



CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 FEDERAL PRIORITIES FACT SHEET

1. ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE & PROTECTION: Harmful Algal Blooms

The occurrence of *Karenia brevis* algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico produces a toxic effect on people, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and birds. In recent years, the unusual high intensity and long duration of these algae blooms suggests that much research and experimentation is still needed to better understand the contributing causes of this harmful phenomenon. These harmful algal blooms have adversely affected our local economy as well as having devastating effect on wildlife, ecosystem, and quality of life.

FY 2021 Request: The City of Venice supports the allocation of Federal resources for research, implementation of mitigation strategies, and infrastructure upgrades – such as conversion of septic tanks to domestic sewer systems, outfall monitoring, and other water quality improvements – to help decrease the occurrence and effects of this harmful algae.

2. ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Beach Renourishment & Preservation

The City of Venice has a fifty-year contract with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to re-nourish the beaches lining the Venice shoreline. The ten-year cyclical renourishment is necessary to counteract the shoreline erosion caused by natural tidal flow and exacerbated by the impacts from the Venice Inlet. The City is most appreciative of the current support from the ACOE, and looks forward to the next renourishment, which is scheduled for 2025. Maintaining a healthy beach profile is critical for protecting structures during storm events, reducing flooding impacts and for supporting tourism, which is a primary economic revenue source for the region. The City of Venice proposes to discuss with the Army Corps of Engineers the prospects for implementing alternative methods to not only restore, but to also preserve and protect, the area's beaches during the next scheduled restoration project.

FY 2021 Request: The City of Venice respectfully requests continued support of beach renourishment projects as important storm protection, nesting habitat restoration and recreational opportunities. Additionally, the City proposes to discuss alternative means to protect beaches as opposed to the traditional reactive process of sand restoration.

3. *HUMAN SERVICES: VA Dept. Initiative to Assist in Homelessness and Treat Mental Illness in Veterans*

Because a lack of social services increases problems for society, especially for the homeless, those with mental illness, and those with alcohol and drug addictions – particularly veterans battling these issues – more ways of helping vets in need of these services must be identified and implemented. Many veterans face challenges throughout their lives that may lead them to lose their home and become homeless, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs states. Having homelessness in a community undermines the welfare of all residents. Developing jobs, reinstating mental health care clinics, increasing opportunities for vets and others to receive help and employment assistance to be able to become independent and self-sufficient are examples of ways to improve society now and in the future. The City endorses funding to the Veterans Administration to provide quality support services to veterans challenged with homelessness, physical disabilities, and mental illness, and associated issues.

FY 2021 Request: The Department of Veterans Affairs formulate an initiative of viable alternatives to reduce homelessness and to treat mental illness in veterans needing these services.

4. *HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Affordable Housing*

Area businesses including critical service providers such as hospitals and public service agencies have difficulty attracting a workforce due to the lack of affordable housing. Small businesses, major manufacturers, and public service agencies, are critical to sustaining our local economy. Additionally, local land and construction costs preclude developers from creating residential units at affordable prices for low- and moderate-income workers.

FY2021 Request: The City of Venice respectfully requests Federal program initiatives, tax incentives, tax credits, and supplementary appropriations to facilitate affordable housing and workforce housing geared to providing residence opportunities for low- and middle-income residents (lower strata income workers).

5. *ENERGY CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS AND WATER QUALITY*

Aging infrastructure in municipal utility systems and the general demands for eco-friendly government initiatives warrants consideration for a Federal Government focus on improvement strategies for potable water, wastewater, and storm water management. Venice is investing in large-scale potable water efficiency projects; including: removal and replacement of transmission lines, lift stations, and potable water efficiency elements. Federal government grants and other funding incentives would accelerate the rate of municipal infrastructure upgrades

FY22 Request: The City of Venice recommends Federal Government funding allocations to public and private businesses to promote innovative eco-friendly and energy conserving infrastructure initiatives; such as solar power and other alternative energy sources to power infrastructure system elements.