



Levy County Board of County Commissioners

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Levy County Quarterly Department Report

Department Information

Name of Department	Grants
Name of Department Head	Kari Bastow

Department Deliverables

Deliverable (To be determined by the Department Head)	Second Quarter FY (January-March 2026)	Third Quarter FY (April-June 2026)	Fourth Quarter FY (July-September 2026)
Centralize Oversight and Advancement of Grant-Funded Projects	Stabilized and Advanced Over \$8.5 Million in Grant-Funded Projects	Advanced Major Grant Projects into Implementation and Strengthened Grant Compliance and Project Management	
Implementation and Administration of Housing Assistance Programs (SHIP & CDBG)	Strengthened Housing Program Oversight and Prepared for Program Launch	Modernized SHIP Program Administration and Completed Environmental Review, Public Notice, and Request for Funding Release of CDBG Housing Funds	
Development and Execution of a Strategic Grant Funding Pipeline	Submitted Targeted Grant Applications to Support Infrastructure and Environmental Priorities	Expanded Grant Development Efforts and Secured Multiple Grant Awards.	
Comment:			



Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chair, District 1

Rock Meeks, District 2

Desiree Mills, District 3

Tim Hodge, Chair, District 4

Johnny Hiers, District 5

1. Advanced Major Grant Projects into Implementation

Continued advancing the County's grant portfolio from planning into implementation by coordinating with state and federal agencies, consultants, and County departments to meet contractual milestones, compliance requirements, and project schedules. Executed key grant agreements and amendments, including the CDBG-DR Fire/EMS and Number 4 Bridge projects, the \$1.9 million RESTORE Act OysterROCKS subcontract amendment, and both phases of the Resilient Florida Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning grants.

Strengthened centralized grant administration by bringing the Community Paramedicine Program's reporting and grant management current, developing the FY26-27 program budget, establishing performance measures and reporting metrics, and working with Public Safety to develop a strategic implementation plan. Collaborated with the Road Department to reconcile aging grant-funded projects, identify future capital improvement priorities, and promote project feasibility assessments and strategic planning across all County departments to better position future grant applications.

2. Strengthened Housing Program Administration and Compliance

Continued modernizing the County's SHIP and CDBG Housing programs by updating policies, procedures, forms, and administrative processes while resolving outstanding client files, managing active rehabilitation projects, and preparing for the reopening of SHIP applications. Successfully completed and received approval of the federally required Environmental Assessment for the CDBG Housing Program and obtained the Release of Funds authorization, allowing the County to begin procurement for program administration and project implementation.

Provided ongoing oversight of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), coordinated required meetings and annual reporting, addressed program compliance issues, and enhanced tracking and documentation to improve program administration and better serve Levy County residents.

3. Expanded External Funding Opportunities

Prepared and submitted multiple competitive grant applications supporting infrastructure, economic development, environmental resilience, boating access, parks and recreation, and public safety, including applications totaling more than \$11 million in requested funding. Major submissions included two FloridaCommerce Community Planning Technical Assistance grants, two Florida Boating Improvement Program planning and design grants, the CLEAR Initiative for coastal resiliency and economic development, and a Duke Energy Foundation grant for the development of a Countywide Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Successfully secured a Small County Solid Waste Management Grant for a new Hazardous Waste Storage Facility and received awards for both Florida Boating Improvement Program planning and design grants, each funded at 100 percent of the requested amount.

Grant Program	Project	Amount	Status
Small County Solid Waste	Hazardous Waste Storage Locker	\$100,000	Awarded
CPTA	Rural Drinking Water Assessment	\$75,000	Submitted
CPTA	Parks & Recreation Master Plan	\$70,000	Submitted
FBIP	Shell Mound Boat Ramp	\$195,000	Awarded
FBIP	Fowler's Bluff Boat Ramp	\$260,000	Awarded
CLEAR Initiative	Coastal Levy Economic & Reef Restoration	\$10,500,000	Anticipated
Duke Energy	Economic Development Strategic Plan	\$25,000	Submitted