



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Commission
FROM: Robin I. Gomez, City Manager
DATE: July 23, 2025
RE: FDEP Resiliency Grant Program

Background

The Resilient Florida Program within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection was created to help coastal and inland communities plan for the impacts of climate change, including flooding and sea level rise. The Resilient Florida Program offers grants for community planning as well as grants to implement projects that adapt critical assets to risk associated with flooding and sea level rise. The application period for Resilient Florida grants is July 7, 2025 to September 1, 2025 for Planning Grants and July 7, 2025 to September 1, 2025 for Implementation Grants.

Discussion

- DEP's *Resiliency Grant Program* is a significant opportunity for the City.
- Program has grown from \$100M to now ~\$300–400M. Applications opened July 7, 2025.
- There are two primary pots of money:
 1. **Planning Grants** – 100% state-funded
 2. **Construction Grants** – Require local match
- Program is open to **cities, counties, and special districts**.
- **Vulnerability Assessments** are required (most cities & counties have already completed)
- Post-assessment, communities typically complete:
 - Adaptation Plans, Comprehensive Plan amendments, Land use and zoning changes
- **Implementation Grants** fund major projects:
 - Stormwater improvements
 - Relocating critical infrastructure (police, fire stations)
 - Living shorelines and nature-based solutions (high DEP interest)
 - Potential undergrounding projects
- DEP leadership strongly supports **nature-based solutions** (e.g. oyster-based shorelines vs concrete seawalls).
- Many small/rural communities are eligible for **100% funded construction grants** if they meet criteria (under 10k population + low median income).
- DEP wants to expand beyond **SE Florida** (where most grants have gone so far) — opportunity for Tampa Bay and inland communities.