

#### **14-40.020 Grant Application Process.**

(1) Purpose. The Department may provide grant assistance for highway beautification projects in accordance with Section 339.2405, F.S., to a local governmental entity or a local highway beautification council.

(2) Definitions.

(a) "Agreement" means the contract between the Applicant and the Department setting forth the terms of the grant.

(b) "Applicant" means a local governmental entity, as defined in Section 11.45(1), F.S., or a local highway beautification council as established in accordance with Section 339.2405(9), F.S.

(c) "Council" means the Florida Highway Beautification Council.

(d) "Department" means the Florida Department of Transportation.

(e) "Grant" means funds provided by the Department to Applicants, pursuant to this rule chapter.

(f) "Grant Application" means the Florida Highway Beautification Council Grant Application, Form 650-050-10, Rev. 5/15, incorporated herein by reference at <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-06102> and available on the Department's website at [www.dot.state.fl.us/projectmanagementoffice/highwaybeautification](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/projectmanagementoffice/highwaybeautification).

(g) "Grant Coordinator" means the Department District employee responsible for the Council grant program.

(h) "Highway Beautification Project" means landscaping intended to enhance the attractiveness of roads on the State Highway System. Landscaping is to be installed on state highway right-of-way and may include property owned by a local governmental entity that abuts Department right-of-way, if the property is visible to the state highway system.

(3) Grant Application.

(a) Applicants must submit a grant application to the Grant Coordinator having jurisdiction over the state highway on which the beautification project is proposed. Grant applications must be accompanied by the following supporting documents: location map, photographs of existing conditions, one page written project narrative, written or graphic conceptual plan (in accordance with Rule 14-40.003, F.A.C.), one paragraph descriptions of each evaluation attribute, photographs or sketches of examples of proposed improvements, list of proposed plant species (scientific and botanical names) and anticipated quantities, anticipated maintenance schedule, proposed means of providing supplemental water, project schedule, and resolutions required in paragraph (3)(e) below.

(b) The grant application deadline is October 1 for each fiscal year. When preparing a grant application, applicants should meet and work with the Grant coordinator beginning three months or more in advance of the deadline, to give adequate time for review and revisions. Any incomplete or late filed applications will not be accepted. Because addendums, corrections, and edits will not be accepted after the application deadline, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a draft application to the Grant Coordinator by September 1.

(c) For the Council to consider a grant application, ten paper copies, and one electronic file copy of the completed grant application and supporting documents must be received by the Grant Coordinator by October 1.

(d) Applicants may submit an unlimited number of grant applications, for any number of project sites. The Grant Coordinator will note on the application if the applicant previously received Council grants and if previous projects were maintained in accordance with the terms of prior agreements.

(e) The applicant's governing body must have passed a resolution approving the grant application and authorizing the individual who signs the grant application for the applicant to execute agreements and documents associated with the grant. A copy of such fully executed resolution or resolutions must be included with the application.

(f) Applicants are encouraged to submit grant applications for highway beautification projects supported with equal (50 percent) matching funds or in kind contributions from other sources. Design fees up to 10 percent of the grant amount may be considered towards the applicant's match.

*Rulemaking Authority 339.2405 FS. Law Implemented 339.2405 FS. History—New 1-19-99, Amended 11-22-01, 3-20-03, 8-10-03, 12-23-03, 2-8-06, 12-24-08, 12-2-15.*