



BROWNSVILLE COMMERCIAL INCUBATOR & COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION

AWARD AMOUNT

\$350,000

LEVERAGE AMOUNT

N/A

PURPOSE

Design & Construction

DURATION

2 Years

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY

Infrastructure benefitting the economy

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Economic development in Brownsville CRA.

PRIMARY BENEFITS

Project will provide incubator retail space and renovate the Brownsville Community Center to serve as the community hub for the revitalization of the Brownsville community.

The RESTORE Act, signed into law in 2012, directs 80% of civil penalties received as a result of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil spill be deposited in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. Escambia County will receive approximately \$70 million through 2031 from the RESTORE Act Direct Component (Pot 1) allocation. For more information on the County's RESTORE Program, please visit myescambia.com/RESTORE.

The Project includes two capital improvement projects targeting redevelopment in the Brownsville community. Phase I will fund design and construction of an incubator commercial space on a County owned vacant lot adjacent to the Brownsville Community Center. High quality, temporary facilities will be constructed and leased to local businesses, filling a need for affordable commercial space in the Brownsville community. This pilot project is intended to serve as a catalyst for redevelopment in the Brownsville Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and is modeled after a Charleston, South Carolina project implemented under former Mayor Joe Riley. Phase II will fund limited renovations in the Brownsville Community Center to enhance the functionality of the Center. Renovations may include but not be limited to restructuring the floorplan to accommodate new and expanding community programs operating in the Community Center. The project will enhance economic development and recognize Brownsville Community Center as the community hub for the revitalization of the Brownsville community.

The specific and primary purpose for which the Community Redevelopment Agency is formed is to revitalize and enhance the quality of life within the CRA areas by encouraging private sector reinvestment, promoting economic development and providing public sector enhancements. The CRA administers plans for nine designated redevelopment districts.

Under Florida Law, Escambia County has established a Finding of Necessity for each designated Redevelopment District identifying pervasive conditions of blight which may include the presence of substandard or inadequate structures, a shortage of affordable housing and/or inadequate infrastructure, amongst other conditions.

To remedy these conditions, Escambia County Community Redevelopment Agency provides services and support to enhance the quality of life within Escambia County's designated redevelopment districts by encouraging private sector investment, promoting economic development and providing public sector enhancements within these areas.

