

EECBG – \$18.2 Million in Competitive Grants to Local Governments

Florida has a large and diverse collection of eligible local governments:

- Florida has 67 counties and 412 municipalities - 17 counties and 69 municipalities received direct EECBG formula grants from DOE
- 393 non-entitlement local governments are eligible for sub-grant funding
- The largest eligible county (based on unincorporated population) has a population of 179,424, while the smallest eligible county has a population of 7,207
- Florida has 287 municipalities that have less than 15,000 residents, including 84 municipalities with fewer than 1,000 residents

The state's proposed grant distribution strategy will utilize a competitive, two-tiered approach:

- Two-thirds (\$12.1 million) of the available grant funds will be made available on a competitive basis to all eligible local governments
 - Requested grant funding from any single applicant may not exceed 10% (\$1.2 million) of the available grant funds
- One-third (\$6.1 million) of the available grant funds will be dedicated to assist small counties and cities
 - A “small county” is considered to be a county with an unincorporated population of less than 50,000, while a “small city” is a municipality with a population of 15,000 or less
 - Maximum award amount in this category may not exceed \$250,000
- Grant application review criteria will rely on EECBG Program guidelines, including principles, outcomes, and eligible activities specified in the authorizing legislation

The proposed competitive grant strategy has a number of benefits/advantages:

- The competitive nature of the grant will reward those local governments that identify innovative and cost-effective strategies/activities
- The two-tiered structure will allow all eligible local governments to compete for funding while preserving a portion for small, often economically-disadvantaged communities
- Unlike the formulaic approach proposed in some states, this competitive grant program will provide significant and meaningful funding amounts to communities
- The proposed strategy balances the desire to extend funding opportunities to as many local governments as possible, with the constraints imposed by limited administrative resources