

LOCATION PRIORITY

Competitive Preference Priorities 1 – Designing a better Pensacola (Up to 2 additional points). Promoting private investment through community partnerships, competitive economic development incentives, and improved public infrastructure by designing vibrant urban neighborhoods.

Projects that are responsive to this Competitive Preference Priority might:

- Locate projects that are within or adjacent to areas of economic distress.
- Provide area housing or facilities with energy and/or water conservation improvements through weatherization or tools and actions that reduce energy and water use and consumption.
- Build or renovate community centers that bring neighbors together; provide safe, well lit recreation spaces; include spaces and equipment to supports community life-long learning, training and technical assistance and planning to build resiliency on a neighborhood level.
- Rebuild within existing areas to improve the quality of life through economic diversification, accommodating a broad mix of jobs, while actively seeking a greater proportion of living wage jobs that will benefit a cross-section of the residents.
- Promote design choices that create or expand parks, bike trails, recreational areas and green spaces that are inclusive and universally designed, affordable grocery stores, pharmacies, or farmer's market, targeting low income communities.
- Improve pedestrian amenities such as installation of lighting and sidewalks, which increases safety.
- Utilizes existing infrastructure, making improvements as needed, including but not limited to access for persons with disabilities, roads, buildings, sewage, and electricity.
- Develops and/or rehabilitation of housing stock targeting for low-income individuals and families the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Attracts high quality development to stagnant neighborhoods.

GREEN DESIGN PRIORITY

Competitive Preference Priority 2: Communities with more sustainable design practices, which promote green building, renewable energy, and smart growth practices will be better prepared for the future. Projects which promote more sustainable forms of transportation like walking, bicycling, mass transit, and projects with better site design, including storm water and runoff control that promotes a watershed approach, should receive extra points.

Projects that are responsive to this Competitive Preference Priority might:

- Promote sustainable forms of transportation with complete streets design and ADA enhancements
- Use walkways, sidewalks, bike and multi-use paths, and traffic calming methods to provide safe connections between key community features like schools, libraries, health and business services, with access for all levels of ability and all ages (universal design).
- Integrate green building practices, including energy conservation and renewable energy generation
- Consider natural and historic factors in storm water control
- Educate users on sustainability
- Include workforce training for the sustainable design industry, targeting populations that are under-employed
- Build a model green facility or infrastructure that shows sustainable design in flood control, water quality maintenance, non-fossil fuel renewable energy, native landscaping, and energy and resource conservation.

ACCESS PRIORITY

Competitive Preference Priority 3 – Increase access for persons with disabilities to recreation, tourism, jobs and economic development and infrastructure. Projects that respond to this priority will receive up to an additional 2 points.

Projects that are responsive to this Competitive Preference Priority might:

- Projects that use creative and universally designed features to provide access for people of all abilities to access recreational and tourism destinations.
- Using creative technical to provide virtual experiences. For example, kiosk that provides a virtual tour of reefs, shipwrecks and other underwater experiences such as scuba diving and exploration.
- A project that uses assistive technology for persons who are blind or visually impaired to participate in job training and educational opportunities.

WORKFORCE PRIORITY

Competitive Preference Priority 4 – **Promote development of specific career ladders for low income or unemployed youth and adults to obtain no-cost or affordable training into jobs the project creates.** Projects that thoughtfully consider and create clear paths for local citizens to employment opportunities in the scientific or technical area of various projects (environmental restoration, building and construction, solid waste management, IT, engineering, energy industry) will receive an additional 2 points.

Projects that are responsive to this Competitive Preference Priority might:

- Create a Workforce Liaison or Jobs Network with a Social Worker* for local citizens interested in climbing work development ladders (white collar and blue collar positions). The Workforce Liaison or Social Worker would chart out a plan, a roadmap, for local citizens to keep jobs within the community. This relationship between interested workforce recipients and liaison would be a long-term investment by both parties, meeting regularly to provide feedback and goals.
 - Part of this Workforce Liaison or Social Worker position would be to help empower those within the community who may not realize the resources which are available.

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES

- In return, Workforce Liaison's or Social Workers could meet quarterly with County, Chamber of Commerce, and other local resources to communicate success or needs within pockets of the community.
- Create a needs assessment to tailor projects to serve the community and the project being proposed, thus connecting local people with job opportunities generated by the project, and connects them to local training education resources ([CAREER SOURCE ESCAROSA](#); [COMPLETE FLORIDA](#)) and local training businesses and nonprofits;
 - For instance, students who did not finish high school could be offered the following tools: transportation to & from GED Classes; technical training to develop skills & knowledge; and be offered a position when criteria are met.
- Create specific strategies to assure that equally qualified applicants for jobs or contracts created by the project will favor underrepresented, low-income, or underemployed workers;
- Creatively reach out to middle school and high school Career Academies to demonstrate how the project provides opportunities for job seekers with specific skills and education (on a web site; or coordinating with Career Academies for presentation by career mentors).
- Secure jobs for people with disabilities, assisting former welfare recipients as they make a transition into work, promote employment in the county and state through job centers, and link youth with the jobs of tomorrow.
- Provide job services, training and employment assistance to people looking for work, at the same time as it works with employers on finding the necessary workers to fill current job openings.
- Partner with Pensacola State College (PSC), University of West (UWF), West Florida High School of Advance Technology, or George Stone Technical Center, to revamp existing programs to include and encourage green jobs or create certification programs where none might exist that includes jobs such as green construction, solar power, wind energy, water conservation, sustainable forestry, geothermal energy, biofuels, environmental remediation, energy auditors, recycling, electric vehicles, and more.