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FAC Coordinates Response to US Treasury Interim Final Rules

Consortium staff has been reviewing the United States Treasury Interim Final Rule that was published in the Federal Register last Friday. Earlier today, staff had a discussion and comment conference call with the 23 Florida Gulf Coast County Attorneys.

The comments submitted by Florida's counties and the Gulf Consortium to the draft rule were influential in prompting U.S. Treasury to make substantial and positive changes and clarifications in the version of the Interim Final Rule released last week. In fact, in several different locations in the Preamble to the rule, Treasury specifically recognized the comments of "Florida counties," the "Gulf Consortium," and "Levy County" expressly. The submissions from Florida were thoughtful and helpful.

Comments submitted by the Gulf Consortium to the draft rule were influential in prompting U.S. Treasury to make substantial and positive changes ...

U.S. Treasury is to be commended for specifically addressing several of Florida's concerns in the release last week. Thus, staff is not anticipating a burdensome submission in response to the Interim Final Rule but there are a few items that warrant additional comment.

Comments from the Gulf Consortium and individual counties are due to Treasury on September 15.

Before the Consortium's comments are submitted to Treasury, there will be a publicly noticed, telephonic Executive Committee meeting on Monday,

September 8 at 4:00, eastern, to review the proposed Consortium's comments, receive additional comments from Consortium members and the public, and provide direction to staff on the comments to be submitted.

If your county would like to have comments/concerns considered for the official Consortium response, please submit them to [Sarah Bleakley](#), interim General Counsel no later than Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

In addition to the Consortium's review and submission, individual counties are encouraged to submit any comments, questions, and concerns that they may have directly to Treasury.

The Interim Final Rule will become final on October 14, 2014.

If you have additional questions, please contact [Ginger Delegal](#) at the Florida Association of Counties.

Consortium General Counsel Analysis of US Treasury Interim Final Rule

The Consortium's Interim General Counsel Sarah Bleakley has completed a full analysis of the Interim Final Rule and you may view [that here](#).

Highlights from her analysis include:

- Treasury heard the comments from Counties changing 11 of 12 concerns in the revised final rule.
- Treasury approved the formulas approved by the Disproportionally and Non-Disproportionally for the Direct Component.
- The Interim Final Rule establishes that grants are the mechanism for all funding.
- The Gulf Consortium is not officially recognized in the rule, while the preamble is replete with references to the Consortium, the Interim Final Rule does not specify the Consortium is the formal entity to receive funding.
- The rule provides that the Federal Council is responsible for grants related to Component #3 funding.

For more information and details please [click here](#) to review the complete analysis. For questions, please contact Consortium Interim General Counsel [Sarah Bleakley](#).

Timeline for response to US Treasury Interim Final Rule

August 15	Rules published
August 19	Consortium staff meet with DEP
August 21	23 Gulf Coast County Attorney Call
August 21	Solicit comments on Interim Final Rule
August 27	Deadline for comments on Interim Final Rule
September 8	Consortium Executive Committee Meeting

September 15 Comments Submitted to Treasury

October 14 US Treasury Interim Final Rule - Finalized

Helpful Links

- [Interim Final Rule](#)
- [RESTORE Act: Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance](#)
- [US Treasury Interim Final Rule: FAQ](#)
- [Department of the Treasury RESTORE Act Training Schedule](#)
- [OMB Super Circular](#)
- [Chart: Total Amount of Dollars in Trust Fund for the Direct Component](#)
- [Chart: Florida County by County Allocations for Pot 1 based off of what is currently in fund](#)
- [FACRestore.com](#)

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