



# Pollution Recovery Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions

# 2024

### What is PRF?

PRF stands for Pollution Recovery Fund. The money in the fund comes from administrative penalties and costs obtained through enforcement for the necessary correction of pollution. These funds are collected and used within Hillsborough County for the restoration of polluted areas, mitigation of the effects of pollution and to otherwise enhance pollution control activities.

### Who can apply for PRF?

Any citizen, organization, or governmental entity can apply for PRF grant funding provided that all project activities and environmental benefits take place within the geographic boundaries of Hillsborough County.

### How much money can I request?

The maximum amount that can be requested in 2024 is **\$50,000.00**.

### Is a match required?

No matching funds are required to participate in the PRF grant process. However, projects that do provide matching funds or in-kind services are typically looked upon more favorably than equivalent projects that do not.

### When should I apply for funding?

Applications are made available on the EPC Website in February of each year. The deadline for submittal of completed applications is **5:00pm (EST), April 5th, 2024**. It is important to note that we are always striving to improve upon the process. As a result, current year applications are not made available until February and previous year's applications will not be accepted. Applications will only be accepted through the online form.

### How long does the process take?

Applications that have been received by the posted deadline of April 1st at 5:00pm (EST) will be reviewed by EPC staff. Final determinations are typically made by the EPC Commission by fall of each year. For planning purposes, successful applicants should expect to have a signed grant agreement and commence work approximately 9 to 12 months from the date of application.

### What types of projects are funded?

PRF is a competitive grant. It is the Commission's intent to obtain all corrections necessary from the responsible party for the pollution through enforcement. Where sufficient correction cannot be obtained, then appropriate monies for correction shall be obtained in addition to other appropriate penalties or costs to the greatest extent possible.

The Commission shall use the following priority (ranked highest to lowest) to approve projects for funding:

- Polluted areas which were the subject of Commission action or enforcement action but for which restoration or mitigation could not be obtained from the responsible party.
- Polluted areas for which adequate restoration or mitigation could not be obtained through enforcement but for which monies were contributed to the fund.
- Polluted areas for which adequate restoration or mitigation could not be obtained through enforcement and for which no monies were contributed to the fund.
- Polluted areas for which pollution control activities are designed to prevent, minimize, mitigate or correct the effects of the pollution, or to determine the extent of the effects of or the primary causes of the pollution.
- The Commission may assign certain amounts of the fund to be used for educational programs designed to alleviate existing pollution or for projects that otherwise enhance pollution control activities within the county. The Commission shall ensure that there is always, except in emergencies, a reasonable balance to cover unexpected or emergency situations.