



ARA-PP-04: SMALL COUNTY ROAD PROGRAMS

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: NOT ADOPT; COVERED BY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PROPOSED POLICY: SUPPORT maintaining funding increases allocated to the Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) and Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). Significant funding was provided in 2022.

BACKGROUND: The Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP), and County Incentive Grant Program ([CIGP](#)) grant programs are of the highest priority for securing funding within the State Budget. The emphasis on funding these programs is critical, in that funding for these programs at times takes second place to special road projects or individual member projects.

SCRAP:

The purpose of the SCRAP program is to assist small county governments in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads. Beginning in FY 2000 until FY 2010, and beginning again with FY 2013, up to \$25 million annually is available to be allocated for the purposes of funding this program. Available funds are allocated to the districts based on the number of eligible counties. For example, if a district has 10 counties eligible for SCRAP, and there is a total of 31 eligible counties statewide, then the district's allocation would be approximately 32.26% of the total available funding. Per Section 339.2816, Florida Statutes, the term "small county" (specifically for the SCRAP) means any county that has a population of 75,000 or less according to the 1990 Federal census data. Small counties shall be eligible to compete for funds that have been designated for the SCRAP for resurfacing or reconstruction projects on county roads that were part of the county road system on June 10, 1995. Capacity improvement on county roads shall not be eligible for funding under the program.

(<https://www.fdot.gov/programmanagement/lp/scraper/default.shtm>)

SCOP:

The purpose of this program is to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing road-related drainage improvements, resurfacing or reconstructing county roads, or constructing capacity or safety improvements to county roads.

Small counties shall be eligible to compete for funds that have been designated for the small County Outreach Program (SCOP) for projects on county roads. Available funds are allocated to the districts based on the number of eligible counties. For example, if a district has 12 counties eligible for SCOP/Small County Economic Development (SCED) and Small County Growth Management (GRSC), and there is a total of 38 eligible counties statewide, then the district's allocation would be approximately 31.57% of the total available funding. The Florida Department



of Transportation (department) shall fund 75% of the cost of projects on county roads funded under the program. Any initial bid costs or project overruns after the letting that exceed the department's participation as stated, will be at the county's expense. This will help ensure that the funds are utilized on as many projects as possible.

ANALYSIS: On March 14th 2021, the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate agreed to the budget for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-2023. The following budget allocations are as follows:

- **Small County Outreach Program (SCOP):** The SFY 2022-23 budget allocated \$114.9 million
- **Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP):** The SFY 2022-23 budget allocates \$47.7 million

FISCAL IMPACT: There are roughly 271,000 lane miles of roadway in Florida, only 44,000 of which are located on the State Highway System. The remaining 84% of roadways fall under local jurisdiction for operation and maintenance. In rural counties, limited budgets often mean reduced or no roadway maintenance, unfortunately resulting in an increased rate of deterioration. SCOP and SCRAP funds will provide financial assistance for counties to address vital infrastructure needs.

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2008/hm60.cfm>

<https://johnsonengineering.com/small-county-outreach-assistance-programs-scop-scrap-2/>

FAC STAFF NOTES:

- FAC 2022 Policy Conference:
 - The Committee recommended to not adopt ARA-PP-04, as it is already covered by FAC Guiding Principles
- Statutes:
 - [s. 339.2816, F.S.](#) - *Small County Road Assistance Program*
 - [s. 339.2818, F.S.](#) - *Small County Outreach Program*
- FAC Guiding Principles:
 - CUA 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
 - CUA 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).
 - CUA 13 and 14 have been included in the ARA Guiding Principles document for consideration during the 2022-23 Policy Development Process

SUBMITTING COUNTY AND CONTACT: Walton – Danny Glidewell



ASSIGNED COMMITTEE: ARA

BOARD SUPPORT: N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE: N/A

PROTECTIVE OF HOME RULE: N/A