

# Escambia County Draft Project Selection Criteria

The project selection criteria presented below are derived from the Interim Needs Assessment for Escambia County v2.2 and will be used to evaluate projects submitted to Escambia County for funding consideration and inclusion in the Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) required by the RESTORE Act. The criteria are divided into five major categories: Baseline Criteria, Environmental Criteria, Economic Criteria, Infrastructure Criteria, and Bonus Criteria.

Each project will be evaluated for its eligibility for RESTORE funding and the degree to which it addresses the previously defined needs of Escambia County. Therefore, each project will be scored against all criteria in each category. Projects will receive an overall score that will be the accumulation of the points awarded. The criteria in each category contain brief descriptions to serve as guidance examples to the project applicants. This guidance is meant to assist applicants in obtaining the maximum number of available points for each criteria. The guidance is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of all possible strategies to achieve the criteria. Projects will be evaluated by the County based upon the best available science to determine the full range of benefits provided by the project and the feasibility to achieve the described results. Applicants are encouraged to provide a thorough explanation of the project, expected outcomes and include supporting documentation to assist the County in its evaluation.

<p><b>Baseline Criteria</b> (Regulatory and Programmatic) -- ALL submitted projects must meet the minimum criteria in this category</p>	<p>BC Subtotal 15</p>
<p><b>1. Regulatory Compliance.</b> Applicant has described how proposed project will conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and codes including, but not limited to American’s with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, U.S. Access Board, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Davis-Bacon Act, Florida Building Code, and Escambia County Land Development Code.</p> <div data-bbox="354 527 1117 1003" style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant has read and agreed that the project must meet all applicable federal, state, and local laws and codes including, but not limited to American’s with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, U.S. Access Board, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Florida Building Code, and Escambia County Land Development Code</li> </ul> </div>	<p># of av. Points  3</p>
<p><b>2. Project Justification.</b> Proposed project is adequately described to determine feasibility and the budget includes reasonable and justifiable costs.</p> <div data-bbox="354 1131 1117 1509" style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project budget provides detailed expenditure plan</li> <li>• Costs are practical and are appropriately aligned with project activities</li> <li>• Proposed project includes all supporting documentation to justify proposal</li> </ul> </div>	<p># of av. Points  3</p>
<p><b>3. Timing.</b> Proposed project can be implemented and benefits realized within a reasonable and acceptable timeframe.</p>	<p># of av. Points  3</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicable permits and permissions have been identified</li> <li>• Project timeline is sufficiently detailed to determine duration of design and construction and anticipated milestones for completion and monitoring</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Public Interest.</b> Proposed project is in the public interest.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects performed by a public entity on public property or property under public control are deemed to be in the public interest</li> <li>• Projects performed, in part or whole, on private property must provide evidence of public benefit as determine by Escambia County</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>3</p>
<p><b>5. Monitoring Plan.</b> Proposed project includes a comprehensive monitoring and success measurement plan.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed project includes applicable periodic maintenance</li> <li>• Proposed project establishes monitoring plan and applicable success measures</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>3</p>

<p><b>Environmental Criteria</b></p>	<p>EVC Subtotal 20</p>
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<p><b>1. Habitat Restoration.</b> Proposed project improves, enhances, or restores the structure and function of upland, coastal, bays, bayous, wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, or marine natural systems, benefiting native flora and fauna.</p> <div style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restores, improves, or enhances ecological function – natural hydrological function, tidal connections, soil composition, vegetation diversity and renewal</li> <li>• Restores, improves, or enhances community structure – Increases native vegetation, biodiversity, or beneficial substrate</li> <li>• Removal of non-native species</li> <li>• Removal of fish passage barriers</li> </ul> </div>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>5</p>
<p><b>2. Habitat Conservation and Preservation.</b> Proposed project maintains or improves the structure and function of upland, coastal, bays, bayous, rivers, lakes, streams, or marine natural systems, benefiting native flora and fauna.</p> <div style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes conservation easement or wildlife corridor</li> <li>• Reduces unnatural disturbances</li> <li>• Implements or establishes habitat</li> </ul> </div>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>5</p>
<p><b>3. Water Quality Improvement.</b> Proposed project reduces point and nonpoint sources of pollutants entering local waterways, provides treatment to improve water quality, or proposes other measures which will improve water quality.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>5</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Point Source reduction – reduces pollutant loading from point sources, installation of Best Management Practices (BMP’s)</li> <li>• Nonpoint Source reduction – reduces pollutant loading from nonpoint sources – reduces impervious surface coverage, implementation of BMP’s (such as bioretention, vegetated buffer preservation, etc.), reduces sedimentation</li> <li>• Treatment – provides treatment for nutrients or legacy contaminants</li> <li>• Improves impaired (303d or evidence of impairment) waterway</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Natural Systems Resiliency.</b> Proposed project increases ability of natural systems to withstand disasters and adapt to changing environmental conditions due to climate change, associated sea level rise, and other factors.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilizes shoreline/provides natural wave attenuation</li> <li>• Increases species and/or ecosystem adaptability to changing conditions</li> <li>• Provides for natural successional progression</li> <li>• Improves air quality</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>5</p>

<p><b>Economic Criteria</b></p>	<p>EC Subtotal 20 pts</p>
<p><b>1. Tourism and Tourism Opportunities.</b> Proposed project provides for increases in tourism activity through new or additional marketing efforts, improvements to existing attractions, or addition of new destinations or attractions.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>4</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides increased or additional public access to the waterfront or other tourism destinations</li> <li>• Enhances existing attractions or destinations</li> <li>• Increases total annual visitor count</li> <li>• Increases access to cultural tourism or local historical assets</li> <li>• Promotes tourism destinations through marketing or promotional efforts</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Recreational Fishing and Local Seafood.</b> Proposed project increases recreational fishing opportunities through increased or improved access to fisheries, marketing and promotion of local recreational fishing and seafood, removal of barriers to recreational fishing, and increases in fishing stock/habitat.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves opportunities through addition of artificial reefs, oyster reefs, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), or similar</li> <li>• Increases access to fishing opportunities through addition of fishing piers, boat ramps, or similar</li> <li>• Promotes recreational fishing and/or local seafood consumption through marketing and promotional activities</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>4</p>
<p><b>3. Job Creation.</b> Proposed project provides for new seasonal, temporary, part time, full time, and/or higher wage jobs within the County.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>4</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates temporary, seasonal, or part time jobs</li> <li>• Employs 1-10 people with equal to or more than average annual median wage</li> <li>• Employs 11-25 people with equal to or more than average annual median wage</li> <li>• Employs more than 25 people with equal to or more than average annual median wage</li> <li>• Jobs created are in local targeted industries or supporting infrastructure industries as identified by the Pensacola Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) and amended periodically</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Industry and Business Growth.</b> Proposed project directly contributes to expansion of existing industry/business or siting of a new industry/business in local targeted industries.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides for expansion of existing business in local targeted industry</li> <li>• Provides for new business(es) in local targeted industries</li> <li>• Measurable Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increase</li> <li>• Project Return on Investment (ROI) is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3:1 or better</li> <li>○ Between 1:1 and 3:1</li> <li>○ 1:1 or less</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>4</p>
<p><b>5. Workforce Development.</b> Proposed project provides innovative higher education, job training, or other workforce training/career development which increases the total skilled workforce pool and advances opportunities for higher wage employment.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p>

**Criteria Guidance**

- Improvement to existing workforce program which includes multiple career pathway programs
- Provides industry focused training resulting in certification for trainees
- Addresses workforce gaps in specific industries as identified by the CEDA
- Development or expansion of youth employment and training opportunities in STEM fields
- Targets “at-risk” groups for job training



Infrastructure Criteria	IC Subtotal 20
<p><b>1. Transportation Network Improvements.</b> Proposed project improves components of existing transportation network or adds new features to transportation network such as roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-modal paths or trails, streetlights, and urban/street landscaping.</p> <div data-bbox="337 487 1101 1087" style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improves existing roads and bridges or provides new roads and bridges</li> <li>Provides additional bicycle and pedestrian improvements</li> <li>Incorporates complete streets design including street lighting, traffic calming, and pedestrian safety</li> <li>Adds to or improves multimodal network including waterways, ports, railways, and mass transit</li> <li>Improves existing or adds new greenway paths and trails</li> </ul> </div>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>6</p>
<p><b>2. Flooding Improvements.</b> Proposed project provides structural improvements or additions which will reduce flooding to homes and businesses, thereby reducing overall disaster costs and increasing economic resilience.</p> <div data-bbox="337 1243 1101 1696" style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed project will decrease frequency and/or intensity of flooding events (i.e. through reduction of impervious surface coverage or increased storage/retention)</li> <li>Retrofits, repairs or replaces existing stormwater management infrastructure</li> <li>Strategically adds new stormwater management components such as attenuation</li> </ul> </div>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>7</p>
<p><b>3. Community Resiliency.</b> Proposed project increases community resiliency by strategically retrofitting, upgrading, or replacing critical infrastructure, utilizing renewable energy, or by implementing other disaster preparatory mechanisms.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>7</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repairs or upgrades existing infrastructure</li> <li>• Repairs or upgrades existing critical infrastructure</li> <li>• Strategically adds new critical infrastructure, which reduces community vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters</li> <li>• Includes disaster planning measures</li> <li>• Includes necessary addition of shelters or evacuation routes</li> </ul>	
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<b>Bonus Criteria</b> (Additional Points)	BNC Subtotal 23
<p><b>1. Benefits Traditionally Underserved Persons or Areas.</b> Proposed projects improves opportunities for disadvantaged or traditionally underserved persons or areas, such as low-income areas, areas of minority concentration, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, etc.</p> <div style="background-color: #f9e79f; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is located in low income, very low income, or primarily minority neighborhood (as defined by U.S. Census tract)</li> <li>• Project incorporates universal or creative ADA design beyond the minimum requirements, providing increased access for persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Training and job creation benefits disadvantaged or traditionally underserved persons</li> <li>• Project benefits disadvantaged or traditionally underserved groups in other ways</li> </ul> </div>	# of av. Points  2
<p><b>2. Community Health.</b> Proposed project improves physical or mental health of the community through health improvement programs or health education.</p>	# of av. Points  3

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project provides affordable access to healthy food</li> <li>• Project proposes to improve public health, disease, or mental health issues</li> <li>• Project provides the public with opportunities for increased physical activity</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Neighborhood Benefits.</b> Proposed project provides neighborhood benefit such as increased affordable housing, reduction in crime, or significant aesthetic improvements.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases access to affordable housing</li> <li>• Helps reduce crime / increases safety</li> <li>• Project is located in Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), brownfields area, Enterprise Zone, etc.</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>3</p>
<p><b>4. Local Preference.</b> Proposed project utilizes local labor force or promotes local small businesses.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizes local labor</li> <li>• Promotes small local businesses</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>3</p>
<p><b>5. Education and Awareness.</b> Proposed project enhances childhood education.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project includes pre-k – 12 education or outreach</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>
<p><b>6. Environmental Outreach.</b> Proposed project includes environmental outreach component.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed project engages citizens in the active preservation, protection, or restoration of natural resources</li> <li>Proposed project provides for environmental education signage at the project site</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>7. Cultural and Historic Resources.</b> Proposed project provides for preservation, protection or restoration of cultural, historical, or archaeological significant resources above and beyond minimum regulatory requirements.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project may include adaptive reuse of buildings or other existing assets</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>
<p><b>8. Consistency with Local Plans.</b> Proposed project is consistent with or implements existing adopted plans.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is identified in an adopted plan such as the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program, Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), or other City, County, State, or Regional plan</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>
<p><b>9. Green Design.</b> Project incorporates green design elements such as Leadership in Energy &amp; Environmental Design (LEED) principles or other energy and water efficiency/conservation measures.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project integrates LEED principles or other energy efficiency and conservation design features</li> <li>• Project integrates water conservation design features beyond minimum standards</li> <li>• Project includes renewable energy component</li> <li>• Project integrates recycling and reuse of materials</li> <li>• Project includes other sustainable or low impact design feature</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Leverages funds.</b> Proposed project provides for in-kind or other supplemental funding, increasing fund leveraging.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind matching funds provided</li> <li>• Other local/state grant matching funds provided</li> <li>• Parallel other matching grant funds provided</li> <li>• Parallel federal matching grant funds provided</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>
<p><b>11. Sustainability and Efficiency.</b> The project approach utilizes efficiency measures and provides long term benefits.</p>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>

<p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed project links outcomes, partners, or lands to leverage overall impact</li> <li>• Proposed project provides long-term benefit(s) beyond life of funding period</li> <li>• Proposed project builds upon existing community assets</li> <li>• Proposed project does not produce negative environmental impacts</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12. Planning and Partnerships.</b> Project planning and design are complete; project includes beneficial partnership.</p> <p><b>Criteria Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project includes beneficial partnership</li> <li>• Project planning and design is complete / project is shovel ready</li> </ul>	<p># of av. Points</p> <p>2</p>

### Definitions

1. Project Applicant – an individual, company, agency, organization, or other entity which submits a project proposal or idea to the project portal for consideration in the Escambia County MYIP; a project applicant can be anyone
2. Award Recipient – an organization or company which has been selected to receive funds for purposes of implementing a project included in the adopted MYIP; an award recipient must meet all federal and local grant and procurement requirements
3. Natural successional progression – the specific process by which the structure of a biological community evolves over time; stages of succession depend on community type
4. Average annual median wage – the estimated total annual wages of an occupation divided by its estimated employment

5. Community Economic Development Association of Pensacola (CEDA) – an organization formed in 2015 whose core mission is creating, growing and retaining good paying jobs for the community
6. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – the total value of goods and services provided over a period of one year in Escambia County
7. Return on Investment (ROI) – a metric used to evaluate and project the returned benefits of a project compared with the monetary inputs
8. STEM fields – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
9. “At-risk” groups (as applicable to workforce development) – groups of persons who are unemployed, underemployed, working poor, or disenfranchised due to disability, place of residence, geographic location, age, race, sex, or socioeconomic status; may include, but not limited to, public assistance recipients, ex-offenders, persons with disabilities or chronic health issues, single parents, domestic violence victims, dislocated workers, homeless, multi-generational poverty, minorities, veterans, disconnected youth (ages 16-24 not in school, unemployed/ underemployed), older individuals (ages 55+), persons with limited English proficiency, or transportation disadvantaged
10. Community resilience – a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations, including disasters
11. Critical infrastructure – the assets, systems, or networks considered essential to Escambia County’s public health, safety, security, or economy; may include energy transmission, communications, water supply, hospitals, etc.
12. Traditionally underserved persons or groups – a group of individuals who, because of disability, place of residence, geographic location, age, race, sex, or socioeconomic status, have historically faced barriers to participation in the decision making and public policy process; may include, but not limited to, elderly people, culturally diverse populations such as African-Americans, Native American Indians, non-English speaking persons, persons living in rural, isolated areas, persons with disabilities such as deaf-blindness, and persons who are medically fragile such as persons with AIDS
13. LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design; a development rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council
14. Beneficial partnership – a well-defined relationship entered into by two or more organizations to achieve a common goal of project implementation; includes outline of jointly developed structure, shared responsibility, accountability for success, and sharing of resources

## Sources / References

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