

GOVERNOR CRIST AWARDS DEFENSE GRANTS

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TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today awarded nearly \$3.5 million in defense grants for projects to improve Florida's position as a host state for military installations and activities.

"Defense grants enable communities near military installations to better support the men and women who serve in our military and their families," said Governor Crist. "I am grateful to members of the Florida Legislature for their commitment to this program that recognizes just how important the defense sector is important to Florida's economy."

The 2007-2008 Defense Reinvestment Grants, totaling \$1 million, are awarded to nine projects in support of military base retention and economic diversification. Six projects will receive \$1.47 million in Defense Infrastructure Grants to support local infrastructure projects. Military Base Protection Funding in the amount of \$960,500 is awarded to three projects for maintenance and expansion of military missions in Florida.

The Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program is administered by the Governor's Office of Tourism of Trade and Economic Development, in coordination with Enterprise Florida Inc. and the Florida Defense Alliance. Grants are awarded annually, on a priority project basis, to communities hosting military installation.

Defense Reinvestment Grants

The Defense Reinvestment Grant Program helps communities develop economic diversification strategies and implement base reuse programs. The program encourages communities to analyze their economic reliance on defense expenditures and formulate specific plans to respond to the nation's defense priorities.

Defense Reinvestment Grants are awarded to The Bay County Defense Alliance, The City of Jacksonville, Clay County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast as well as the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Highlands County Economic Development Commission, National Center for Stimulation, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce and The Beacon Council.

Defense Infrastructure Grants

The Defense Infrastructure Program addresses the infrastructure needs of Florida's military installations. Grants are provided to economic development organizations for projects associated with encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment and security.

"The defense infrastructure grant program allows us to support our defense-related assets and their host communities by investing in important infrastructure improvements," said Governor Crist. "This program is just one way our state contributes to the preparedness, efficiency, and overall mission of our nation's armed forces."

Defense Infrastructure Grants are awarded to the Clay, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties, the Bay County Defense Alliance, the City of Jacksonville and Space Coast Economic Development Council.

Military Base Protection Funding

The Military Base Protection Funding is used to support and expand the level of military presence in Florida. Funding can be utilized to add to existing programs outside of normal process for grant programs or to assist leaders advocating for the maintenance and expansion of military missions in Florida

Military Base Protection Funds are awarded to Miami Dade County, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Tampa.

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