

# CDBG-Mitigation Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: March 2020

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***Q. How can I join the Mitigation distribution list?***

A. To remain up to date with CDBG-Mitigation activities, please sign up [here](#).

***Q. Will infrastructure projects have requirements for being fully prepared to break ground, receive permitting or have premade engineering designs?***

A. No, infrastructure projects are not required to be shovel ready.

***Q. Who is eligible to apply?***

A. Units of general local governments (UGLG), state agencies and other applicants including, but not limited to, non-profits and non-governmental agencies, are eligible to apply for the General Infrastructure Program and Critical Facility Hardening Program. UGLG, state agencies, non-profits and educational institutions are eligible to apply for the General Planning Program. If an entity is not a UGLG, they must apply in partnership with their UGLG.

***Q. Do you anticipate any funding available for Hurricane Michael impacted communities?***

A. DEO submitted a waiver to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine if areas impacted by Hurricane Michael could qualify for CDBG-MIT funding. On February 20, 2020, HUD informed DEO that request to include all 67 Florida counties were denied. HUD has however, recently allocated more than \$735 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to address unmet recovery needs from Hurricane Michael.

***Q. Where and when can I apply for a project or program?***

A. The State Action Plan must be approved by HUD before program details can be finalized. At this time, the CDBG-MIT program is not accepting any applications. When the application window opens, DEO will send out an email and update its webpage with all pertinent application information.

***Q. Will you be providing support on application submissions and grant maintenance?***

A. Yes, DEO will provide technical assistance during the application submission period and grant monitoring stages.

***Q. When would we realistically have access to grant funds?***

A. DEO anticipates awarding grant funds in late 2020.

***Q. What is the maximum allocation an agency can request for a single project?***

A. Maximum and minimum project allocations will be included in our Program Guidelines, which will be published after HUD's approval of the State Action Plan.

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## **Q. Can DEO clarify the definition of planning?**

A. There are two separate planning categories: one for General Program Planning and one is for DEO Planning and Administration. The General Planning Program funds will be available to applicants seeking to update mitigation plans, integrate mitigation plans with other planning initiatives, modernize building codes and regional land-use plans, and/or upgrade mapping, data and other capabilities. Further details for the General Planning program will be made available through forthcoming Program Guidelines.

## **Q. Can you explain the 50% LMI requirement?**

A. HUD requires that CDBG-MIT grantees (in this case, DEO) expend at least 50% of funds in the aggregate for activities that benefit low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons. Subgrantees (applicants) will be eligible for additional points in the scoring process based on the percentages of LMI persons that are served by their project.

## **Q. How is the Risk Assessment being developed?**

A. As directed by HUD, the Risk-Based Mitigation Needs Assessment used the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (gathered from Local Mitigation Strategy groups) as the basis for quantitatively and qualitatively-supported data. Federal data sources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), HUD, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) informed historic damage patterns, demographic information and statistical information. State agency reports and plans were reviewed for relevant information. Additionally, research articles and survey data were used to support hazard descriptions and were considered for information regarding past hazard events.

## **Q. How are HUD MID areas determined?**

A. HUD Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas are determined through federal designation. DEO does not have input on the designation of HUD MID areas. State-identified MID areas were identified by the state of Florida as areas of need that were not specified by HUD. State MID areas include counties that were eligible for FEMA Individual and Public Assistance Categories A-G in presidentially-declared counties for each of the included storms.

## **Q. Is there a match requirement?**

A. At this time, DEO does not anticipate requiring a local match in order to receive funds. CDBG-MIT funding can be used as local/state share of federal funding if projects meet mitigation criteria.

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**Q. Is my county or city eligible to receive funds?**

A. The counties and zip codes eligible to receive funding are listed below:

HUD MID Counties	Brevard, Broward, Clay, Collier, Duval, Hillsborough, Lee, Miami Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, St. Johns, St. Lucie and Volusia
HUD MID Zip Codes	32084, 32091, 32136, 32145, 32771, 33440, 33523, 33825, 33870, 32068, 33935, 34266

State MID Counties	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Indian River, Lafayette, Lake, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okeechobee, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Suwannee, Union
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A minimum of 50% of the funding must be allocated to HUD MID counties and zip codes.



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**Q. Why isn't there a housing program?**

A. While DEO recognizes the importance of housing initiatives in Florida's communities, this need is already being addressed through Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for Hurricane Irma.

**Q. Where were the Regional Workshops held?**

A. All scheduled Regional Workshops regarding the State Action Plan development have been held. DEO will announce additional regional workshops and webinars for each program being funded after the Mitigation Program Guidelines are published. DEO will notify its partners when these public workshops are scheduled.

**Q. Where can I find the webinar slides and transcripts?**

A. The webinar slides and transcripts can be found on the program website:  
<http://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation>