

State News for NSPE Members

Florida Announces \$122 Million to Improve Rural Infrastructure

Governor Ron DeSantis recently announced that more than \$122 million was awarded to rural municipalities and small county governments for rural infrastructure.

Six counties, including Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Suwannee, and Union will receive nearly \$19 million. The awards come through the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) and the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program (SCRAP) for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year, according to a press release.

SCOP assists small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating country bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing road-related drainage improvements, and the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and capacity and safety improvements of county roads. SCRAP assists small county governments in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads.

Nearly one-third of the recently released funds will go to rural communities impacted by hurricanes Debby and Idalia.

"Rural counties face unique infrastructure challenges, so we are ensuring they have the resources needed for long-term success," said DeSantis in the press release. "These investments will improve infrastructure and attract new businesses to Florida's rural communities."

The following local entities will receive funding: \$4.25 million for Bradford County, \$2.98 million for Columbia County, \$2.19 million for Gilchrist County, \$2.5 million for Levy County, \$3.66 million for Suwannee County, and \$3.05 million for Union County. [Read more in Roads & Bridges.](#)

Florida Regulators Discuss Potential Nuclear Power Development

Florida regulators recently held a workshop to discuss opportunities for the Sunshine State related to advanced nuclear development, [The Center Square reports](#).

The Florida Public Service Commission was tasked with analyzing House Bill 1645, passed during the 2024 legislative session. This includes evaluating both the technical and economic feasibility of using advanced nuclear power technologies to meet Florida's electricity needs.

Cayce Hinton, the director of the Office of Industry Development and Market Analysis at the PSC, said the bill requires the commission to report to the governor and the Legislature by April 1.

According to the Florida Electric Power Coordinating Group, nuclear energy is receiving support through regulatory changes to speed up permitting and government funding offered through tax credits, grants, and loans. However, the group says that these programs will not significantly impact projects for several years. [Read more](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA). Nominations for the award are open until **November 22**. [Access nomination information](#).

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 21, 2025, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.



Capt. Stephen B. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., was named the 2024 Federal Engineer of the Year. He is a renowned expert in ventilation, engineering controls, and airborne infectious disease transmission that focused his expertise on mitigating the global COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more about Capt. Martin's contributions](#).



Learning and Building Community at #NSPECon24



Professional engineers nationwide converged on Raleigh, North Carolina, for NSPECon24 in August. Take a moment to look through the photos captured from this year's event on the [NSPE Flickr Account](#). Conference attendees participated in a variety of sessions and activities including tours, NSPE's Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, first-time attendee mixer, engaging keynote speakers, a new professionals trivia night, education sessions and more!

**Save the Date: NSPECon25—Kansas City, Missouri—
August 6–8**



AUGUST 6-8 | KANSAS CITY, MO | NSPECON.ORG | #NSPECON25

Engineers Week 2025 Kickoff Webinar

It's time to start planning Engineers Week (February 16-22, 2025)! On **October 23** (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET), a webinar will provide information about the Engineers Week theme, brand new resources, and outreach grants. Attend this [free and informative webinar](#) to get ideas you can start using right away.

RSVP Today

2025 Emerging Leaders Program – Application Deadline Extended

The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is an intensive national five-month program with guided instruction and mentorship. The application deadline is extended to Tuesday, October 15. Prior to applying for the program, please review the [2025 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments](#).

The Ideal ELP Candidate

Candidates for the ELP have 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field and are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are invited to apply. Selected participants come from a variety of firms with a range of engineering expertise. **There are no age restrictions on participation in the program.**

Apply Now

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**