



South Carolina Department of  
Parks, Recreation & Tourism

**Nikki Haley**  
Governor

**Duane N. Parrish**  
Director

August 31, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Governor  
State of South Carolina  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Pursuant to the reporting requirement described in Proviso 118.16(B)(39.1) in the FY16-17 General Appropriations Bill, please find enclosed a copy of the Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant Guidelines that SCPRT developed in order to systematically and equitably evaluate all renourishment funding assistance requests. These guidelines were developed utilizing OCRM's Beach Trust Fund application as a template, and adjusted to include each destination's tourism impact as part of the evaluation criteria.


Each project will be evaluated by a review committee comprised of SCPRT and OCRM staff based on five sets of criteria: environmental impact, public recreation benefit, expected useful life of project, protection benefit of project, and tourism impact of project. Applicants must have obtained permitting from OCRM and the US Army Corps of Engineers if applicable, as well as secured local matching funds prior to submitting an application for funding assistance in order for their application to be reviewed. While each project is evaluated based on the five sets of criteria listed above, ultimately the priority of projects is determined based on which destinations have satisfied all prerequisite requirements.

To date, we have received an application from the Town of Edisto Beach, which will have its renourishment activities conducted in conjunction with Edisto Beach State Park in order to realize some cost savings for both projects. We anticipate receiving an application for Reach Three (Garden City) from Horry County by the first of October. Hunting Island State Park has nearly completed its OCRM permitting process, however there is always the potential for delay of any project during the final protest period.

All other public beach destinations affected by last year's flood and king tide events are still in the early stages of OCRM permitting and/or are in the process of securing local match, and therefore unlikely to request funding for immediate restoration activity. Ultimately, this should result in a phased restoration of public beaches across the state's entire coast over the course of the next two to three years; however, it is crucial that the remaining \$10 million in estimated state funding assistance be allocated to SCPRT in the next budget cycle, especially as we expect both North Myrtle and Myrtle Beach to submit applications during the next fiscal year.

Thank you for your support of South Carolina's tourism industry and for your understanding and appreciation of the impact our public beaches have on our state's coastal business communities and overall economy. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Duane Parrish

## **South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant**

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism (SCPRT) has funding available for beach renourishment through the 2016-2017 South Carolina Appropriations Act and is soliciting applications for matching funds from eligible applicants.

Because these funds are administered by SCPRT through an open-cycle grant program, applications will be accepted at any time of year provided that the application is complete and that all requirements have been met prior to application submission.

Applications for funding will be evaluated by a review committee to determine if the application has satisfied all information and documentation requirements and to ensure that the project meets the minimum regulatory requirements.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Any county government or municipality with a State-approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan is eligible to apply for funding.

### **Application Submission**

An eligible applicant may submit applications for more than one project; however, each project must be submitted as a separate application bound individually and clearly labeled. Five paper copies (including one signed original) and one electronic copy (Adobe® Acrobat® Portable Document Format – PDF) of each application must be submitted. PDF documents must be submitted on a labeled CD-R and contain the complete application package in a single PDF file. All applications must be delivered to

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism  
Attn: Justin Hancock  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Suite 248  
Columbia, SC 29201

For general questions regarding this grant, please call 803-734-1747 or email [jhancock@scprt.com](mailto:jhancock@scprt.com).

## **Application Process and Requirements**

Eligible applicants must submit a fully-completed application packaged to request grant funds. Incomplete applications or those which do not include all required information will not be considered and will be return to applicant. Applications must include the following sections:

- A. Applicant Information and Commitment
- B. Project Narrative and Maps
- C. Budget Summary and Proof of Matching Funds
- D. Engineering Studies and Post-Project Monitoring Plan
- E. Beach Renourishment Permit Application or Copy of Approved Permit
- F. Approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan

### **A. Applicant Information and Commitment**

The applicant must submit the following information:

1. The name, address, telephone number and email address of the primary point-of-contact with the local government making the application and the name, telephone number and email address of the designated liaison agent.
2. The name, address, telephone number and email address of the project consulting engineer or other agent.
3. A resolution adopted by the applicant's governing body approving the submittal of an application for beach restoration funds, and committing to the local funding requirements necessary to complete the project.

**\*\*The Chief Executive Officer of the governing body must sign the original application\*\***

### **B. Project Narrative and Maps**

The applicant must submit a narrative description of the project which includes discussion of the following:

1. Project limits
2. Quantity of fill
3. Borrow sites
4. Expected design life of project
5. Project construction schedule and timeframe
6. Estimated first cost and annual maintenance costs
7. Source and availability of all local, state, and federal funds for the project
8. Project benefits, including environmental, economic and social
9. Environmental impacts
10. Public access to project area

The applicant must also submit a map or maps showing the following information relevant to the proposed project:

1. Project site and borrow area locations
2. Upland ownership of property, indicating federal, state, local or private ownership
3. Public access points
4. Public and private parking areas
5. Baseline and setback line(s)

### **C. Budget Summary and Proof of Matching Funds**

The applicant must submit a budget summary using the attached form. The budget should include an itemized breakdown of anticipated expenses for both the State assistance and local share of the total project cost. Budget summary should also include Federal share, if applicable.

In addition, the applicant must submit at least one of the following items as proof of matching funds:

1. Bank statements or other documentation demonstrating that the organization has on hand sufficient liquid assets to meet the match requirement. Documentation may be in the form of bank statements and/or a letter from a senior bank officer certifying an approved line of credit available to the organization for use as match funds for this program and sufficient to meet the match requirements. Bank statements and/or bank letter must be attached to grant application in order to ensure that the funds are available as of the date of the application. Please provide any additional financial information that would be helpful to SCPRT staff in verifying the availability and source of match funds.
2. A sworn statement signed by the CEO or CFO of the local government entity stating that the match funds are locally-generated and specifically designated for beach renourishment.

### **D. Engineering Studies and Post-Project Monitoring**

The applicant must submit any engineering studies that have been completed for the project, and plans for standardized pre- and post-project monitoring to include physical and biological parameters for both offshore (borrow area) and onshore (beach and surf zone) impacts.

### **E. Beach Renourishment Permit Application or Copy of Approved Permit**

The applicant must submit a DHEC-OCRM regulatory permit application for the proposed beach renourishment project. If the applicant has already received an approved permit for the proposed project, then the applicant must submit a copy of the approved permit with the funding application.

The applicant should submit all relevant approvals, permits, or permit applications that have been submitted to or received from other regulatory agencies for the proposed project as part of the funding application.

## **F. Approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan**

The applicant must submit the relevant sections of the current, State-approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan, which presents the following information:

1. Analysis of beach erosion control alternatives
2. Upland ownership of property, indicating federal, state, local or private ownership
3. Public access points
4. Public parking areas
5. Private parking areas
6. Baseline and setback line(s)

### **Additional Information**

The applicant may submit additional information, including but not limited to letters of support, discussion of relevant nearby projects, studies, inventories, analysis, or planning documents discussing or applicable to the proposed project. Germane additional information received will be considered as part of the funding review process; however, additional information may not be used as a substitute for required information or documentation.

## **Application Review and Evaluation**

All applications will be evaluated to determine if the proposed beach renourishment activity meets the minimum regulatory requirements and then rated based on the five criteria listed below. Each element of the funding consideration criteria is rated using the following numerical evaluation to assess the degree that the application meets the criteria:

- High – 3 points
- Medium – 2 points
- Low – 1 point
- Does not meet criteria (a resource of factor is present, but the proposal has been evaluated to have no value or to not have an intended benefit) – 0 points

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### **1. Environmental impact of the project.**

- Improves the ecological function of the beach and dune system
- Restores degraded dune habitat
- Restores habitat used by threatened or endangered species

#### **2. Public recreation benefit.**

- Protects existing or historic public recreation areas
- Improves the public accessibility to the beach
- Provides or enhances full and complete public access

### 3. Expected useful life of project.

- Anticipated life expectancy of project benefits
- Time to complete project and time required for stabilization of beach in years
- Longevity of previous renourishment projects

### 4. Protection benefit of project

- Protects public property or infrastructure, or historic or culturally significant structures
- Protects economically important land uses
- Reduces potential storm damage to private property

### 5. Tourism Impact of the project

- Is a major area of focus for state and/or local tourism marketing strategies
- Protects or enhances a core component of the visitor experience to its respective destination
- Ensures continuity of visitation that significantly impacts the local business community

## **Funding Restrictions**

State assistance awarded and paid shall not exceed 50% of the total eligible costs for the project. The State share must be matched on a one-to-one basis with non-federal, local funds. All local, matching funds must be secured and available prior to submitting a funding application. In addition, any federal assistance necessary for project completion must be secured and documented prior to submitting a funding application.

Federal funds may not be used to match state funds.

In-kind services may not be used as match.

## **Eligible Costs**

Only hard costs, including the installation of shoreline stabilization structures, directly associated with the renourishment project will be allowed.

## **Ineligible Costs**

The following costs will not be paid with State funds nor used to provide the required local share:

- Costs incurred outside the contract period
- Costs associated with the preparation of permit applications and any necessary modifications
- Indirect or overhead costs of the municipality or county government, such as rent, telephone service, and general administrative support

- Salaries and other expenses of elected officials, whether incurred for purposes of project direction, execution, or legislation are not an eligible cost. In addition, volunteer services contributed by these officials to the project may not be used as local share.

### **Project Timeframe Requirements**

Applicants should have acquired all necessary permitting prior to submitting an application for grant funding; however, applications will also be accepted for projects that have applied for OCRM permitting and can be reasonably expected to receive permitting from OCRM within six (6) months of the effective date of the grant agreement.

Project must be completed within twenty-four (24) months of the grant agreement date. If the project is not able to comply with either the beginning or ending dates, the grantee should notify SCPRT in writing, explaining why the project is unable to meet the required deadlines. SCPRT will review each request for an extension on a case-by-case basis.

If OCRM permitting has not been obtained within six (6) months or if no substantial activity has occurred within eighteen (18) months of the grant agreement, SCPRT reserves the right to revert awarded funds and the applicant will be required to submit a new application for funding.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Municipalities must provide quarterly progress reports to SCPRT for the duration of the contract, including a summary of all expenses incurred during the reporting period.

### **Other Grant Requirements**

The proposed beach renourishment sites must be in public ownership.

In addition to responsibility for compliance with local regulations, the applicant is responsible for complying with all applicable State and Federal agencies and laws including, but not limited to the following:

- DHEC-OCRM statute, policies and regulations
- DHEC-EQC 401 Water Quality Certification
- SC Department of Natural Resources
- US Army Corps of Engineer Permits
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service