

Frequently Asked Questions

CPRA-Parish RESTORE Act Matching Opportunities Program

(1) What is the matching program?

The matching program has been developed by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and funded in an amount of up to \$100 million over a 15 year period from CPRA's RESTORE Act¹ Spill Impact Component funds. CPRA elected to develop this program as a way to recognize (i) the importance of parish-state partnerships in working together to achieve comprehensive integrated coastal protection as identified in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan, as well as (ii) the fact that because Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan is a resource-limited approach to coastal restoration and protection, it is not possible to include every beneficial project in the Coastal Master Plan. In total, CPRA's matching program will nearly double the amount of the funds the parishes will receive under the Direct Component over a 15 year period ending in 2031.

(2) Who is eligible to apply for the program?

The purpose of the CPRA-Parish Matching Opportunities Program is to (i) help coastal parishes that receive RESTORE funds under the Direct Component prioritize Coastal Master Plan projects with those funds, and (ii) recognize and respond to the needs of parishes to implement projects that may not be specifically contained in the Master Plan, but are nevertheless consistent with the Coastal Master Plan. As a result, the only eligible applicants for this program are coastal parishes that are receiving RESTORE funds under the Direct Component (i.e. those parishes identified in 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(D)(i)(II)) and are putting some or all of their Direct Component funds towards a project proposed for the matching program. However, a parish is free to submit proposals on behalf of other entities, such as levee districts, so long as the parish is also putting forth RESTORE Act funds.

For example, if a levee district wants to build a project with RESTORE funds, the levee district can propose that project to its parish. If the parish agrees to put some of its RESTORE funds towards the project, the parish could then submit the project for consideration to the state for funding under the Parish Matching Program.

(3) How much is the first round of funding?

The initial solicitation for the Matching Program will be up to \$20 million. The solicitation will open on July 3, 2017.

¹ Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies (RESTORE) of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 1321(t)).

(4) How often will the CPRA open the matching program for solicitation?

The matching program will be up to approximately \$100 million over a 15 year period ending in 2031. CPRA has no predetermined number of solicitations that it will use for the matching program but will provide notice prior to the opening of any subsequent rounds of solicitation.

(5) How will projects be selected/evaluated?

The State's First Amended RESTORE Plan describes the selection criteria, solicitation and selection process. Proposals for an initial solicitation of funding totaling up to \$20 million for parish matching projects will be solicited by CPRA from July 3, 2017 through August 31, 2017. CPRA will issue a solicitation for projects for the matching program through a formal announcement posted on CPRA's website and distributed via email to each eligible parish on July 3, 2017, with the solicitation period closing on August 31, 2017. Subsequent rounds of matching program solicitations will be announced in the future with dates to be determined.

Once proposals have been formally solicited and submitted to CPRA, a selection committee composed of CPRA staff will evaluate the proposals using the criteria listed in the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan. The State's RESTORE Plan will be updated and amended, as approved by the CPRA Board, as projects proposed under the Parish Matching Program are selected for funding. Any projects selected for funding under the Parish Matching Program as an amendment to the Plan will be subject to a forty five (45) day public comment period before their selection is finalized by CPRA. CPRA will announce additional rounds of funding in the future for matching proposals.

(6) How many projects may a parish submit for consideration?

At this time there is no limit for the number of projects a parish may submit. However, we strongly encourage parishes to prioritize the projects they would like to submit for consideration.

(7) Can two or more eligible parishes join together to submit a joint proposal?

Yes, multiple parishes may join together to submit a joint proposal so long as each parish is also putting forth an amount of RESTORE Act Direct Component matching funds.

(8) Are nonstructural projects eligible for funding under the Matching Program?

Yes, nonstructural projects are eligible for funding under the matching program.

(9) Do proposed matching projects have to be included in the Master Plan?

No. The matching program may include projects that may not be specifically contained in the Master Plan, but are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Coastal Master Plan. However, CPRA anticipates that those projects or programs that are identified in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan in

effect at the time of the proposal will be more competitive than those projects that are not identified in the Master Plan but are consistent with the Master Plan.

(10) How will the CPRA determine consistency with the Master Plan for purposes of the Matching Program?

To be considered consistent with the goals and objectives of the Coastal Master Plan, the proposed project must strive to achieve one or more of the Coastal Master Plan's objectives and must not detrimentally affect, significantly diminish or otherwise conflict with integrated coastal protection projects or the benefits of projects intended to protect, conserve or enhance coastal areas. This consistency determination will be made by CPRA on a case by case basis and at the sole discretion of CPRA.

(11) Is there a set match percentage that CPRA will provide or a set amount that the parishes must contribute?

Because each project and each eligible parish has its own unique set of circumstances there will be no predetermined match percentage and the matching percentage provided to projects will be determined on a case by case basis by CPRA. However, as referenced in FAQ #9, CPRA anticipates that if a project is expressly listed in the Coastal Master Plan it will be more competitive than a project that is not identified in the Master Plan but are consistent with the Master Plan.

(12) Can a parish use funds other than RESTORE Direct Component funds as part of the match?

Yes, a parish may use funds in addition to Direct Component RESTORE Funds as part of its contribution. The more funds a parish has to put forth for projects it proposes under the matching program, the more competitive the project will be.

(13) Is a parish required to put a project in their RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Implementation Plan in order to apply for the program?

A parish must include a proposed project in their RESTORE Act Direct Component Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP) in order to receive funds under this matching program. However, while a Parish MYIP does not need to be formally accepted by Treasury at the time a project is submitted for consideration under the matching program, a parish that does not already have an existing MYIP containing the proposed project(s) must (i) publish a MYIP, or an amendment to a MYIP, containing any project(s) proposed for matching funds in accordance with 31 C.F.R. §34.303(a)(8) by no later than the date the CPRA publishes its State Expenditure Plan amendment in accordance with 31 C.F.R. §34.503(g) to include the projects selected for the matching program; and (ii) finalize parish approval of the MYIP for submission to Treasury by no later than the day before the CPRA is scheduled to approve the suite of projects selected for funding under the matching program. The purpose of this timeframe is to ensure that the CPRA Board only approves projects for the matching program that the parish has also formally approved for Direct Component funding.

If a parish has an existing MYIP that has already been accepted by the U.S. Department of Treasury and contains projects proposed for the matching program which are identified as needing additional funds from other third party sources, the state will not require the parish to undergo additional public comment for those projects.

(14) How soon will parishes need to use any Matching Funds that are awarded?

CPRA expects the matching funds to be used in a timely manner. As such, for each project proposal, an applicant will be required to provide a description describe the readiness to proceed with a proposed project, indicating any work that has already been done and any additional work that will need to be done. This discussion of readiness for each project application will include, without limitation, a description of the following:

- For planning projects, a description of how the proposed planning activities will advance the project toward implementation.
- A list of any data needs or identified data gaps, and a process for addressing them.
- A description of any permits and landowner agreements that will be required, if applicable.
- A discussion of the status of cost share efforts, including the leveraging of the matching funds provided by CPRA. Please note that the more secure and stable all identified funding sources are, the more competitive the project will be.

CPRA also understands that different time frames may apply for different projects. Accordingly, CPRA will work directly with each parish who is awarded matching funds to ensure that funds are used in a timely manner given the individual circumstances needs of each project. However, as required by Section N.02.b of the RESTORE Council's Standard Terms and Conditions, prior to dispersing funds under the matching program projects, CPRA and those parishes with selected projects under the matching program must first execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in accordance with the requirements in 31 C.F.R. § 34.803(c). CPRA expects that any applicable IGA(s) will be executed with the appropriate parishes in a timely manner.

(15) Who ultimately approves the Matching projects?

Once proposals have been formally solicited and submitted to CPRA, a selection committee composed of CPRA staff will evaluate the proposals using the criteria listed in the State's First Amended RESTORE Plan as well as any additional information requested in the solicitation. Projects selected for funding under the Parish Matching Program will be included as an amendment to the State RESTORE Plan will be subject to a forty five (45) day public comment period before their selection is finalized by CPRA, as approved by the Board. CPRA will announce additional rounds of funding in the future for matching proposals.

(16) How will CPRA provide the matching funds to the parishes who are awarded matching funds?

According to the RESTORE Council's Standard Terms and Conditions (Aug. 2015), the reimbursement method of payment is used under Spill Impact Component grant awards. This means that funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis to a parish for a selected project upon submittal and approval of invoices and deliverables as described under the terms and conditions of an Intergovernmental Agreement between CPRA and the parish.

(17) Can this program be used to pay for operations, maintenance, repair, replacement or rehabilitation?

Parish Matching Program funds cannot be used to pay for operations, maintenance, repair, replacement or rehabilitation costs. Proposed construction projects should be fully funded. The proposal should list the funding source(s) and amount(s). A construction project without identified, dedicated funding for activities such as operations and maintenance will not be as competitive as a fully funded project.

Note: CPRA reserves the right, subject to the RESTORE Act, 31 C.F.R. part 34 and La. R.S. 49:214.1 et seq., to update this program in order to meet the agency's needs and priorities for the coastal program as those change over time.