



## **Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal**

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed.

### **Governmental Entity Information**

Name of Governmental Entity: Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: ██████████

#### Contact Information:

Primary Contact Name: Dr. Alvin B. Jackson, Jr./ Randy Harris

Title: Director of Economic Development/ County Administrator

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Live Oak, Florida 32060

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### **Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility**

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible governmental entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. (View Florida's [Targeted Industries here.](#))
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the public.



## 1. Program Requirements:

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

- A. Provide the title and a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.  
Railroad Crossing relocate at the Suwannee County Regional Industrial Complex (Catalyst Site) and Construction of 175th Road at the Suwannee County Regional Industrial Complex (Catalyst Site) and construction of 175th street for provision of access to the western portion of the Catalyst.
- B. Is this infrastructure owned by the public?  Yes  No
- C. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?  Yes  No
- D. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity?  Yes  No
- E. Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

The subject improvements are necessary so that the County can facilitate more businesses at the Catalyst site and ultimately the creation of new jobs which are desperately needed in this rural community. A new company has purchased 100 acres within the Catalyst site and is prepared to begin construction once satisfied that the road and rail crossing will be constructed. Prime sites for distribution, logistics and manufacturing with rail access. It is located in Suwannee County LU designated "Employment Center".

F. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;
- Economic diversification; or
- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry (View Florida's [Targeted Industries here.](#))
  - As part of this response, describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include a description of the number of jobs that will be retained or created, the average wages of such jobs, and in which industry(ies) the jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or grow jobs or make capital investment.
  - Further, include the economic impact on the community, region, or state and the associated metrics used to measure the success of the proposed project.

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The Suwannee County Catalyst Site was chosen in 2007 as one of four regional sites to be developed with the help of the State of Florida as a strategy for economic development in Florida's Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC). The Rural Economic Development Catalyst Project, led by Enterprise Florida in partnership with numerous state, regional and local organizations, is focused on targeting tomorrow's most promising industries with the goal of creating high value-added jobs, capital investment, and an economic benefit that will ripple throughout each RACEC. The target industries for the Suwannee Site are: Logistics and Distribution, Building Component Design and Manufacturing, Biofuels and Renewable Energy. Duke and NFEDP Strategic Sites Inventory Program has identified two properties and sites for competitive positioning for large scale-scale manufacturing projects. The Catalyst site has natural gas, fiber, water, all permitting and rail access.



## 2. Additional Information:

A. Is this project an expansion of an existing infrastructure project?

Yes       No

B. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.

Should begin 255 days after grant funds are awarded (available). Construction should require 180 days.

C. What is the location of the public infrastructure? (Provide the road number, if applicable.)

Suwannee County Regional Industrial Complex (Catalyst Site) located on U. S. 90 1/2 north of I-10.

D. Who is responsible for maintenance and upkeep? (Indicate if more than one are applicable.)

Federal     State     County     City     Other \_\_\_\_\_

E. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?

Stormwater Management and approvals from FDOT

F. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?

FDOT will be the permitting agency and the anticipated time-line is 6 months once funding is available. Suwannee River Water Management will also need to issue a permit which can be accomplished simultaneously.

G. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?

"Employment Center", yes.  
This is the Suwannee County Catalyst Site.



H. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

Yes       No

I. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

Yes       No

Design Plans must be completed (approx 6 months)

J. Does this project have a local match amount?

Yes       No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

\$50,000 from the Board of County Commissioners

K. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal.



### 3. Program Budget

**Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding:** Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

**A. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:**

Construction	\$ 1,445,000		
Reconstruction	\$		
Design & Engineering	\$ 255,000		
Land Acquisition	\$		
Land Improvement	\$		
Other	\$	Please Specify:	_____
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$ 1,700,000.00</b>		

**B. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:**

City/County	\$ 50,000		
Private Sources	\$		
Other (grants, etc.)	\$	Please Specify:	_____
<b>Total Other Funding</b>	<b>\$</b>		

**Total Amount Requested**     \$ 1,650,000.00

**Note:** The total amount requested must equal the difference between the public infrastructure project costs in 3.A. and the other public infrastructure project funding sources in 3.B.

**C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.**

A local match of \$50,000 is currently available. Once grant funds are approved the engineering and design work can begin. Design, plans, and permitting should be completed within 6 months. Bids will require approximate 45 days. Award of bid, execution of a contract and issuance of notice to proceed approximate 30 days. Construction should require approximate 6 months. Total time-line 440 days.



#### 4. Approvals and Authority

- A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

The Board approved proposal and grant agreement subject to award on July 17, 2017 authorizing Chairman to sign grant agreement if awarded.

- B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

- i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

N/A

- ii. State whether that group can hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

Yes, will not be necessary.

- C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.



I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described governmental entity.

Name of Governmental Entity: Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Ricky Gamble, Chair

Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date: 7/17/2017