



# SOAR with RESTORE Workforce Development Program

## AWARD AMOUNT

\$900,000

## LEVERAGE AMOUNT

N/A

## PURPOSE

Workforce Development Program

## DURATION

3 Years

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY

Workforce Development

## MEASURE OF SUCCESS

75 graduates per year

## PRIMARY BENEFITS

Fills workforce development gap in Escambia County by establishing a workforce development program targeting Escambia County workforce eligible residents.

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](http://myescambia.com/RESTORE).

The SOAR with RESTORE Workforce Development Program is one of ten projects identified in Escambia County's initial Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP). The MYIP SOAR with RESTORE project description identified three specific training programs – cybersecurity, environmental hazard remediation, and re-entry. SOAR with RESTORE was initially proposed by a group of non-profit and for-profit organizations in 2015 and was later revised by the County to be consistent with the RESTORE Act and Escambia County's mission. Since that time, demand occupation training needs have changed in Escambia County and across Northwest Florida. Staff has revised the project scope in order to provide the greatest flexibility to meet demand occupation training needs, specifically those in the construction trades. There are no budgetary revisions proposed with this amendment.

SOAR with RESTORE Workforce Development Program will establish a new workforce development program, managed by Escambia County, for demand occupation training needs in Escambia County and Northwest Florida. The program will provide no-cost demand occupation training and certification to Escambia County workforce eligible residents. Demand occupation training needs are regionally specific and fluctuate based on market conditions. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) releases an annual Workforce Statistics Report, which highlights regionally specific workforce demand data. As such, specific training programs will be identified in the Direct Component Application Form based on the Florida DEO's Regional Demand Occupation List.

The RESTORE Act's legislative history explains that workforce development "is intended to include non-profit, university, and community college-based workforce, career and technical training programs. This would also include the identification of projects, research, programs and partnerships with federal, state and local workforce agencies, industry and local stakeholders from economically and socially disadvantaged communities." S. Rep. No. 112-100, at 8 (2011). This list of activities, while not exclusive, describes the kinds of activities that are eligible for funding. The Program may specifically focus on construction trade training the initial year of operation. The program will avoid program and training redundancy by coordinating with existing workforce development programs to ensure graduates have the greatest opportunities to secure regional employment.

