



Local Government Water Supply and Conservation Funding Assistance Program

Program Guidelines:

Since 1999, the Board of Directors of the Authority has provided assistance to local governments for water supply and conservation projects. The criteria for possible funding of a local water supply and conservation project are as follows:

1. The project must be within the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority jurisdiction, which is comprised of Marion, Citrus, Sumter and Hernando Counties.
2. For FY 2026-27, the project must relate to water conservation.
3. The project must be approved by the submitting local government's City Council or County Commission prior to submittal to the WRWSA. A resolution of support of the project and commitment of any co-funding by the local government should accompany the application. The Authority, in its sole discretion, will evaluate and approve/disapprove each project based on its merits.
4. The Authority Board of Directors will establish the amount of money available each year for the grant program. For Fiscal Year 2026-27, the Board has tentatively set a budgeted amount of \$185,000. The number of approved applications and associated costs will determine the amount of funding for each project. Generally, the Authority funds 50% of a project budget up to the maximum set by the Board.
5. The local government applicant must provide a scope of services for the project that describes the objective of the project, the tasks involved in the project, the cost per task and the time frame for completion of the project.
6. If either the approved project tasks or the project time frames are changed, the project applicant must revise the scope of services as soon as they are known and receive approval of these revisions from the Authority. Changes to the internal budget of a project may be approved by the Executive Director up to a 10% change in budget items, as long as the overall cost of the project does not increase. Changes in excess of 10% must be approved by the Authority Board. The Authority Executive Director may also approve changes in the project time schedule as long as the contract completion date is not changed. All requests for changes in budget and schedule must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director. Any requests requiring Board approval will be

scheduled for consideration at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Requests for an extension of the contract completion date must be done prior to the expiration of the contract.

7. The application process will open on May 1 of 2026 and close on July 1 of 2026. The applications will be considered by the Board beginning at its July Board meeting. The [grant application form](#) and a [draft contract](#) are available on the WRWSA webpage. Grant awards will be made no later than the September Board meeting. Grant contracts will be prepared by the Authority in consultation with the grant recipient.
8. All public supply utilities within the region and member governments are eligible to apply for the WRWSA grants.
9. Applicants with past or ongoing grant projects may apply for a new grant, provided that the past, or ongoing, grant is on schedule, unless extenuating circumstances warrant a special exception. Such exceptions would be entirely at the discretion of the Authority Board.
10. Having had a previous grant from the WRWSA will not diminish standing for ranking applications, but will be only one consideration for ranking applications, including past performance in implementing projects.
11. The WRWSA local grant program is structured whereby invoices may be submitted monthly or bi-monthly for reimbursement of 50% of the costs incurred, consistent with the approved grant contract and scope of services. WRWSA grant contracts will contain a provision stating that the WRWSA grant funds expended to-date must be refunded by the grant recipient if a project is abandoned before it is completed.



WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT

Application Process

The grant application period opens on May 1, 2026 and closes on July 1, 2026. The [grant application form](#) and a [draft contract](#) are available on the WRWSA webpage.

The completed application and all attachments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on July 1, 2026. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the grant application is sent to and received by the Authority by the specified deadline. The Authority assumes no responsibility for delays or other problems with the transmittal of the application.

Applications will be considered beginning at the July 15, 2025 Board meeting. Applicants will be expected to have a representative at the Board meeting to explain the request and answer questions.

Once a grant application is approved by the Board, the applicant's resolution, summary of the project and time schedule will be incorporated by reference into a contract between the Authority and the grant recipient.

The completed application should be mailed to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP
Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Lecanto Government Building
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, FL 34461

Deadline: 5:00 pm, July 1, 2026



FY 2026-27

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM:

Name of applicant:

Provide a short description of the proposed water conservation project in the text box below:

List previous grants received from WRWSA in the previous 3 fiscal years and date completed:

Attachments to application:

1. A resolution of support that includes a commitment that the grant recipient will budget and expend its matching funds as required by the grant program.
2. A summary of the project tasks (scope of services) with estimated costs by task, if applicable.
3. A time schedule for the project and expected completion date that will be inserted in the local government contract.

Return Application to:

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director
WRWSA, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Deadline: July 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST

**WITHLACOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION
FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into this fifteenth day of July, 2026, by and between the **WITHLACOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY** (hereinafter called the "AUTHORITY"), and _____ (hereinafter called the "GRANTEE"), in furtherance of funding assistance in the development of the " _____ WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM". In consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to Chapter 163, Laws of Florida, Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, as subsequently amended, and Section 373.713(2)(i), Florida Statutes, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The AUTHORITY has found that the implementation of water conservation programs by a member government is the primary purpose of the project known as the " _____ WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM" (hereinafter called the "PROJECT"), and enters into this Agreement with the GRANTEE for assisting in the funding of water conservation programs more particularly described in its Application. The PROJECT application is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.

2. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a copy of the GRANTEE's contract documents executed for the PROJECT and the third party vendor providing said services in order to confirm the total project costs.

3. PROJECT FUNDING:

A. The AUTHORITY agrees to pay, on a reimbursement basis, to the GRANTEE, the sum of \$ _____ of the proposed \$ _____ total budget cost for the PROJECT.

B. The GRANTEE shall pay PROJECT costs prior to requesting reimbursement from the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse the GRANTEE for fifty percent (50%) of all allowable costs in each approved invoice based upon the listed tasks contained in Exhibit "A", not to exceed the sum of \$ _____ as identified in paragraph 3.A. above. Reimbursement requests must include all documentation required by the AUTHORITY for proper audit review and the GRANTEE shall certify that the request for payment is appropriate and that said task or portion thereof has been completed.

C. The GRANTEE shall provide the AUTHORITY with a schedule and description of "tasks" for the PROJECT with the cost associated with each task set forth.

D. The Grantee shall submit a final PROJECT reimbursement request after completion of the project, which shall be no later than September 30, 2026. The final reimbursement request

must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. Requests submitted after December 31, 2026 shall not be considered for reimbursement.

E. The AUTHORITY shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of a payment request, review the work accomplished to date under this Agreement and, if the work and payment request are in accordance with all applicable requirements, approve the request for payment.

4. GRANTEE shall ensure that all services procured and all purchases of goods obtained for the accomplishment of the PROJECT shall be secured in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and in accordance with the GRANTEE's adopted procurement procedures.

5. GRANTEE shall follow all State and Federal laws relating to its established audit and accounting procedures and as they relate to said PROJECT and cost reimbursements.

6. The GRANTEE shall retain all records supporting PROJECT costs for three (3) years after the fiscal year in which the final PROJECT payment was released by the AUTHORITY or until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim or audit that started prior to the expiration of the three-year retention period. The AUTHORITY, State Auditor General, State Comptroller, and other agencies or entities with jurisdiction shall have the right to inspect and audit the GRANTEE's records for said PROJECT within the retention period.

7. This Agreement shall become effective upon execution and the GRANTEE shall complete preparation and/or construction of all PROJECT elements on or before September 30, 2026. The completion date may be extended by the AUTHORITY for good cause at the written request of the GRANTEE and must be made prior to PROJECT completion date.

8. The AUTHORITY's Executive Director for the purposes of this Agreement shall be responsible for ensuring performance of its terms and conditions and shall be responsible for recommending approval of all reimbursement requests to the AUTHORITY prior to payment. The GRANTEE's Liaison Agent, as identified in the PROJECT application, or successor, shall act on behalf of the GRANTEE relative to the provisions of this Agreement.

9. The Executive Director shall have the authority to approve budget changes within individual tasks up to a total amount not to exceed TEN PERCENT (10%) of total project costs without Board approval.

10. All monies expended by the GRANTEE for the purpose contained herein at the option of the AUTHORITY shall be subject to audit review.

11. Each party hereto agrees that it shall be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its employees and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of §768.28, Florida Statutes.

12. The GRANTEE shall comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations in developing this PROJECT. The GRANTEE acknowledges that this requirement includes compliance with all federal, state, and local health and safety rules and regulations. The GRANTEE further agrees to ensure that the GRANTEE's contract will include this provision in all subcontracts issued as a result of this Agreement.

13. The AUTHORITY reserves the right to inspect said PROJECT and any and all records related thereto at any reasonable time.

14. This Agreement may be unilaterally canceled by the AUTHORITY in the event the GRANTEE refuses to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters or other material made or received in conjunction with this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

15. The AUTHORITY shall also have the right to demand a refund, either in whole or in part, of the funds provided to the GRANTEE for non-compliance with the terms of this Agreement if not cured within thirty (30) days of written notice thereof from the AUTHORITY. The GRANTEE, upon notification from the AUTHORITY, agrees to refund and will forthwith pay to the AUTHORITY, the amount of money demanded by the AUTHORITY. Such refund shall include interest calculated at two percent (2%) over the prevailing prime rate as reported by the Federal Reserve on the date the AUTHORITY calculates the amount of refund due. Interest shall be calculated from the date(s) of payment(s) to the GRANTEE by the AUTHORITY.

16. The employment of unauthorized aliens by a GRANTEE is considered a violation of Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. If the GRANTEE knowingly employs unauthorized aliens, such violation shall be cause for unilateral cancellation of this Agreement. The GRANTEE shall be responsible for including this provision in all subcontracts with private organizations issued as a result of this Agreement.

17. No person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or marital status shall be excluded from participation in; be denied the proceeds or benefits of; or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in performance of this Agreement.

18. This Agreement strictly prohibits expenditure of these funds for the purpose of lobbying the Florida Legislature, the judicial branch, or a state agency.

19. The GRANTEE shall have an audit performed in accordance with the Rules of the Auditor General promulgated pursuant to §11.45, Florida Statutes, and have a statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant which attests that the GRANTEE has complied with the provisions of this Agreement and whether the audit results in an unqualified opinion.

20. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for public entity crime may not perform work as a grantee, contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity

in excess of the threshold amount provided in §287.017, Florida Statutes, or Category Two, for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

21. A copy of the audit and attestation as required in Paragraph 19 shall be submitted to the AUTHORITY within one (1) year from the PROJECT completion date as set forth in Paragraph 7 or as extended by the AUTHORITY.

22. This Agreement is not intended nor shall it be construed as granting any rights, privileges or interest in any third party without mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

23. This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, modification or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly executed by each of the parties hereto, and attached to the original of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed on the date and year first above written.

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER
SUPPLY AUTHORITY

By: _____
DON WILEY
Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
SUZANNAH J. FOLSOM
Executive Director

_____, a political Subdivision of
the State of Florida

By: _____

Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
_____ for the Grantee

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

By: _____
Attorney for Authority