FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

ARA Emergency Funding for Public Water Systems

Utility Application for Reimbursement

Safe Drinking Water Act §1442(b) | American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158)

Instructions

1. This program reimburses eligible public water systems for costs incurred for emergency repairs, operations and maintenance, and response and recovery resulting from Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton.
2. Complete Parts A through I. Answer every question; write "N/A" if a question does not apply. Attach the documents listed in Part H.
3. Every application is reviewed against the same criteria from FRWA's grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
4. **Funding is limited.** Applications will be accepted for 30 days. After the application period closes, FRWA will review each application for eligibility and place eligible applications in priority order: (1) financially disadvantaged small communities, (2) small communities, and (3) financially disadvantaged communities (see Part E). Reimbursements will be made on a first-come, first-served basis in the priority order, in accordance with the date the application is deemed complete, and with all supporting documents (including invoices and proof of payment) received. Reimbursements will be made in that order until funds are exhausted. Submitting an application does not guarantee reimbursement.
5. Funding is 100% federal; no local match is required. Only costs incurred on or after September 26, 2024, and documented with invoices and proof of payment, can be reimbursed. Costs paid or payable by FEMA, the DWSRF, insurance, or any other source cannot be reimbursed twice.
6. If the application is approved, the utility must execute an agreement with FRWA before any reimbursement is paid (see Part G).
7. All program work must be completed by June 30, 2027.

Eligible counties: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla.

Submit completed applications and attachments by email to: **dwara@frwa.net**

More information is available at **https://www.frwa.net/ara-program**.

Application period opens: **November 4, 2026**. Applications are due by **December 4, 2026**.

PART A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Utility name	
Legal name of owner entity	
FDEP public water system (PWS) ID number(s)	
Water system name(s) covered by this application	
Physical address of system / project site	
County	
Population served	
Number of service connections	
SAM.gov Unique Entity ID (UEI), if any	

Type of entity (check one) — Chapter 62-552, F.A.C.

☐ County	☐ Municipality
☐ Special district	☐ Private non-profit
☐ Publicly owned water system (authority, utility board, etc.)	☐ Other DWSRF-eligible entity (describe):

Water system type (check one)

☐ Community	☐ Non-transient non-community	☐ Transient non-community

Source water (check all that apply)

☐ Ground water	☐ Surface water	☐ Purchased water

Contacts

	Primary contact	Authorized official (signs Part I)
Name		
Title		
Phone		
Email		
Mailing address		

PART B. HURRICANE IMPACT

Eligible systems must have been damaged, demonstrated impact, or lost or had a disruption of a mission-essential function (including loss of function with potential impact to public health) caused by Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton.

B1. Which storm(s) impacted your system?

☐ Hurricane Helene	☐ Hurricane Milton	☐ Both

B2. Type of impact (check all that apply)

☐ Loss of commercial power	☐ Flooding of wells, treatment plant, or pump stations
☐ Water main breaks or leaks	☐ Loss of pressure / service outage
☐ Precautionary boil water notice issued	☐ Treatment failure or water quality exceedance
☐ Storage tank or structural damage	☐ Loss of SCADA / telemetry / communications
☐ Emergency operations (generators, water hauling, bottled water)	☐ Staffing or access disruptions
☐ Other (describe in B3)	

B3. Describe the impact, including dates, duration, and parts of the system affected

If more space is needed, enter "See attachment" and provide the details as an attachment.

B4. Were boil water notices issued or incidents reported to FDEP or the county health department?

☐ Yes ☐ No	Notice / report numbers and dates: *(If more space is needed, provide as an attachment.)*

B5. Other assistance requested or received for these same costs (FEMA, DWSRF, insurance, other grants)

If more space is needed, enter "See attachment" in the last row and provide the details as an attachment.

Source	Amount requested	Amount received	Status

PART C. REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTED

C1. Eligible purpose (check all that apply)

☐ 1. Current operations and maintenance or emergency repair needs with no source of alternate funding (such as FEMA disaster assistance or the DWSRF)

☐ 2. Response and recovery efforts completed immediately following the emergency that left the system with critical financial needs that cannot be addressed with other funding sources

☐ 3. Other projects that respond to and alleviate an emergency situation

C2. Cost categories (check all that apply)

☐ Emergency repairs (mains, wells, treatment, storage)	☐ Operations & maintenance (fuel, chemicals, power)
☐ Generator or equipment rental	☐ Emergency overtime or temporary staff (not standard working hours for budgeted staff)
☐ Water hauling / bottled water / alternative water source	☐ Contractor services
☐ Repair materials and parts	☐ Engineering or disaster assessment
☐ Insurance-related costs (e.g., deductible)	☐ Other (describe):

C3. Itemized costs for reimbursement

If more space is needed, enter "See attachment" in the last row and provide the details as an attachment.

Vendor / payee	Invoice no. & date	Description of work or purchase	Amount	Date paid	Other funds? (Y/N)

Total eligible costs incurred	
Less: amounts received or expected from other sources (B5)	
Net reimbursement requested	

PART D. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

D1. Describe the repairs, operations and maintenance, or response work performed

If more space is needed, enter "See attachment" and provide the details as an attachment.

D2. How did this work prevent, limit, or mitigate danger to public health and help the system remain operational?

If more space is needed, enter "See attachment" and provide the details as an attachment.

D3. Schedule and procurement

Date work started	
Date work completed	
Work status	☐ Complete ☐ In progress
How were vendors / contractors procured?	☐ Competitive bids or quotes ☐ Existing contract ☐ Emergency / noncompetitive (attach justification) ☐ Utility staff (internal work)
Construction contracts over $2,000 paid Davis-Bacon prevailing wages?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐ Unknown

D4. Small, minority-owned, and women-owned business participation

This information is collected for federal reporting purposes only. A "No" answer does not affect your eligibility or priority ranking.

For the contracts and purchases listed in C3, were affirmative steps taken to include small, minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses (for example, including them on solicitation lists, soliciting quotes from them, or using SBA or Office of Supplier Diversity resources)?

☐ Yes (attach documentation)	☐ No (explain):	☐ N/A (utility staff only)

Were any vendors in C3 certified minority- or women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE)? If yes, list the vendor, certification, and amount paid.

If more space is needed, provide as an attachment.

MBE/WBE vendor	Certification (type and certifying agency)	Amount paid

PART E. PRIORITY INFORMATION

FRWA prioritizes applications in the order below. Provide the figures and attach support.

Population served (fewer than 10,000 = small community, Rule 62-552.200(32), F.A.C.)	
Median household income (MHI) of the service area	
Statewide average MHI (same data source and year)	
Data source and year	

Priority group (check one)

☐	Group 1 – Financially disadvantaged small community (population under 10,000 AND service-area MHI below the statewide average)
☐	Group 2 – Small community (population under 10,000)
☐	Group 3 – Financially disadvantaged community (service-area MHI below the statewide average, Rule 62-552.200(13), F.A.C.)
☐	None of the above apply

PART F. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

Check each statement that is true. An unchecked box may make the application ineligible as submitted.

☐ The applicant is an eligible entity under 62-552, F.A.C., and owns or operates the public water system(s) listed in Part A.

☐ The system is in one of the eligible counties designated by FEMA for Hurricane Helene and/or Milton.

☐ The costs submitted were caused by Hurricane Helene and/or Milton and were incurred on or after September 26, 2024.

☐ The costs submitted are reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the emergency, and are supported by invoices and proof of payment.

☐ The costs submitted have not been and will not be paid by FEMA, the DWSRF, insurance, or any other source (see Part B5).

☐ Procurement for the costs submitted followed federal procurement standards (2 CFR 200.317–200.327), or justification is attached.
☐ No costs submitted are for covered telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services (NDAA §889; 2 CFR 200.216).
☐ No management fees or similar reserve charges are included in the costs submitted.
☐ Reimbursement will not be used as non-federal cost share, match, or equivalency for any other federal program.
☐ The applicant is not debarred, suspended, or excluded on SAM.gov (2 CFR 180).
☐ Each vendor and contractor listed in C3 was checked on SAM.gov and was not debarred, suspended, or excluded when the contract or purchase was made.

PART G. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND FRWA AGREEMENT

How reimbursement works

FRWA reviews each application for eligibility, verifies the invoices and proof of payment, and reimburses eligible costs. Costs that do not meet the requirements of FRWA's grant agreement with FDEP, including federal procurement standards, cannot be reimbursed.

If the application is approved, FRWA will provide an agreement to the utility for review, approval, and execution. No reimbursement will be paid until the agreement is fully executed.

If approved, the utility agrees to (check each):

☐ Execute an agreement with FRWA governing the reimbursement.
☐ Provide invoices, proof of payment, and any additional supporting documents FRWA, FDEP, or EPA requests.
☐ Provide the information FRWA must report (PWS ID, population served, work completed, and costs paid).
☐ Repay any reimbursed costs later found to be unallowable.
☐ Keep records related to the reimbursed costs for 5 years after agreement completion and allow EPA, GAO, FDEP, and FRWA access.

PART H. ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST

☐ Invoices for all costs in C3	☐ Proof of payment (cancelled checks, bank or ledger records)
☐ Timesheets and payroll records showing storm-related hours outside of normal work week, pay rates, and overtime policy (if staff time is claimed)	☐ Photos or reports documenting storm impact
☐ Boil water notices / FDEP or health department reports	☐ FEMA, DWSRF, or insurance claim status and determinations
☐ Procurement records (bids, quotes, contracts, emergency justification)	☐ Population and MHI documentation (Part E)
☐ Governing body authorization to apply and enter an agreement with FRWA (if required)	☐ MBE/WBE certifications and affirmative-steps documentation (if applicable)
☐ Other:	

PART I. CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify that the information in this application and its attachments is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that the costs submitted have not been reimbursed by any other source, and that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the applicant.

Signature of authorized official	
Printed name and title	
Date	