

# PROTECTING TOGETHER

For the Fiscal Year 2024-25 grant proposal request, the department has combined the portal for four water quality improvement grants and encourages entities to apply for each grant program for which they are eligible. These grant programs include:

- The Water Quality Improvements Grant Program.
- The Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvements Grant Program.
- The Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements Grant Program.
- The Caloosahatchee Water Quality Improvements Grant Program.

Additional information is available in this fact sheet for each of these grants. For all water quality improvement grants discussed below, eligible project proposals must be submitted by nonstate entities. Typically, this means local governments, universities or nonprofit organizations.

## Water Quality Improvements Grant Program

To be eligible for funding, a project must improve the quality of waters that:

- Are not attaining nutrient or nutrient-related standards;
- Have an established total maximum daily load; or,
- Are located within a [basin management action plan \(BMAP\) area](#), a reasonable assurance plan area adopted by final order, an accepted alternative restoration plan area or located within a rural area of opportunity.

Eligible projects include:

- (a) Connecting onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) to central sewer facilities.
- (b) Upgrading domestic wastewater treatment facilities to advanced waste treatment or greater.
- (c) Repairing, upgrading, expanding, or constructing stormwater treatment facilities that result in improvements to surface water or groundwater quality.
- (d) Repairing, upgrading, expanding, or constructing domestic wastewater treatment facilities that result in improvements to surface water or groundwater quality, including domestic wastewater reuse and collection systems.
- (e) Projects identified pursuant to [sections 403.067\(7\)\(a\) or \(7\)\(e\), Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#).
- (f) Projects identified in a wastewater treatment plan or an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system remediation plan developed pursuant to [sections 403.067\(7\)\(a\)9. a. and b, F.S.](#)
- (g) Projects listed in a city or county capital improvement element pursuant to [section 163.3177\(3\)\(a\)4. b, F.S.](#)
- (h) Where central sewerage is not available, retrofitting OSTDS to upgrade such systems to enhanced nutrient-reducing OSTDS or other equivalent wastewater system that achieves 65% reduction in total nitrogen.

The department will consider and prioritize those projects that:

- (a) Have the maximum estimated reduction in nutrient load per project;
- (b) Demonstrate project readiness;
- (c) Are cost-effective;
- (d) Have a cost share identified by the applicant, except for rural areas of opportunity;

# PROTECTING TOGETHER

- (e) Have previous state commitment and involvement in the project, considering previously funded phases, the total amount of previous state funding, and previous partial appropriations for the proposed project; or
- (f) Are in a location where reductions are needed most to attain the water quality standards of a waterbody not attaining nutrient or nutrient-related standards.

## **Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvements Grant Program**

Eligible projects include water quality projects within the proximity of the Indian River Lagoon and to implement the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program established under [section 373.469, F.S.](#)

## **Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements Grant Program**

Eligible projects include projects that will improve the water quality of Biscayne Bay, including septic to sewer and wastewater projects.

## **Caloosahatchee Water Quality Improvements Grant Program**

Eligible projects include water quality improvement projects within the Caloosahatchee River Watershed.