



## Rural Florida Consulting Services Grant

### Consulting Services Program Description

As part of the Rural Development Expansion Toolkit, communities may now apply for reimbursement for consulting services to enhance economic development efforts within their community. These efforts may include contracting with a consultant to:

- Conduct a SWAT analysis
- Develop RFI response template
- Development of an operations or strategic plan
- Opportunity zone consulting
- Site evaluation services
- Other eligible consulting services

**Grants within this program are eligible for reimbursement up to \$5,000 for activities completed between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.**

### Grant Information

- Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2021 for grant activities completed between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants must meet the minimum criteria set forth in this section.

- Applicants must be a local government or economic development organization serving in the official capacity of a governing board of a county, municipality, special district, or state agency within a rural community as defined in 288.0656 (e) Florida Statutes.
- Community must have rural designation from the Department of Economic Opportunity at the time of application.

### Funding Guidelines

Grant recipients may only be reimbursed for allowable project costs resulting from obligations incurred during the agreement period. Activities for which state funds may NOT be spent include the following (this also applies to any subcontractors or consultants that are paid with grant funds):

- Staff salaries
- Purchase of equipment, furniture, or fixtures
- Receptions, gifts, gift cards, awards, trophies, or membership dues

- Lobbying any branch of state government
- Administration of the project in excess of 10 percent of the grant award
- Project costs incurred related to the agreement prior to its beginning date or after its ending date
- Travel expenses not made pursuant to Section 112.061, Florida Statutes
- Business entertainment expenses, including meals or activity fees
- Participation in trade shows, air shows, consultant events, and congressional delegations for more than three (3) key staff members and/or officers of the prospective grantee per activity.
- Participation in activities or events that are not located in the Continental United States

## How to Apply

Applicants must demonstrate how the funding will be used. All grant applications must include:

1. Proof of organization designation
2. Description of project/program/event in which grant funding is requested.
3. Application must be signed by organization CEO or board chairman
4. Signed and dated W9 form
5. Completed deliverable schedule

**Contact Information:** For additional information please contact:

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