

# Central Florida Water Initiative



ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES PROGRAM  
CFWI Water Conservation  
Application Guidelines

# 2020

## APPLICATION DEADLINE AND CONTACTS

**Deadline:** March 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM

**Submittal:** Applications must be uploaded electronically at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding>

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# ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES PROGRAM - CFWI WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS

## Overview

In 2019, the Governor and Florida Legislature approved an investment of \$40 million statewide to develop water resource and water supply projects to help protect our water resources and ensure that the needs of existing and future users are met. Funding has been approved for the implementation of water conservation measures within the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Planning Area (includes all of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Polk counties and southern Lake County; **Figure 1**). These funds were directed from the Legislature through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to the St. Johns River, Southwest Florida, and South Florida water management districts (Districts), who will provide oversight to eligible partners for water conservation projects in the CFWI Planning Area. This program is a cost-share reimbursement program with up to a 50 percent match.

Because the CFWI is a collaborative planning effort, the Districts will collectively review project applications according to the priorities and guidelines presented in this document. Applications will be accepted from February 17 to March 27, 2020 for proposed projects that will occur between July 1, 2020 and November 30, 2022. The following is provided as guidance for applicants. Regardless of project location, all applications for proposed CFWI water conservation projects will be submitted via the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) website at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding>.

## General Requirements

This section contains general information about the requirements of the program. Every applicant must satisfy these requirements.

### Project Eligibility and Application

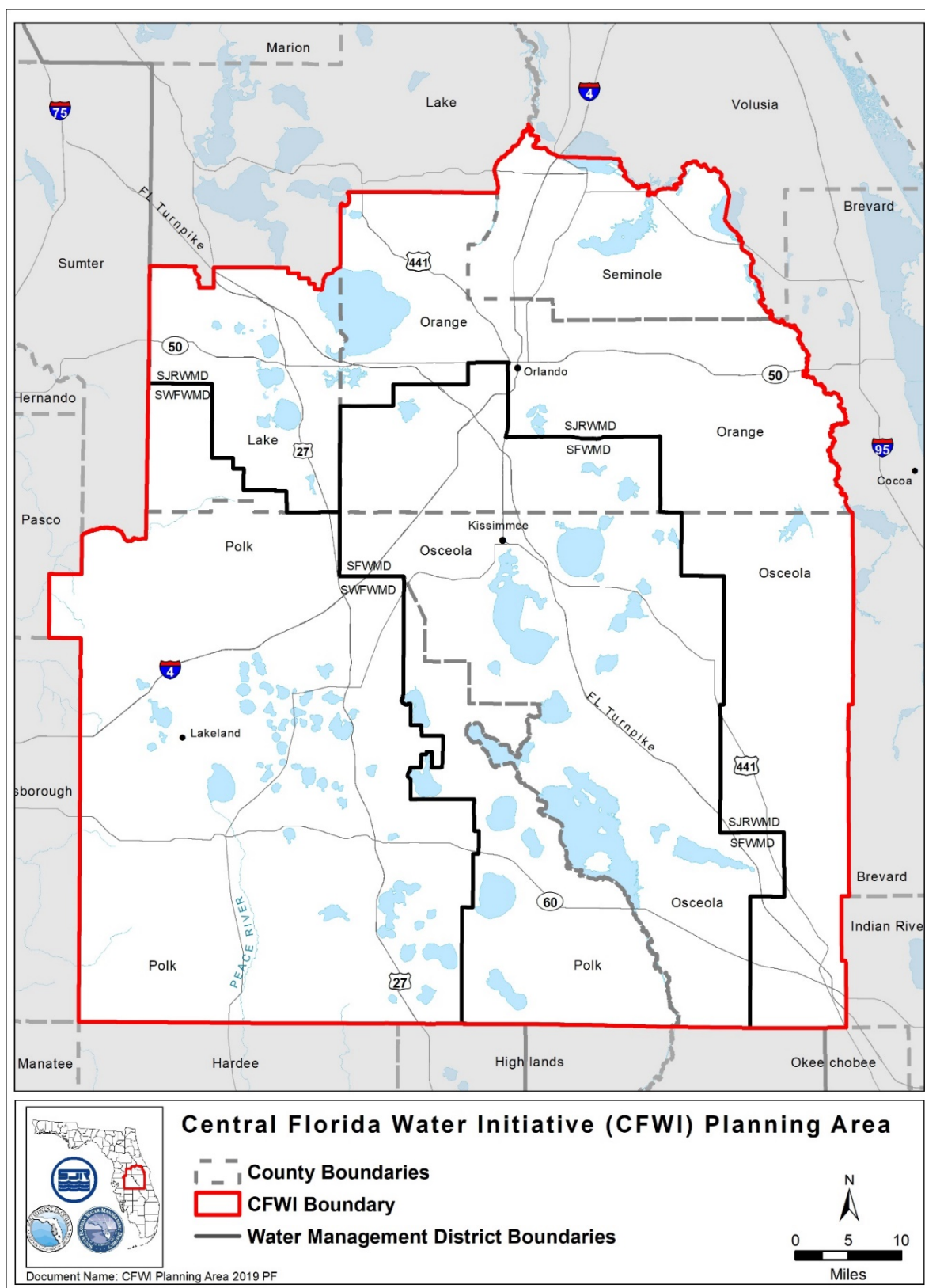
Applicants must include all required documentation as outlined in the Application or they may be deemed ineligible. Project implementation shall not be initiated before July 1, 2020, and the project should be completed on or before November 30, 2022.

Cost-share funding through this program is available to the following user groups (i.e., “Applicants”):

- ✓ Public or private water providers
- ✓ Local governments
- ✓ Industrial, commercial, or institutional users
- ✓ Agricultural and nursery producers
- ✓ Large landscape irrigation users (e.g., parks, golf courses, cemeteries)
- ✓ Non-profit organizations
- ✓ Homeowners’ or condominium associations

Cost-share funding through this program is not available to the following user groups:

- ✓ Individual homeowners (i.e., single-family residential users)



**Figure 1.** Map of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Planning Area.



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Water use efficiency and conservation projects that use the following water sources are eligible:

- ✓ Potable water from a utility
- ✓ Well water
- ✓ Surface water body or natural waterway
- ✓ Water from a canal or stormwater catchment area (e.g., a man-made lake within a housing development, agricultural lands, golf course)
- ✓ Reclaimed water

To be deemed eligible, applicants shall comply with all the following requirements:

- ✓ Adhere to the Application instructions
- ✓ Adhere to applicable laws and regulations
- ✓ Comply with allowable funding costs
- ✓ Project must be within the CFWI boundaries (see **Figure 1** and [www.cfwiwater.com](http://www.cfwiwater.com))  
Check here to see what District your project is in <https://www.sjrwmd.com/about/maps/>

### Withdrawal of Application/Project

Applicants may withdraw their submitted application by notifying the SFWMD either in writing or in person through an authorized representative at any time. Applications, once received, become the property of the SFWMD. Applications are **not** returned to the Applicant even if withdrawn from consideration.

### Application Development Costs

Neither the Districts nor their representatives shall be liable for any expenses incurred through the preparation, submission, or presentation of the funding Application, nor shall said expenses be reimbursed using program funds (see non-allowable costs section in the Application). All information in the Application shall be provided at no cost to the Districts.

### Award

The Applicant understands that the Application does not constitute a contract or purchase order with the Districts. No contract or purchase order is binding or official until applications are reviewed and accepted by the Districts, approved by the applicable District Governing Board (GB), and the Parties duly execute an official contract or purchase order. The FDEP reserves the right not to issue any funding whatsoever, if it is in the best interest of the FDEP and the Districts.

This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must fully fund the project without funds from this Program. Awarded funds will be distributed upon project completion.

Guidelines for maximum reimbursement funding amounts and percentages have been established by the Districts. Any state or federal appropriations or local grant monies received by the Applicant for a specific project shall be first applied toward the total cost of the Applicant's proposed project. Matching funds will be required, the amount to be determined by the Districts and applicable Florida Statutes. Funding can be **up to** 50 percent of the project's implementation cost.

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Funds will be awarded based on estimated project costs as reported in the Application. The Districts may prorate and reduce the funding amount if the project scope is not 100 percent completed as outlined in the Statement of Work. In no event shall the funding amount exceed percentages of the actual expenditures approved by the applicable District GB. If actual project implementation costs are less than estimated costs, then a reduced award may result. During project closeout, actual costs must be accounted for and supported by evidence, including, but not limited to, completion/certification letter, vendor invoices/pay applications, check payments, records for all in-kind services, and verification of project completion. Failure to supply evidence of all financial expenditures will result in the withholding of funds.

### Application

Applications must be uploaded at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/coop-funding> by **March 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM**. Applications should include detailed project information, timelines, funding commitments, benefit quantifications, and location data (e.g., GIS shapefile, latitude/longitude data). A full breakdown of project costs will be required. Specific project guidelines are presented below. A project may include multiple elements submitted under one application.

### Funding Commitment

If a third party is providing funding, in-kind services, commodities, or permissions for the Project, a letter indicating such commitment, on the third-party provider's letterhead, shall be required. The letter must be signed by the person authorized to bind the third party and indicate the person's title and authority. The Applicant shall be required to obtain all relevant documentation from the third party to support reimbursement.

### Project Requirements

This funding is to provide financial assistance for water conservation efforts in support of the 2015 CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan ([www.cfwiwater.com](http://www.cfwiwater.com)). Funding may **only** be used for the project identified in the Application.

#### General Requirements

- Total project costs must be at least \$15,000 in total expenditures for water supply utilities, municipalities, or government agencies. This limit does not apply to non-government agencies.
- Verification of hardware installation is required, and proof may include an invoice indicating hardware installation or a signed statement by the Recipient stating that all products were visually inspected in their final state of installation.
- Applicants are responsible for the proper disposal of all inefficient hardware/technology replaced as part of the Project; inefficient hardware/technology must not be made available for use by other users.

## Alternative Water Supplies Program – CFWI Water Conservation Application Guidelines

### **Allowable Costs for Water Conservation Projects (including but not limited to)**

- Implementation costs (e.g., hardware/technology/installation/in-kind services such as administrative/advertising costs) incurred between July 1, 2020 and November 30, 2022.
- WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures and device retrofits and/or rebates (e.g., high-efficiency toilets [existing 1.6 gallons/flush to 0.8 gallons/flush; or 3.5 gallons/flush or greater to 1.28 gallons/flush or less], showerheads, and faucets).
- Potable water flushing reduction infrastructure, including automatic line flushing devices, line looping, or other capital infrastructure that can quantifiably demonstrate a reduction in flushing volumes.
- Pre-rinse spray valves.
- Rebates to incentivize builders to build and certify new construction (e.g., residential, commercial/institutional) under the Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> program. The rebate defrays the costs that builders would incur upgrading indoor and outdoor components associated with meeting the Florida Water Star criteria.
- Advanced metering analytics and customer portals – must be directly related to water conservation savings, such as customer portals/apps that provide management tools (e.g., the ability to view consumption data, leak/boil alerts).
- Irrigation retrofits for all users, including smart controllers, rain or soil moisture sensors, irrigation spray bodies upgrades, irrigation conversion to more efficient systems, weather stations, automated irrigation valves (e.g., agriculture, nursery operations). Irrigation smart controllers, soil moisture sensors, and spray bodies must be WaterSense labeled.
- Other hardware and/or technology-based retrofits or applications that provide measurable increase in water efficiency (e.g., cooling tower or industrial process water use efficiency improvements).

### **Non-Allowable Costs for Water Conservation Projects**

- Water conservation project for a single residential property.
- Expenses incurred or obligated before or after the funding period.
- Planning, design, and engineering.
- Regular operations and maintenance costs, such as replacement of utility meters, sewer lines, finished water lines, storage tanks, groundwater wells, etc.
- Lobbying or attempting to influence federal, state, or local legislation.
- Bad debts, contingencies, fines and penalties, interest, and other financial costs.
- Private entertainment, food, beverages, plaques, awards, or scholarships.
- Projects restricted to exclusive participation, which include restricted-access programs based on protected bases under law.
- Funding used to underwrite other funding programs.
- Expenses associated with the preparation, submission, or presentation of the Application.
- Contributions or donations to other organizations.

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- Waterless urinals, toilet retrofit kits to replace internal tank components, toilet retrofits for 3.5 gallons/flush or greater with a 1.6 gallons/flush toilet, and dual flush valves for commercial buildings.
- Installation of new irrigation systems or the extension of an existing irrigation system to an area not previously irrigated, other than Florida Water Star certification projects
- Indoor fixtures for new construction, unless part of a Florida Water Star certification program.
- Projects that are out of compliance with permit conditions or are proposed to bring a facility back into compliance or proposed as settlement for enforcement activities.
- Ineligible in-kind services include non-paid volunteer hours; educational programs and materials such as coloring books, stickers, etc.; waived fees; or an individual's entire annual salary. Exception is the required educational component for flapper toilets. For questions on whether an in-kind service would be accepted, contact Stacey Adams ([561] 682-2577, [sadams@sfwmd.gov](mailto:sadams@sfwmd.gov)) or Robert Wanvestraut ([561] 682-6615 or [rowanves@sfwmd.gov](mailto:rowanves@sfwmd.gov)).

### **Specific Requirements for Plumbing Retrofit Projects**

- Fixture exchange programs cannot function as a giveaway project (i.e., an inefficient fixture must be collected for each high-efficiency fixture distributed). Recipients' names and addresses are required as part of the closeout package.
- Toilet China (bowl) and flushometer (flush valve) 'gallon per flush' ratings must be compatible.
- All toilet retrofit projects involving toilets with flappers must include an educational component that addresses leak detection and proper flapper replacement selection and installation. Further information can be found at <https://toiletflapper.org/>. The educational component can include the following information:
  - Flappers degrade and leak due to chlorine compounds used in water treatment.
  - A leaking flapper valve in a toilet can leak at a rate of 5 drops/second.
  - At 5 drops/second, the amount of water lost is 43.2 gallons/day, 1,296 gallons/month, and 15,552 gallons/year.

All plumbing fixtures and appliances must meet the standards outlined in **Table 1**.



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**Table 1.** Plumbing fixture and appliance retrofit or replacement standards for water conservation projects.

Device	Standard
Toilets, tank, or flushometer (flush valve) (residential and commercial)	USEPA WaterSense approved with a MaP flush score of $\geq 800$ grams <sup>1</sup>
Showerheads	USEPA WaterSense approved with flow rate of 2.0 gallons/minute or less (1.75 gallons/minute is suggested)
Bathroom faucets	USEPA WaterSense approved with flow rate of 1.0 gallon/minute or less for residential fixtures; 0.5 gallons/minute for commercial fixtures.
Urinals	USEPA WaterSense approved with flush volume of 0.5 gallons/flush or less (0.125 gallons/flush is suggested)
Kitchen faucets	USEPA WaterSense approved with flow rate of 1.5 gallons/minute or less (1.0 gallon/minute can also be used)
Commercial kitchen pre-rinse spray valves <sup>2</sup>	Flow rate of 1.28 gallons/minute or less <sup>2</sup>
Clothes washers and dishwashers	Must be ENERGY STAR rated <sup>3</sup>

USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency.

1 – Please refer to [www.map-testing.com/](http://www.map-testing.com/), click on “MaP Search” (at left) to verify acceptable toilets meet the flush score of  $\geq 800$  grams.

2 – As of January 1, 2019, the USEPA has sunset the *WaterSense Specification for Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves*.

3 – ENERGY STAR ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) maintains a list of efficiency-qualified clothes washers, which include the Water Factor Rating.

### **Specific Requirements for Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Projects**

- Non-agricultural irrigation controllers, sensors, and spray sprinkler bodies must be WaterSense labeled. A list of allowable models can be found on the product search page of the WaterSense website, [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).
- To receive reimbursement, projects involving irrigation technology devices on non-agricultural systems (e.g., smart irrigation controllers, sensors) must show proof that these items are installed, calibrated, and inspected by a professional who is a member of a recognized irrigation professional trade organization such as, but not limited to, the Irrigation Association; the Florida Irrigation Society; or the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association. A professional who has received certification in irrigation efficiency from these agencies or another agency (e.g., the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense program or the Florida Water Star Accredited Professional program) is also admissible. An invoice showing charges for project hardware installation or a signed statement indicating an inspection of devices installed by a professional is required with the closeout package.
- For projects involving soil moisture sensors, the sensor(s) must be installed according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.
- For agricultural irrigation conversions and retrofits, a Mobile Irrigation Lab or equivalent irrigation audit is encouraged to establish potential water savings and identify additional conservation measures.

Funding limits for the purchase and installation costs for common conservation fixtures/devices are shown in **Table 2**.

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**Table 2.** Allowable funding limits for common conservation fixtures/devices.

Conservation Fixture/Device	District Allowable Funding Limit per Unit <sup>1</sup>	Total Fixture/Device Cost <sup>2</sup>
Automatic line flushing devices	Up to \$3,000	\$6,000
High-efficiency toilets	Up to \$145	\$290
High-efficiency showerheads	Up to \$20	\$40
High-efficiency aerators	Up to \$1	\$2
High-efficiency urinals	Up to \$140	\$280
Soil moisture sensors	Up to \$145	\$290
Rain sensors	Up to \$120	\$240
Pre-rinse spray valves	Up to \$55	\$110
Clothes washers rebate	Up to \$100	Total cost could exceed \$200
Dishwashers rebate	Up to \$100	Total cost could exceed \$200

1 – This is the maximum per unit amount the District(s) will reimburse Applicants for each fixture or device listed above. Actual reimbursement funding per unit depends on actual costs and award levels.

2 – This is the assumed maximum total cost paid by Applicants. Actual costs paid by Applicants may differ.

## Application Evaluation

Staff from the Districts will review all project applications, make final project selections, determine funding levels, and present this information to the applicable District GB. All projects are expected to support the resource management goals of the CFWI. The Districts will review projects based on program considerations and guidelines as presented in **Table 3**.

**Table 3.** Water conservation considerations and guidelines.

Considerations	Guidelines
Supports the water conservation goals of the CFWI	Proposed project actively supports 2015 CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan and/or Conservation Implementation Strategy water conservation goals.
Quantity of water saved	Estimated number of gallons saved per year compared to other Applicants.
Cost effectiveness, expressed as dollars per 1,000 gallons (\$/kgal) saved	Demonstrates cost effectiveness in installation, design, and use.
Quality and detail of project planning	Application demonstrates a high level of detail and planning.
Project readiness	Application demonstrates readiness to be implemented on schedule. For example, design complete and permits in place.
Environmental/community benefits	Provides environmental benefits such as water quality improvements, habitat improvement, or other resource benefits (e.g., MFLs, wetlands) or benefits to low-income or affordable housing communities.
Water source being conserved	The type of water being conserved will be reviewed (e.g., potable versus non-potable).
Past performance	The Applicant's historical record of completing District-funded water conservation projects.

### **Funding Compliance Review**

If selected and after contracting, the Districts will ensure the proper use of funding by requiring Applicants to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract(s) and/or purchase order(s). Additionally, the Districts will ensure compliance through:

- If applicable, site visits to verify installation and/or progress of the Project.
- Reviews of quarterly status reports required by the contract or purchase order.
- Thorough review of deliverables (financial expenditure documentation may include, but is not limited to, certification letter from entity; vendor invoices/pay applications; check payments; in-house labor, materials, and equipment use; and any required reports/exhibits), and verification of project completion.

Periodically, District staff will perform financial audits to ensure funding objectives are met.



A collaborative regional  
water supply endeavor  
to protect, conserve, and restore  
our water resources.



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