

## Draft Needs Assessment for Escambia County RESTORE Planning

Solicitation Identification Number PD 13-14.011

The following tables summarize issues and ideas presented to: the Escambia RESTORE Advisory Committee at their monthly public meetings<sup>1</sup>; to the County through information and reference document submissions; and to Dewberry during initial meetings with stakeholders at the launch of this project and subsequent follow-up.

The goal of this exercise is to provide a comprehensive list of issues/challenges facing the County which should be considered for holistic planning purposes. The first three topic categories are based groupings of the eligible criteria under the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act of 2012 (see first table). The final category (social issues) represents issues that may not be eligible for RESTORE funding, but eligible for other sources of federal and state funding. These categories do not reflect future project criteria categories. It is for the initial needs assessment process.

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVIES UNDER RESTORE CRITERIA

RESTORE Act Citation	RESTORE Language	Equivalent Needs Assessment Topic
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(I)	Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.	Environment
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(II)	Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.	Environment
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(III)	Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management, including fisheries monitoring.	Environment
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(IV)	Workforce development and job creation.	Economy, Social Issues
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(V)	Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill	Environment, Economy, Infrastructure
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(VI)	Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Environment, Economy, Infrastructure
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(i)(VII)	Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure	Environment, Economy, Infrastructure
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(ii)(I)	Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Environment, Economy
§1603(3)(t)(1)(B)(ii)(II)	Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region.	Environment, Economy

<sup>1</sup> <http://myescambia.com/restore/docs>

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**Environment**

<b>Environmental Needs</b>			
Improve ambient water quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point sources (industry, septic tanks, WWTPs)</li> <li>Nonpoint sources (stormwater, agriculture)</li> <li>Watershed approach</li> </ul>	Restore habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suitable habitats</li> <li>Loss of biodiversity (threatened and endangered species)</li> <li>Terrestrial habitats</li> <li>Aquatic habitats</li> <li>Beach erosion</li> <li>Lack of maintenance</li> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Sea level rise</li> </ul>	Develop and expand stormwater management/flooding systems	Improve air quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health effects to humans, animals and plants</li> <li>Water quality effects (mercury and nitrogen)</li> <li>Ground level ozone</li> </ul>
Expand environmental education	Cleanup and removal of landfills and pits	Corrective action of recycling programs and industry	Remediate legacy contaminants (e.g. PCBs, PAHs) in sediment and water
Address climate change and sea level rise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projected loss of 650 acres of land in Escambia County (shoreline inundation of 20 feet)</li> <li>Impacts water quality, habitat</li> <li>Increases flooding</li> </ul>	Redevelop Brownfields sites	Improve fish and shellfish health	Improve drinking water quality
Remediate Superfund sites and other contaminated property	Best management practices for agricultural businesses		
<b>Environmental Solutions Opportunities</b>			
Collaborative partnerships	Supported by environmental community	Enhance existing programs – link programs, create partnerships, etc.	
<b>Environmental Disqualifiers</b>			
Duplicates existing programs			

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### Economy

Economic Needs			
Business & Economic Development			
Expand and diversify target industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced manufacturing</li> <li>• Aviation/aerospace</li> <li>• IT/cyber security</li> <li>• Call centers</li> </ul>	Create jobs	Utilize existing areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Redevelopment Areas</li> <li>• Brownfields sites</li> </ul>	Enhance business opportunities for minorities and increase minority business development
Strengthen tourism industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on heritage and cultural tourism, including African American and other minority tourism</li> <li>• Authenticate visitor experiences through understanding of community impact of tourists</li> <li>• Universal design to accommodate people with disabilities</li> <li>• Focus on overnight vs. day visitors</li> <li>• Shift to year-round tourism (arts, sports, heritage, convention sectors)</li> </ul>	Improve gross household earnings	Build upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military assets</li> <li>• Transportation network</li> <li>• Business park development</li> <li>• Available sites/buildings</li> </ul>	
Education & Workforce Development			
Develop skilled workforce and workforce readiness programs to support high skill/high wage occupations in growing economy sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEM-focused programming</li> <li>• Arts training</li> <li>• Build employability into existing curriculums</li> </ul>	Develop jobs in arts, entertainment, leisure/hospitality	Facilitate early childhood education	Increase youth employment and job training
Recruit talent to the area	Increase technology and media training	Improve schools, public safety, quality of local assets to attract workforce	Build employability skills into existing curriculums
Target economic and workforce development	Improve adult/basic education/GED		

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programs towards persons with disabilities and minorities	programs		
<b>Economic Solution Opportunities</b>			
Design supported by operations finances	Collaborative partnerships – public-private partnerships	Championed by local business/industry	Solution inclusiveness
Universal design and ADA compliance for disability populations	Evidence-based market demand analysis	Performance-based business incentives (i.e. closing fund, utility expenses, tax inducements)	Homeowner incentives (i.e. first-time, out-of-state homebuyers)
Policy should drive strategy and tactics	Lead with strengths	Utilize local, regional and state studies	Leverage funds
Small, new businesses – which are net job generators	Mirco-loans; small business grants	Employment education endowment	Capacity building projects (defer, forgo initial cost as incentive, infrastructure-intensive projects yield highest cost-per-job, lowest near-term ROI)
Accountability	Multi-pronged approaches	Define outcomes, success, completion matrix	Enhance existing programs – link programs, create partnerships, etc.
<b>Economic Disqualifiers</b>			
Duplicates existing programs			

## Infrastructure

<b>Infrastructure Needs</b>			
Develop and expand stormwater management systems	Improve and update roads, highways and bridges	Water quantity and quality – groundwater withdrawal, drinking water distribution (i.e. smaller systems – consolidation?), improved sanitary systems (expand distribution collection systems)	
<b>Infrastructure Solutions Opportunities</b>			
Enhance existing programs – link programs, create partnerships, etc.			
<b>Infrastructure Disqualifiers</b>			

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Duplicates existing programs		
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### Social Issues

<b>Social Needs</b>			
Improve education system	Address poverty/homelessness	Meet needs of minority community	Improve mental health programs
Address income inequality	Meet needs of disabled citizens	Drugs and alcohol	Reduce crime and improve public safety
Affordable housing	Affordable health care	Reduce/eliminate litter	Improve nutrition and access to nutritious foods
Improved transportation system	Develop more 'walkable' neighborhoods	Preserve cultural heritage	Build non-profit capacity
Address food deserts	Improve African American infant mortality rates	Support ex-offender re-entry programs	Build family support services
Improve literacy efforts	Build obesity-reduction and physical activity programs	Develop anti-tobacco programs	
<b>Social Solution Opportunities</b>			
Focus on social infrastructure projects to meet social needs, maximize potential development and enhance community wellbeing	Enhance existing programs – link programs, create partnerships, etc.		
<b>Social Disqualifiers</b>			
Duplicates existing programs			