

**Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program  
Grant Program**

**2020-2021 Funding Opportunity**

**Opening:** October 12, 2020

**Closing:** November 6, 2020

**Award Range:** \$5,000 to \$50,000

**Anticipated amount to be awarded:** \$200,000

**Eligibility:** Local governments or nonstate entities (educational institutions and 501(c)3s)

**Location:** Project must be located within the Perdido and/or Pensacola watershed within the counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and/or Okaloosa. Please reference attached map for project area.

**Projects must be completed by June 1, 2021.**

**Schedule:**

- Opening: October 12, 2020
- Closing: November 6, 2020
- Committee Review: November 12, 2020
- Committee Recommendation to Board: November 17, 2020
- Contracts Executed: December 7, 2020

**Introduction:**

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program is pleased to announce the release of the 2020-2021 Mini-Grant Program funding opportunity. This program will fund action projects that serve to restore, preserve, connect, inform, and educate. The funding opportunity includes eight eligible project categories that support the Estuary Program's core vision.

The Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program (PPBEP) is a stakeholder-driven, science-based organization charged with restoring and preserving the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System, and their associated watersheds. PPBEP is guided by a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which serves as a blueprint for the restoration and preservation of area waterways. Through these actions, PPBEP's vision is to create a healthy and sustainable environment, economy, and community.

The Mini-Grant Program is made possible through the support of the Florida Legislature. The Estuary Program offers our deepest appreciation to Representative Andrade and Senator Broxson for sponsoring the Program's funding request.

**Priority Consideration:**

Priority consideration will be given to "shovel ready" action projects and projects that inform, engage, and educate the community. Projects that leverage funding will also receive priority consideration.

**Proposal Categories:**

Water Quality: Achieve water quality improvement in one or both bay systems to reduce nutrients, bacteria, and/or sedimentation.

*(Examples: environmental landscaping practices; "best management practices" for agriculture; innovative retention/filtering techniques)*

Habitat Restoration: Restore and/or enhance native habitat to achieve a sustainable and healthy bay system.

*(Examples: restoration of natural shorelines/enhancement of seawalls; projects addressing seagrasses, mangroves, coastal and freshwater wetlands, and other estuarine habitats; marine debris reduction/recycling initiatives)*

Fish and Wildlife Conservation: Reduce threats to native fish and wildlife through the protection of natural resources.

*(Examples: awareness of threats to wildlife from monofilament line; protection of seagrass beds; education on fish and wildlife habitat)*

Watershed Awareness and Education: Promote watershed awareness and environmental education by engaging all age groups and demographics.

*(Examples: programs for schools, YMCA groups, Scouts or other youth organizations; programs that directly involve youth in solutions to bay problems; programs directed at disadvantaged youth)*

Resilience: Promote capacity building and/or construct pilot resilience demonstration projects, such as living shorelines or green infrastructure.

*(Examples: living shorelines, green infrastructure)*

Invasive Species: Reduce and manage the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species throughout both the Pensacola and Perdido Bay systems.

*(Examples: Management of invasive plants or animals; education about harmful aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread)*

Citizen Science: Engage community members through hands-on citizen science to provide data on estuarine conditions.

*(Examples: Water quality monitoring; habitat monitoring; or field research that engages community members)*

Aquatic Trash/Marine Debris: Identify innovative strategies to remove, reduce, and/or eliminate aquatic trash/marine debris.

*(Examples: Aquatic trash/marine debris removal, prevention; alternative packaging)*

**Match:**

Match is not required but is strongly encouraged. Projects that include cash or in-kind match, to include volunteer labor, will receive greater consideration.

**Ineligible Costs:**

- Land acquisition
- Lobbying expenses
- Conference registration
- Travel expenses
- Contingency funds

- Fines and penalties
- Insurance

### **Selection Criteria:**

#### Project Approach (40)

Applicant should describe in detail the project scope of work, need, objectives, and deliverables. Specifically, the strength of the program will be evaluated on the originality of the proposed project and the extent to which it addresses a need or provides a benefit to the bay. Another important measure of the strength of the proposal is the likelihood that the project will be successfully implemented.

#### Demonstration of Applicant Ability (20)

The project team must have adequate education and/or experience to carry out the program design. The team must include the necessary personnel and expertise for the project as proposed. Responsibilities and division of labor should be designated. For projects planned on public lands or facilities, applicants must obtain permission for access to or use of those lands or facilities. Permission for use of private property not controlled by applicant also is required.

#### Estuary/Watershed Impact (15)

The project's goal and objectives must explicitly state how the project will target bay issues that result in the restoration, enhancement, or protection of the bay systems and associated watersheds.

#### Community Impact (15)

Projects must demonstrate the community impact for the project. All proposals, regardless of scope, should reflect some measure of community support.

#### Cost Justification (10)

Cost justification requires that the proposal and the budget give enough detail to show that costs are appropriate to the scope of work. Reimbursement will be based on expenses assigned to cost categories in a budget that must be approved by the Estuary Program before a project begins.

### **Selection Process:**

A Selection Committee (seven members), comprised of one member of Estuary Program staff, three members of the Technical Committee and three members of the Education Committee, will review and rank submitted proposals based on the selection criteria outlined above. The Committee will make a formal recommendation, by way of staff, to the Board for approval of the shortlisted proposals.

### **How to Apply:**

Go to [ppbep.org](http://ppbep.org) and click "Mini-Grants" tab on the home page.



Figure 1: Projects located within Escambia, Santa Rosa, and/or Okaloosa counties are eligible.