

November 2001

FACT SHEET

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM

Section 403.7205, Florida Statutes

Purpose

Hazardous waste exhibits one or more characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity which make it dangerous. Paint products, pool chemicals, household cleaners and pesticides are typical examples. When disposed of in the municipal solid waste stream or otherwise improperly managed, these materials have the potential of contaminating the ground water -- our drinking water supply.

The Florida Legislature initiated the Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant Program to encourage the establishment of a statewide network of local hazardous waste collection centers. These facilities are intended to provide free collections of non-regulated hazardous waste from households and to provide short-term storage of potentially hazardous waste generated by small businesses. Also, the public awareness component of a collection not only helps citizens to better understand and manage their household hazardous waste, but may help them to learn to reduce the volume they generate.

Types of Funding

*** Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant**

Up to \$100,000 per county for constructing one or more safe, secure, operational hazardous waste collection centers.

*** Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grant**

Up to \$35,000 per grant to reimburse 75% (with a \$25,000 limit) of a smaller county's collection event. The host county, experienced in hazardous waste collections, is reimbursed up to \$10,000 for assisting the neighboring county in holding its collection.

*** Unique or Innovative Project Grant**

Up to \$50,000 per grant with the county providing a 100% match. Funding is only available to counties that are operating permanent hazardous waste collection centers and is in addition to Hazardous Waste Collection Center and Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants.

*** Grants to reimburse expenses associated with local hazardous waste management**

Available to counties that have established operational permanent facilities under the Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant but have received funding less than their \$100,000 limit.

History and Awards

1986 The Legislature appropriated \$500,000 to establish local or regional hazardous waste collection centers in Florida. The grant limit per county for capital outlay expenses was \$50,000. In 1987, the following 7 counties took advantage of this opportunity to establish one facility in each county: Brevard, Citrus, Escambia, Indian River, Lake, Marion and Volusia.

1988 The Legislature reauthorized the Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant Program and appropriated \$1,000,000 funding. The grant limit per county, again primarily for capital outlay for collection center construction, was raised to \$100,000. Requests for funding exceeded the appropriation and awards were made to the following 11 counties: Alachua, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Highlands, Hillsborough, Monroe, Orange, Palm Beach, Sarasota and Seminole. Several of these counties have established multiple collection centers.

1989 The Legislature again appropriated \$1,000,000 for the Grant Program with the limit remaining at \$100,000 per county. Awards for funding were made to the following 9 counties: Clay, Dade, DeSoto, Duval, Lee, Leon, Martin, Pasco and St. Lucie.

1990 The \$1,000,000 appropriation was used to award grants of \$100,000 each to Hamilton, Manatee, Osceola, Pinellas, Putnam, St. Johns and Suwannee Counties.

1991 The Legislature again apportioned funding for the Grant Programs. Awards of \$100,000 each were made to the following 6 counties: Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Madison, Okaloosa and Polk. The Grant Program was amended to include the Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grant to provide some financial incentive for a county with a permanent collection center to assist a smaller county in holding a State-subsidized collection event. Eleven counties were awarded such grants.

1992 Funding from this appropriation was used to establish a local hazardous waste collection center in Jefferson County, to upgrade permanent facilities in several other counties and to fund cooperative collection center grants.

1993 Three counties: Bradford, Okeechobee and Taylor, received grants for permanent collection center construction. The Legislature also provided an additional funding opportunity from the appropriation for the Unique or Innovative Project Grant. This grant is intended for programs or activities that are designed to decrease the generation of household and conditionally exempt small quantity generator hazardous waste and increase the proper management of such wastes.

1994 The appropriation was used to fund grants for permanent collection center construction in Flagler, Levy and Liberty counties. Ten counties were awarded

funding for Unique or Innovative Grants and funding was provided for collections in 14 counties under the Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grant.

1995 Franklin and Gadsden Counties received grants for permanent collection center construction. Eight grants provided funding for Unique or Innovative Projects and 13 counties held collection events under the Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants. Four counties received grants to reimburse expenses associated with local hazardous waste management.

1996 and 1997 The appropriation was used for 14 grants each year to fund both Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants and Unique or Innovative Projects.

1998 Funding was used for 14 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants and 3 Unique Activities and Innovative Project Grants.

1999 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants were awarded to 15 Counties and 4 counties received funding for Innovative Projects.

2000 The appropriation was used to fund 11 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants and one Innovative Grant.

2001 The current appropriation is being used to fund the construction of a permanent facility in one new county and for Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants for 15 counties.

Requirements for the Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant

- Contracting with a licensed, insured private hazardous waste management company that will be responsible for collecting hazardous waste and assuring the delivery of that waste to permitted recycling, storage, treatment or disposal facilities.
- Guaranteeing operation of the collection center for 5 years after the facility is constructed, including at least 2 days per year when household hazardous waste will be accepted at no charge to non-business entities. These "free collection days" will be well advertised to encourage participation.
- Offering at least 2 advertised collections per year when conditionally exempt small quantity generators can bring their hazardous waste to the collection center in order to obtain a reduced fee for proper management of their waste at permitted off site facilities.
- Working with a hazardous waste management company to establish expanded collection route services such as a "milk run" pickup service for small quantity generators of hazardous waste.

Summary

Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grants, awarded to 50 counties, have helped fund the construction of 80 permanent, operational collection centers and establish a network of such facilities in 75% of Florida's counties. Grantees have indicated that their permanent hazardous waste collection centers would probably not have been built, nor would they have hazardous waste collections, had it not been for the incentive of the grant. Contracts for funding collection center construction only require the centers to operate for a limited time. However, the centers have generally not only continued to operate, but local hazardous waste management programs have evolved, becoming more comprehensive, efficient and sophisticated as counties have supported them with funding and technical staff.

Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants (Co-op Grants) have helped fund 1-day collection events in 22 counties. This grant provides a hazardous waste management opportunity for a smaller county that is not ready to construct and operate a permanent facility. So far, 10 counties (Bay, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Hardee, Hendry, Jefferson, Levy, Liberty and Okeechobee) that opted to initially participate in the Co-op Grant went on to secure state funding for permanent collection center construction. They used their co-op experience as a bridge between their state amnesty days collections and establishing their own permanent programs.

Although only one grant for funding permanent collection center construction has been awarded since 1996, there still are counties without centers that have expressed interest in the grant. These counties have been encouraged to continue participating in the Co-op Grant for 2 reasons. First, some smaller counties are at risk as far as continuing operation of their facilities after state funding is depleted. Second, the annual legislative appropriation has diminished to the point where it is not adequate to fund grants for collection center construction in addition to the other grants.

If there were adequate grant funding to construct permanent collection centers in the countries currently participating in co-op programs and the additional county recently expressing interest, then 97% of the counties in Florida would be managing their hazardous waste with local programs.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Sources of Information

- Used Oil -- call 800-741-4DEP, to find the nearest public used oil collection center.
- http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/used_oil/default.htm
- SQG <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/hazardous/default.htm>
- HHW <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/hazardous/pages/household.htm>
- Mercury <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/mercury/default.htm>
- Batteries <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/batteries/default.htm>
- Electronics <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/electronics/default.htm>
- Cleansweep <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/default.htm>