

CRC Infrastructure Sub-Committee

Project Identification Template and Instructions

Project Identification Template

Instructions: Please complete all of the information requested with the best information you have available. Limited attachments are acceptable if necessary to adequately describe the project but the **total length should be limited to 6 pages** one-sided (including attachments). This Identification Template is intended as a preliminary mechanism by which proposals and projects to improve the resiliency of Coastal Alabama are solicited and captured with some consistency of format, scope definition, and project benefits and impact. **This is only a first step: proposals and projects will not be funded based upon this submittal. Further information and details will be solicited at such time as the screening and funding process is more fully defined.**

Responses should be received by **November 26, 2010**, to be included in the appendix the Coastal Recovery Commission Report to the Governor to be submitted **December 15, 2010**. Submittals after that date will be accepted for consideration but will not be included in the Project Appendix.

Completed Templates may be submitted:

- Electronically (.pdf preferred) to: crcalabama.templateresponse.com.
- By US mail to: Coastal Recovery Commission.

P.O. Box 881, Mobile, AL 36601-0881

I. What – Project Information/Basic Facts

1. Project Scope Coastal Alabama Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

2. Project duration or schedule by phase and status of any work in progress Phase 1
Adoption of RLF Guidelines and Allocation of Funds June 1, 2011, Phase 2
Implementation of loan program. The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
currently operates a Revolving Loan Fund capitalized by the Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration. Draft guidelines for an additional fund are
currently under development.

2.1. Conceptual and Feasibility Planning, Engineering, Construction N/A

3. Estimated Cost (plus or minus 30%) \$ 5,000,000

3.1. Indicate level of confidence in accuracy of these estimates 100% Loan fund will adhere to funding availability

II. Why - Project Description relative to Impact and Criteria

1. Identify what need, threat or opportunity that this project, study, or recommendation will address Economic diversification of our region depends on the viability of small business and funding sources for start ups. Current SARPC RLF Fund is bound by the funding constraints of the EDA grant which established the funds. Loans are restricted to gap financing and projects must have \$ 2 of private investment or bank loan for each \$1 of the SARPC RLF funds. Further restrictions call for at least 1 job to be created or saved for every \$10,000 borrowed. These restrictions limit borrowing for startup and expansions that may not qualify for traditional lending as required by EDA . These restrictions also prevent the fund from being used to meet emergency cash flow needs after major disasters. The proposed project would earmark \$2 million for emergency loans during local disasters. Example, cash flow loans for payroll while waiting for insurance claims or FEMA assistance. The States of Mississippi and Florida have these emergency loan pools available. The emergency loan fund in Mississippi was credited with saving a number of small businesses from failure after Hurricane Katrina.
2. How does this project or recommendation address and impact the recommended evaluation criteria:
 - 2.1.1. Coastal Recovery Locally controlled funds would reduce review time and speed recovery of small business.
 - 2.1.2. Resiliency Diverse small business base would enhance resiliency
 - 2.1.3. Transformational Having multiple sources of funding for creative financing supports the transformation of the local economy into an environment supportive of entrepreneurial development and job creation
 - 2.1.4. Regionalism Regions with a healthy economy share the characteristic of a favorable entrepreneurial environment. A diverse base of small business contributes to a healthy region.

2.1.5. Economic Diversification A robust environment for small business will bring economic diversification.

3. Project Economics The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission has successfully operated a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for over ten years and therefore has trained staff and operating procedures for the administration of RLF Programs. Therefore minimal investment would be needed to establish an additional loan program. A viable program could be operational within weeks.

4. Identify Direct Project benefits to Coastal Alabama, including avoided costs, consequence of “No Build” alternative. The project benefits would be job creation thru business startups and expansions and jobs saved through the earmarking of a percentage for emergency disaster loans.

4.1. Impact on employment, job training and development, both short term and permanent The existing SARPC RLF has made 47 loans totaling \$2,939,000 leveraging private investments of \$15,995,000 and creating 911 jobs. It may be expected that the additional proposed RLF funds would result in a similar rate of return resulting in over 1500 jobs.

4.2. Oil spill mitigation outside of claims process Provide capital to impacted businesses during the claims process.

5. Identify Indirect benefits and costs

5.1. Collateral Benefits to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses allowed) Regions with a healthy economy share the characteristic of a favorable entrepreneurial environment. A diverse base of small business contributes to a healthy region.

5.2. Collateral Costs or impacts to the objectives of Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy and Healthy Society (subjective responses allowed)_____

5.3. Connectivity and Linkage to other projects or initiatives: Does this project complement or compete with other projects? What other projects would be precluded if this project is funded? This project complements the initiatives

III. Who/How – General Information

1. Name and contact information for Entity, Collaboration or Person submitting project or recommendation nomination. South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, Executive Director, Russell J. Wimberly P.O. Box 1665 Mobile, AL 36633 251-433-6541
 - 1.1. *Entities and communities sharing a common threat or need are encouraged to collaborate for a joint/combined project submittal to raise the profile of the issue and solution to be addressed. Also please indicate the level of community support or resistance and hurdles to collaboration.*
2. Identify Sponsoring Entity for oversight and accountability if different from above.
 - 2.1.1. Existing or to be created? Existing
 - 2.1.2. If to be created, what parties or interests must be involved and what level of effort is required to do so? _____
 - 2.2. Describe governance, organizational capacity, availability of skills, experience of sponsoring entity to implement the Project The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission(SARPC) was organized in 1964 as an arm of local government. It is one of 12 regional commissions as proved in state law. The Commission has 31 member governments including three counties and 28 municipalities. The Commission is an instrument of local government it is locally organized and locally controlled. Each member government appoints representatives to the Commission.

The SARPC currently provides transportation planning , governmental planning, aging programs and employment programs to the region through a variety of initiatives.
 - 2.3. Project complexity: Hurdles and barriers to project implementation, completion and sustainability. Identify regulatory issues. There are no barriers to administration of the Revolving Loan Program
3. Identify any known or anticipated administrative, regulatory, or legislative action that would be required at either the local, state, or federal governmental level. none
4. Requested funding from Coastal Recovery Fund (CRF) \$ 5,000,000
 - 4.1. Identified potential funding sources other than the CRF None at this time

- 4.2. Leverage or multiplier on CRF investment: matching funds, public or private Current RLF EDA Balance of \$785,000 would be leveraged with additional funds
- 4.3. Public Private Opportunities, user fees, Federal funds, private foundation grants, bonding capacity, etc. Interest from loans to be used to fund new loans and pay administrative cost.
5. Forecast of ongoing maintenance or operating costs and source of funding if not self sustaining Program to be self sustaining
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