

## Guidelines for Requesting REDI Consideration

The following is provided as guidance for applicants to the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) who intend to request a reduction or waiver in the matching funding requirements under the State's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) provisions.

The REDI is established by s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is a participating agency in the REDI, pursuant to s. 288.0656(6)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

To be eligible to request a waiver or reduction of matching requirements, a county or community must meet the statutory definition of "rural."

If the answer is yes to all the questions below, your community may be eligible to request a "Reduction or Waiver of Financial Match Requirements" and assistance from REDI.

1. Does your community have an **employment base that is dominated by traditional agricultural or resource-based industries**? To ensure your community meets this criteria, visit [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org) and utilize the "[On The Map](#)" tool produced by the U.S. Census Bureau.
2. Is the population of your community 25,000 or less?
3. Is your community an unincorporated federal enterprise community, or an incorporated rural city that is **not located** in a designated rural county?
4. Does your community have at least three or more economic distress factors equal to or greater than similar designated rural communities?

### Local economic distress factors

- low per capita income
- low per capita taxable values
- high unemployment
- high underemployment
- low weekly earned wages
- low housing values
- high percentages of the population receiving public assistance
- high poverty levels

To qualify, applicants must submit a request and current documentation that shows the local employment base is focused on traditional agriculture or a resource base industry (forestry, mining, fishing, hunting, quarrying, oil and gas extraction); and current data showing the community has at least three or more economic distress factors at least 25 percent greater than the state average. Requests must be sent to The Department of Economic Opportunity in Tallahassee.

Go to [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org) for information on submitting the request. To qualify for REDI status in the District's CFI, a copy of the letter of eligibility must be submitted with the CFI application.