain trails and designate towns near the Florida National Scenic Trail as Gateway Communities.

CONTACT: Shawn Thomas, shawn.c.thomas@usda.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/fnst>

Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)

Develops the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, a regional plan that identifies priority areas for conservation based on data and partner input. Strengthens funding proposals by reinforcing conservation value of proposed actions and demonstrating connections to a larger strategy.

CONTACT: Rua Mordecai, rua@southatlanticcc.org

WEBSITE: <http://secassoutheast.org/>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Florida Forever

Acquires public lands for parks, trails, forests, wildlife management areas based on priority given to lands by the Acquisition and Restoration Council.

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES:

Proposal for New Florida Forever Project (application deadline twice per fiscal year, on October 31 and April 30)

Proposal for Addition to Existing Florida Forever Project (rolling)

CONTACT: Deborah Burr, Deborah.Burr@FloridaDEP.gov

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/environmental-services/content/florida-forever>

FDEP – Florida Communities Trust

Provides land acquisition grants to local governments and eligible non-profits for parks, open space, greenways and projects supporting aquaculture.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Florida Communities Trust's Parks and Open Space Program (application period closed, anticipated 10/2021)

Acquisition of conservation lands, urban open spaces, parks and greenways

Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront Grant (application period closed, anticipated 10/2021)

Acquisition of lands used for seafood harvesting or for event venues that promote commercial fishing

CONTACT: Linda Reeves, linda.reeves@dep.state.fl.us

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/fct-florida-communities-trust-home>



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FDEP – Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Funds development, renovation or maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails and trailside facilities.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

RTP Grant (application deadline 2/28/2021, \$400,000 to \$1,000,000)

- Recreational trails and trail facilities

CONTACT: Linda Reeves, linda.reeves@dep.state.fl.us

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/rtp-assistance>

FDEP – Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)

Funds development or acquisition of lands for public outdoor recreation.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

FRDAP Grant (application period closed, \$200,000, anticipated 10/2021, application [webinar recorded and available online](#))

- Acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation

CONTACT: LaShae Grice, LaShae.Grice@floridadep.gov

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/frdap-assistance>

FDEP – Springs Restoration

Funds restoration projects submitted by local governments and vetted by water management districts based on pollutant reduction, water conservation, cost effectiveness and local commitment.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Springs Restoration Funding (application deadline 2/23/2021)

- Land acquisition projects within spring groundwater contribution areas
- Agricultural Best Management Practices
- Stormwater treatment

CONTACT: SpringsFunding@FloridaDEP.gov or Christina Coger, Christina.Coger@nfwwater.com

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/springs/restoration-funding> or <https://www.nfwwater.com/Water-Resources/Springs/Restoration-and-Protection>

Florida Forest Service – Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

Acquires permanent conservation easements to protect agricultural lands, expand wildlife corridors and buffer military installations from development.

CONTACT: Hank Vinson, Hank.Vinson@FDACS.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/Land-Planning-and-Administration-Section/Rural-and-Family-Lands-Protection-Program>



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Florida Forest Service – Timber Recovery Block Grant Program

Provides direct compensation to timber producers for damage as a result of Hurricane Michael.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Timber Recovery Block Grant (application period closed)

- Non-industrial private forest land, at least ten contiguous acres

CONTACT: Amy Roller, amy.roller@usda.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/recovery/florida-agribusiness-recovery/timber/>

Florida Forest Service – Longleaf Pine Private Landowner Incentive Program

Offers technical guidance and incentive payments to private landowners who conduct forest management practices that help longleaf pine ecosystems.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Longleaf Pine Program Grant (2020 enrollment period closed, 2021 enrollment period anticipated 6/2021)

- Non-industrial private forest land, at least five acres in size

CONTACT: Jen Tucker-Jenks, Jennifer.Tucker-Jenks@FDACS.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/For-Landowners/Programs-for-Landowners/Longleaf-Pine-Private-Landowner-Incentive-Program>

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Constructs or helps fund projects that protect or restore the water supply, water quality, flood protection or natural water systems.

Acquires and manages lands for water resource protection, conservation and recreation.

CONTACT: Darryl Boudreau, darryl.boudreau@nwfwater.com

WEBSITE: <https://www.nwfwater.com/>

The Nature Conservancy, Gulf of Mexico

Sponsors land acquisition and restoration projects on shorelines, floodplains or forested uplands.

CONTACT: Bob Bendick, rbendick@tnc.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.nature.org/Gulf>

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership

Connects private landowners in designated areas with voluntary federal assistance for projects that support conservation, agriculture and military readiness. Pre-proposal application for designation of Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape to be submitted by 3/29/2021. If invited to submit a full proposal, full proposal to be submitted by 8/2021.

CONTACT: Kent Wimmer, kwimmer@defenders.org

WEBSITE: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/>



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St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program

Develops a long-term, management plan for the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Watershed, with the goal of aligning conservation and economic priorities through scientific research and stakeholder engagement.

Provide a multi-jurisdictional forum to discuss shared issues and build consensus on priority conservation actions.

CONTACT: Jim Mueller, jmuller@baycountyfl.gov

WEBSITE: <https://pc.fsu.edu/estuaryprogram>

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Environmental Finance Center

Supports local governments in financing stormwater and green infrastructure programs. Conducts surveys, develops a stormwater model ordinance, creates a stormwater fees dashboard and organizes a stormwater implementation group.

CONTACT: Erin Riggs, riggs@sog.unc.edu

WEBSITE: <https://efc.sog.unc.edu/our-programs>

Longleaf Alliance

Provides technical assistance to public and private landowners on longleaf pine ecosystem restoration. Restores and expands longleaf habitat with funding from sources such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [Longleaf Stewardship Fund](#).

CONTACT: Karen Z. Brown, karen@longleafalliance.org

WEBSITE: <https://www.longleafalliance.org/what-we-do/landowner-outreach/technical-assistance>

Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance

Brings together regional, state, federal land managing agencies and non-governmental organizations to coordinate funds and other resources to advance a shared goal for longleaf pine conservation.

CONTACT: Brian Pelc, bpelc@tnc.org

WEBSITE: <https://longleafalliance.org/arsa>



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Historical and Cultural Resources

National Park Service – Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program

Funds subgrants to rehabilitate rural historic properties in support of rural economic development.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Historic Revitalization Grant (application period closed 4/2020, anticipated 4/2021, \$250,000 to \$750,000)

- Building preservation
- Architectural/engineering services

CONTACT: Megan Brown, megan_brown@nps.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1623/historic-revitalization-subgrant-program.htm>

National Park Service – Archeological Assistance Program

Provide technical assistance to federal agencies, state and local governments and tribes for historic preservation, heritage tourism, site development and interpretation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

Assistance with site development and interpretation for heritage tourism

- Interpretive plans, content development, training for docents/interpreters, story maps, virtual reality

CONTACT: Jeffrey Shanks, Jeffrey_Shanks@nps.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1539/archeological-programs.htm>

National Endowment for the Arts – Our Town Program

Facilitates the incorporation of arts, culture and design into local strategies for strengthening communities. Funds projects that involve partnerships between local governments and arts/cultural non-profits.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Our Town Grant (2020 application cycle closed, 2021 application cycle anticipated 8/2021, \$25,000 to \$150,00)

- Arts festivals, Community co-creation of art, public art, performances
- Cultural or community planning, creative asset planning
- Design of cultural facilities, public spaces
- Creative business development, professional artist development

CONTACT: OT@arts.gov

WEBSITE: <https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town/grant-program-description>



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Florida Panhandle National Heritage Area

Works towards a Congressional designation as a National Heritage Area by inventorying natural, cultural and historic resources and building financial/organizational capacity across the Panhandle region. Once designated, will leverage Congressional funding for capacity building, planning and project implementation.

CONTACT: Dr. Sorna Khakzad Knight, sorna.k.knight@gmail.com, and Michael Thomin, mthomin@uwf.edu

WEBSITE: <https://uwf.edu/centers/askew-institute-for-multidisciplinary-studies/projects-and-initiatives/florida-panhandle-national-heritage-area/>

Florida DEP – State Land and Conservation Water Fund

Distributes federal funds for the development or acquisition of lands for public outdoor recreation.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Land and Recreation Grant (application period closed 2/2021, anticipated 2/2022, maximum \$400,000)

- Acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation

CONTACT: Linda Reeves, linda.reeves@dep.state.fl.us

WEBSITE: <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/lwcf-assistance>

Florida Panhandle Natural and Cultural Resources Association

Assists communities with grant applications to access funds for natural and cultural resource protection.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

Grant Writing Support for Hurricane Michael Fund Subgrant Program (grant application closed 8/31/2020)

- Historic preservation projects providing relief to damages resulting from Hurricane Michael

CONTACT: Dale Cox, linda.reeves@dep.state.fl.us

WEBSITE: <https://fpncra.wordpress.com/>