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Broward County Resilience Plan Near-term Implementation Strategy

Overview

The Resilience Plan was presented to the Board of County Commissioners in February 2025, and is designed to follow an adaptive and phased implementation approach that prioritizes immediate risks while mitigating future challenges. The near-term implementation plan is structured for action over an approximate 15-year time span, focused on attainable project goals and proactive capital investments.

The 2025 Resilience Plan anticipates an estimated total investment of \$28B, of which the public sector investment is an estimated \$9B over a 30-year timeframe, with \$8.2 Billion accounting for flood mitigation improvements recommended as part of Tier 1 projects, and an additional \$ 1 Billion in Tier 2 Projects. Tier 1 projects are designed to deliver flood risk reduction under conditions of 2 feet of sea level rise, consistent with the year 2050.

Tier 1 projects and their estimated combined design and construction costs are as follows:

- stormwater conveyance improvements (\$982 Million)
- elevated seawalls (\$2.6 Billion),
- additional drainage (pumps) behind seawalls (\$1.9 Billion)
- enhanced storage across the urban landscape (\$2.7 Billion)

This near-term Implementation Strategy focuses on the above referenced “stormwater conveyance improvements”, herein referred to as “**Tier 1 Capital Projects**”. These include flood control pumps, culvert installations, and stormwater control structures (e.g., gates, weirs), project improvements well-suited to address rainfall-driven flooding under current and future conditions. These projects will retain their utility when merged with

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longer-term investments in tidal flooding barriers (such as seawalls) and distributed water storage areas (e.g., swales), which will require more diffuse investments across the landscape and amongst private sector partners.

Tier 1 Capital Projects will not only deliver immediate flood reduction benefits but will position the Broward community to capitalize on concurrent improvements associated with the Section 203 Broward Basins Resilience Study (completed in April 2026), through enhanced connectivity, conveyance, and discharges from the secondary/neighborhood canal systems to the enhanced primary canal network.

Strategy

The County is positioned to accelerate implementation of Tier 1 Capital Projects by offering financial incentives to local government partners for the construction of the recommended improvements.

A grant program providing cost share funding at \$20 Million annually could be effectively leveraged to deliver the sum of Tier 1 Capital Projects over 15 years, while also providing for about 30% of the supplemental stormwater drainage and pumps recommended for coastal installations.

The Resilience Grant Program would provide jurisdictional partners, municipal governments and local drainage/water control districts, with up to 25% cost share toward eligible projects. It is estimated that a grant program funded at \$20M per year could be leveraged to deliver \$100M in capital projects each year. Over a period of 15 years, this translates to \$1.5 Billion in capital projects (see Table 1).

Table 1.

Annual County Funds	Leveraged by Partners	Program Years	Total Sum of Leveraged Funds
\$20 million	5:1	15	\$1,500,000,000

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The intent is to leverage County funds with benefiting stakeholders’ cost share dollars and third-party grant funds to achieve an average 5:1 return on investment, as measured in total installed cost per project for each dollar invested by the County. While leveraging factors may vary from project to project, it is anticipated that an overall leverage factor of 5 can be achieved. This is a potentially conservative estimate based on the 7:1 leveraging of funds that was achieved with the County’s FY ’26 culvert project grant awards.

Prioritization and Ranking

Completion of Tier 1 Capital Investments including identified culvert crossings, control structures, and pump stations (as previously noted) would provide significant advancement of the Plan (See Table 2). A process that evaluates qualified stakeholder projects within a pool of potentially funded infrastructure investments will ensure the County’s pledged dollars could be used most effectively.

Table 2.

Project Type	Total Estimated Construction Costs by Project Type	Cumulative Total Construction Costs by Project Type	Total # of Projects
Control Structures	\$388,000,000	\$388,000,000	159
Culvert Crossings	\$19,000,000	\$407,000,000	41
Pump Stations	\$575,000,000	\$982,000,000	33
Drainage Behind Seawalls	\$518,000,000	\$1,500,000,000	30

Project Evaluation and Funding

An annual call for proposals is recommended for late Summer, with project selection by the end of the calendar year, and Board approval the following Spring. Based on a similar framework and project evaluation criteria utilized for the FY ’26 culvert project grant awards, the following criteria are proposed for application in the project review and ranking:

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1. Project is identified or consistent with the County Plan - required (bonus if a project is identified as an early priority project)
2. Achieves a 5:1 leveraging of county cost share required (bonus if external funds further reduce county cost share via federal/state dollars)
3. Project readiness (project is designed/permitted)
4. Project is included in a completed resilience plan, stormwater plan, or vulnerability assessment
5. Project demonstrates quantifiable flood risk reduction
6. Project demonstrates cost benefit (e.g., number of structures benefited per \$100,000 or similar)
7. Project area previously impacted by flooding
8. Project involves an interlocal partnership

To ensure sufficient funds are available across the full suite of Tier 1 Capital Projects and the goal of 5:1 in leveraged funds, the maximum award amount for the various project cost categories is presented in Table 3, in conjunction with the estimated number of grants per award category (based on projects identified in the Resilience Plan).

Should the Board choose to consider any additional criteria or a different approach as it relates to leveraging County funds, project evaluation criteria will be adjusted accordingly after Board action has been taken.

Table 3.

Total Project Cost		County	Grant Amount		Estimated
Min	Max	Cost Share	Min	Not-to-Exceed	# Grants
\$ 40,000	\$ 3,000,000	25%	\$ 10,000	\$ 750,000	190
\$ 3,000,001	\$ 7,000,000	25%	\$ 750,000	\$ 1,750,000	5
\$ 7,000,001	\$ 15,000,000	25%	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 3,750,000	4
\$ 15,000,001	\$ 30,000,000	25%	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 4,000,000	34

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Project Tracking and Benefits

Plan implementation will be tracked and publicly available via the on-line project tracking portal at resilientbroward.com. Each completed project will be integrated in the Countywide flood model providing documentation of project investments and their performance, benefiting subsequent flood mapping, resulting insurance rates, and risk rating evaluations.

Program Staffing

The number of Tier 1 Capital projects included in the County Resilience Plan total 233. Staff estimates as many as 250 projects would be funded over 15 years, based on potential adjustments to the project list and enhanced leveraging which could provide for an increase in the number of awards.

Based on the projects identified in the Resilience Plan staff estimates a greater distribution of grants for smaller projects (< \$2 Million) and larger projects (> \$10 Million). A contract term of 36-months is proposed, to allow for final design, permitting, and construction. Approved cost share will be reimbursed upon project completion and satisfaction of all contract deliverables.

Staffing for the first year of program implementation is proposed to include a total of 1.5 project bound positions, which are a Program Administrator (0.5 positions) and a Grant Administrator (1 position).

In support of program staffing, an existing program administrator position will be reclassified as a Capital Program Administrator, with 50% of responsibilities to include grant program oversight, ensuring proper administrative controls and procedures, and supervision in grant administration.

On a programmatic level, each \$20 Million in funding is estimated to support 25 grant awards, with each grant requiring administration and partner coordination. It is estimated that 1 position will be needed to manage each

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batch of annual grants (25 grants per position). Accounting for the senior program administrator and grant administration, program delivery in year 1 is estimated to require 1.5 positions with responsibilities that will include program outreach to municipalities and drainage/water control districts, management of the request for applications, review and ranking of applications, project contracting and tracking, ensuring quality control of all records, review and approval of written and technical deliverables, partner communications, project closeout, and program reporting.

The cost for program administration in Year 1 is estimated at \$220,500 (see Table 4) or 1.1% of the \$20 million allocated for the program. This level of program administration and oversight is considered a modest, yet necessary investment to ensure successful execution and delivery of what is expected to be demanding and high-profile program.

Table 4.

Project Bound Positions	Total Compensation
Capital Program Administrator (0.5)	\$ 70,500
Program Project Coord., Senior (1)	\$150,000
Total	\$220,500

Should the program be delivered over a multi-year schedule, an average of 75 grants would require management year-to-year by year 3. As the program grows, a total of three (3) project bound positions is recommended for grant administration at this level of program activity.

Beyond the Near-Term

As noted above, leveraged appropriately, funding at \$20M/year for 15 years would expand the grant program investments beyond the Tier 1 Critical Capital Improvements to coastal areas requiring additional drainage, most notably in conjunction with elevated seawalls. While these benefits will be significant, a more expansive investment strategy will be needed to tackle

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projects having the greatest cost and requiring investment over the longer-term (namely coastal pumps, elevated seawalls, and additional storage). Such a strategy would likely require a new funding source (such as a new infrastructure or other Surtax), and several years of coordinated effort to secure, upon consideration by the Board.

Conclusion

The Broward County Resilience Plan Near-Term Implementation Strategy presented here focuses on several key components:

- Provision of resilience funds to seed investment, with award in the form of grant funds for project reimbursement.
- Significant interest on the part of local government Stakeholders in the County to make use of this seed money to advance their respective resilience projects.
- Competitive funding at a level sufficient to attract a large pool of qualified projects and optimized benefits of leveraged funds.
- Near-term focus on “conveyance-related” infrastructure improvements that deliver stand-alone benefits but also augment the benefits of forthcoming Section 203 investments.
- Application of well-developed criteria in project selection, to achieve immediate level of service improvements in stormwater management and flood mitigation.
- Appropriate staffing to ensure successful program administration, accountability, and desired outcomes.

The integrated planning approach and adaptive implementation strategy presented in the Resilience Plan support coordinated investments which yield benefits that provide billions in savings and economic value. Given the escalation of risk each year, implementation at any scale is a positive step forward, with early investment locking in today’s costs while accruing the benefits that commence on day 1.