



2026 Funding Opportunities

The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) is part of the US EPA National Estuary Program and is comprised of local, state, and federal governmental entities, non-profits, private sector entities and the public. Its mission is to unite Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife. The CHNEP is non-regulatory, science-based, and citizen-supported, and its work is supported by a professional team who works to pair funding opportunities and resources with the communities and partners in the CHNEP's 10-county service area.

Funding Opportunities

GOAA/Shell Biodiversity Initiative

Funding projects that will demonstrate a measurable impact on species and/or critical habitat (e.g. sea turtle nesting beaches, wildlife foraging and resting areas, estuarine and marine areas).

Funding projects up to \$400,000

<https://gulfofamericaalliance.org/announcements/funding-opportunities/>

Applications due January 30, 2026

Gulf Ecosystem Initiative 2026

Funding synthesis science working groups and postdoctoral research focused on projects related to climate, fisheries, or the ecological impact of management actions in the Gulf.

<https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/gulfeco>

Applications due February 20, 2026

Climate Smart Communities Initiative 2026

Funding and technical assistance to advance community-based climate resilience in US communities or regions that are highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

Funding projects between \$75,000 - \$115,000

<https://climatesmartcommunity.org/funding/>

Applications due March 12, 2026

Gulf Partnership for Land Conservation Project Assistance Fund

Funding to support land conservation projects in the coastal region with important public recreation, wildlife habitat, resilience, and water quality benefits for local communities within the Gulf States.

Funding projects up to \$50,000

<https://gulfpartnership.org/project-assistance-fund-1>

Applications accepted on a rolling basis



Uniting Central and Southwest Florida to Protect Water and Wildlife

Funding Opportunities Continued...

Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida One Million Dollar Habitat Pledge

Funding 20 coastal habitat focused projects statewide for \$50,000 each.

<https://ccaflorida.org/one-million-dollar-habitat-pledge/>

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA) Gulf Star Program

The Gulf Star Program provides funding for projects that support healthy beaches, clean waters, productive ecosystems, and thriving coastal communities.

<https://gulfofamericaalliance.org/gulf-star/>

EDA FY25 Disaster Supplemental Fund

Funding to assist communities recovering from a disaster.

Funding projects up to \$50 Million

<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/359225>

Applications accepted on rolling basis until funds have been expended

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