



The Coastal Advocate

An overview of coastal resilience initiatives

September 2021
Issue 2

Photo Project: Jose Marti Park
Client: City of Miami

CURTIS + ROGERS DESIGN STUDIO

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Topics: *Coastal resilience legislation and funding opportunities*

Summary: *The Coastal Advocate is a summary of key legislative topics for coastal communities to use as a resource and educational tool for funding, updates, and new policy initiatives. This issue features the new **Resilient Florida** program that was highlighted in the Coastal Advocate April 2021 Issue 1 (H 7019/ SB 1954).*

Policy changes affect each coastal community differently, whether it be an opportunity for new project funding or legal change requiring mandatory compliance. Cummins Cederberg will continue tracking important legislation and its' transition into Florida Law and implementation.

Cummins Cederberg is also well versed in preparing grant applications to seek funding for your community needs. Contact us for more information on eligible applicants, grant parameters, scoring criteria, and more.

References: [Resilient Florida Grant Program](#) and [Section 380.093, Florida Statutes](#)

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Resilient Florida Grant Program

On May 12, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law Senate Bill 1954 which took effect on July 1, 2021. This strategic and comprehensive legislation provides for a coordinated statewide approach to assist Florida's coastal and inland communities to prepare for the current and future climate impacts from intensified storms, flooding, and sea level rise.

An estimated \$526M in FY 21-22 will be allocated to this landmark legislation, now in Section 380.093, FS. In subsequent years, annual legislative appropriations of \$100M or more are anticipated to be made available for the following components:

- 1. Resilient Florida Grant Program (\$520 million in FY 21-22)**
 - a. \$20M for Community Resilience Planning, in three main areas:
 - i. Comprehensive plan amendments addressing Peril of Flood
 - ii. Vulnerability Assessments per Section 380.093, F.S., with standards including:
 1. *Current and future tidal and storm surge flooding, with the initial storm surge event equal to or exceeding the current 100-year flood event*
 2. *To the extent practicable, rainfall-induced and compound flooding*
 3. *Local sea level rise scenarios with 2017 NOAA intermediate-low and intermediate-high sea level rise projections (at a minimum)*
 4. *Planning horizons that include years 2040 and 2070 (at a minimum)*
 - iii. Development of adaptation plans, policies, and projects
 - b. \$500M for Resilience Capital Improvement Projects, with a focus on projects that:
 - i. Address risks posed by flooding and sea level rise as identified in:
 1. *Local Vulnerability Assessments, or,*
 2. *Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment*
 - ii. Address risks to vulnerable critical assets as defined in Section. 380.093, F.S.,
 - iii. Are currently affected by flooding and erosion
- 2. Regional and State Initiatives (\$6M in FY 21-22)**
 - a. Develop the Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability Data Set and Assessment
 - b. Draft the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan:
 - i. Preliminary – December 1, 2021
 - ii. December 1, 2022 – Updated Plan
 - iii. Starting December 1, 2023, the Resilience Plan will be based on the Statewide Assessment completed by the previous July 1
 - c. Funding requests from Regional Resilience Entities (for technical assistance on multijurisdictional projects)
 - d. Establish the Florida Flood Hub at the USF College of Marine Science

The inaugural Resilient Florida Grant Program cycle closed September 1, 2021, but more importantly, this dynamic program is designed to be a rolling process with future grant and cost-share opportunities. State and regional initiatives will be aggregating consistent statewide data and assessments for the preparation of one Florida Resilience Plan that will identify prioritized risks and needs for the allocation of annual funding.



Keep an eye on...

A glitch bill to address the Resilient Florida legislation to be filed for the upcoming 2022 Florida Legislative Session. Stay tuned for more information in the next *Coastal Advocate*.



Who should watch this...

Florida counties, municipalities, water management districts, flood control districts, and regional resilience entities; in addition to the FDEP, USF College of Marine Science, and other resilience partners.

Other 2021 State Legislation Updates

Updates from Coastal Advocate Issue 1:

Marina Evacuations:	Section 317.59 F.S. http://laws.flrules.org/2021/108
Seagrass Mitigation Banks:	Died in committee
Biscayne Bay:	Section 163.11 F.S. http://laws.flrules.org/2021/47
Building Design:	Section 163.3202 F.S. http://laws.flrules.org/2021/201