

# PRESENTATION

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- MITIGATION

### *Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program Webinar*

*Presented by: Caroline Pryor*

#### **Slide #0: INTRODUCTION SLIDE**

**Caroline:** Hello everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program presentation. My name is Caroline Pryor, and I'm on the Office of Disaster Recovery - Mitigation team at DEO. Today's presentation will provide an overview of the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program, application requirements, scoring criteria and next steps for the mitigation program.

#### **SLIDE #1: AGENDA & GOALS FOR CDBG-MIT WEBINAR**

**Caroline:** Our goals for today's webinar are to provide you with more information on the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program (GPS), explain the program objectives and outline how your communities can apply for this transformative, first-of-its-kind Mitigation funding. We will begin with a brief overview of the Mitigation program, communities that are eligible for the funding, and the guidelines and objectives of the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program. Following the explanation of those guidelines, I will review the application process and scoring criteria that will be utilized to evaluate submitted applications. Then we will discuss opportunities for how you can receive further technical assistance from the DEO team. After that we will take a few moments to answer any questions you may have. As your questions arise, please type them in the question box. As a point of information, today's slides will be posted on our website shortly after the conclusion of the webinar. And with that, let's get started.

#### **SLIDE #2: INTRODUCTION**

**Caroline:** The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is the primary state partner of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We administer many HUD grant programs which include Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The Office of Disaster Recovery is a branch within DEO that oversees CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding for hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma. Launched

in September 2018, Rebuild Florida is a program of DEO created with federal funding to help Florida's long-term recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of recent storms. We are preparing for \$735 million in funds for Disaster Recovery for Hurricane Michael and the CDBG-MIT program has an allocation of over \$633 million.

### **SLIDE #3: CDBG-MIT OVERVIEW/TIMELINE**

**Caroline:** In the Spring of 2018, HUD originally announced that Florida would receive more than \$633 million in Mitigation funding. These funds are available through HUD's newly created Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation program formed in response to the presidentially declared disasters from 2015-2017. The Federal Register was published on August 30, 2019. If you wish to view a copy of the Federal Register, please visit our website at [RebuildFlorida.gov](http://RebuildFlorida.gov). Per federal guidelines, 51 Florida counties are eligible for the mitigation funding. For Florida, this eligibility is based on 2016 and 2017 presidentially declared disasters. On April 3, 2020, HUD approved the State Action Plan. Over the last few weeks, we've launched two new Mitigation programs and next month we will be launching another new Mitigation program.

### **SLIDE #4: MOST IMPACTED AND DISTRESSED (MID) AREAS**

**Caroline:** According to the guidelines set by the Federal Register, at least 50% of these funds must be spent in HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, shown in green on the map. The remaining funding can be spent in state-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, shown in yellow on the map. Additionally, as set in the Federal Register, at least 50% of the funding must benefit low-and-moderate income (LMI) communities. Also set by federal guidelines, 50% of the grant must be expended in 6 years and 100% of these funds must be expended in 12 years. To ensure that this mitigation funding can be most effective, HUD created the CDBG-MIT funding as a 12-year long program.

### **SLIDE #5: CDBG-MIT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

**Caroline:** This chart displays the funding allocations for the CDBG-MIT programs. The programs we've already launched include the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program and the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program. We plan to launch the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program next month. The infrastructure programs received 87% of the funding allocation with the General Infrastructure Program having a \$475 million allocation and the Critical Facility Hardening Program having a \$75 million allocation. And for the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support

program, we have allocated \$20 million for this program, bringing us just over \$633 million total.

## **SLIDE #6: REBUILD FLORIDA GENERAL PLANNING SUPPORT PROGRAM (GPS)**

**Caroline:** As previously stated, the GPS allocation is \$20 million with the application cycle opening last week on May 15<sup>th</sup> and closing on July 31<sup>st</sup>. DEO will use a subrecipient model to administer the grant funds to eligible applicants. Subrecipients will be selected through a competitive Request for Application (RFA) process. This program is not a direct grant program and no funds will be paid directly to individuals. Those who are eligible to apply include units of general local government (UGLG), state agencies, educational institutions, and non-profits. Projects must benefit the HUD and State designated MID areas. CDBG-MIT funds expended for planning costs will be considered to address the national objectives. Hazards that should be addressed are those laid out in the State Action Plan and the Community Lifelines that will be fortified in this program are also outlined for you in this slide.

## **SLIDE #7: REBUILD FLORIDA GENERAL PLANNING SUPPORT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

DEO recognizes that planning is an important aspect of mitigation and that not all UGLGs have access to full-time planning staff. The GPS program provides rarely accessible funds to create regional mitigation plans that will enable the state of Florida to withstand future disasters.

Funds must be used solely for necessary expenses related to mitigation activities in the MID areas for which the President declared a major disaster in 2015, 2016 or 2017 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974.

At least 50% of funds must be spent in HUD-identified MID areas. The remaining 50% may be spent on state-identified MID areas that were declared disaster areas eligible for FEMA individual and public assistance.

Funds may not be used to supplant existing funding sources or programming.

All CDBG-MIT projects must comply with all applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Any plan that considers housing must conduct an Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) review of the plan to ensure equality.

Upon completion of the grant, subrecipients must submit proof of the completed work product that the application stated would be the end result of the grant funds.

To be eligible for funding, grant proposals must be in conformance with the State Mitigation Plan, have a beneficial impact on the designated disaster area (even if located outside the designated area) and be cost effective and result in an actionable plan that will provide strategies for high-impact mitigation activities.

## **SLIDE #8: APPLICATION PROCESS**

The GPS application window opened on May 15, 2020 and closes on July 31, 2020. Applications must describe the plan being proposed and address how and why it needs to be created, updated or integrated to mitigate risks attributable to threats identified in the State of Florida Action Plan Risk-Based Mitigation Needs Assessment. Plans must also include a proposed budget with a detailed description of anticipated costs by category, including support services and program management and administration.

Responses will be evaluated to ensure proposed projects meet the minimum criteria as outlined in the application materials. Applications that meet minimum threshold requirements will then be scored. Applications will be evaluated to determine the mitigation value and cost effectiveness of the proposed project. An applicant's planning strategy and management capacity must be evident.

To receive access to DEO's user-friendly online application, instructions and a submission checklist, GPS Application Registration is available. To register, applicants should click the link on the mitigation webpage. A contact name and email address will be requested. Once registered, you will be emailed an individualized application link. The application will be available from the CDBG-MIT website until July 31, 2020.

We encourage you to use the electronic application; however, there is a fillable PDF application that is posted on our website. The PDF version can be downloaded, completed and submitted online to [cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com).

If a paper application is submitted in lieu of an online application, two identical hard copies must be submitted. Paper applications must be postmarked by July 31, 2020. Late applications will not be considered eligible for the General Planning Support Program. DEO will email application receipt confirmations by close of business on Friday, August 7, 2020.

## **SLIDE #9: ELIGIBLE & INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

**Caroline:** Eligible plans for the GPS Program include, but are not limited to: regional mitigation plans; modernization and resiliency planning; comprehensive, capital improvement and community development mitigation planning; floodplain and wetland management plans; and integration of mitigation plans with other planning initiatives. The GPS program also allows for a range of mitigation activities, including but not limited to: the upgrade of mapping, data and other capabilities to better understand evolving disaster risks; planning and public service activities necessary to reduce flood insurance premiums in the National Flood Insurance Program's voluntary Community Rating System incentive program; education and outreach campaigns designed to alert communities and prospective beneficiaries to opportunities to further mitigate identified risks through insurance, best practices and other strategies.

Ineligible costs include but are not limited to: material or supply costs unrelated to GPS activities, furnishings and personal property, political activities or lobbying, payments to for profit businesses who are not in compliance with CDBG assistance, and any other costs determined as unallowable or ineligible pursuant to federal laws or regulations. More information on this guidance can be found in the General Planning Support guidelines, located on the program webpage.

## **SLIDE #10: SCORING EVALUATION RUBRIC PHASE 1 - GPS**

**Caroline:** DEO will utilize a two-phased review process when scoring applications. The first phase is the threshold checklist. This includes a signed and completed application that was submitted on time by an eligible applicant such as a UGLG that benefits HUD and/or State MID identified areas. Project proposals that do not meet the Mandatory Threshold Compliance Criteria will not move on to Phase 2. Phase 2 will award applicants a score based on specific scoring categories and cost effectiveness. Only the application itself (including requested attachments) will be scored. Any documents submitted with the application *that were not requested* will not be scored.

Under the Phase 2 process, there are 100 maximum points available broken out into the following categories: Project Description, Community Value, Capacity Plan, Implementation Plan, Budget and Leveraged Dollars. If eligible responses exceed available funding, applicants will be funded in rank order based on evaluation scores. Let's take a look at the online application.

## **SLIDE #11 APPLICATION DEMO**

**Caroline:** Now we will do a step-by-step application walk through of our online, user-friendly application and cover each value in the scoring rubric as we go along. We developed this application with your communities in mind.

This is our landing page for the GPS application. You'll see that there are links to the application instructions and templates that you'll have to fill out and attach with your submission. There's a mixture of short response, essays and templates that will need to be submitted with this application. Please note that if you do not have a unique registration link, you will be unable to return to a saved application. If you would like to receive a unique registration link, please request one via email to [cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com). (arrow)

Enter the information and primary contact name. (arrow)

If you are applying in partnership with another entity, this is where you would enter their co-applicant information. If you have more than three co-applicants list the three that are contributing the most to this project. Additional co-applicants can be identified in your Capacity Plan. (arrow)

For a maximum award of 25 points is Project Description. The applicant must explain in sufficient detail the nature of the project being proposed as well as its purpose and what risks are being mitigated against. Applicants will also need to describe how the work will be completed, funding projection methods, and anticipated outcomes. (arrow)

The next 25-point category is Community Value. Here the applicant will describe the significance of the identified plan or activity, discuss which community lifelines will be fortified as a result of the project completion, and the process for involving community members in the proposed project. (arrow)

The Capacity Plan, worth a maximum of 20 points, outlines goals, stakeholders, work plan (including major tasks and deliverables), addresses which staff will accomplish what tasks, budget specifics, and the applicant's monitoring and maintenance plan. (arrow)

The Public Notice Requirement must be fulfilled for all proposed mitigation activities. Applicants may use one or both of the methods outlined below to meet these HUD regulations. Resources for non-English speaking citizens must also be documented. In this case, documentation must be translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole. Public notice dates should be included on the Implementation Plan template as well.

A maximum of 15 points may be awarded for the next category, the Implementation Plan. Here the applicant must provide a chronological timeline of events from the project's beginning to end, including all deliverables and milestones. (arrow)

In the Budget category there is a maximum amount of 10 points. We expect detailed projections of finances for each step of the project. On this page of the application you must also acknowledge whether or not there will be a duplication of benefits. If there is a duplication of benefits, the project will be ineligible to receive funding. We want to ensure that mitigation dollars go as far as possible.

The Leveraged Dollars category also has a maximum amount of 5 points. Mitigation dollars should be used as a fund of last resort, after all other options have been exhausted. If \$1 of HUD money is used, the project becomes a HUD project, so must be HUD compliant. (arrow)

There are also a series of compliance questions. (click through and arrow)

Sign to confirm submission. (arrow)

This is the Page of No Return so please ensure that all information is submitted. Double check that everything is attached, and necessary information is included. (arrow)

Print a PDF.

(Transition back to live screen)

## **SLIDE #12: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Caroline:** Applications will be independently reviewed and scored by DEO staff according to the aforementioned scoring criteria. We want to provide as much support as we can to program applicants. We will offer intensive Technical Assistance (TA) through next week on a first come first served basis and will transition to a more traditional TA structure after that timeframe ends. From May 26 to June 2, DEO will provide one-on-one technical assistance phone calls with interested applicants. Email your questions ahead of your scheduled call to [cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com). You can also reserve a time by visiting [www.picktime.com/cdbgmit](http://www.picktime.com/cdbgmit). To maximize your time during the call, please review the General Planning Support program guidelines on the mitigation website prior to your scheduled meeting. After June 2, applicants will have additional opportunities to receive further technical assistance from our mitigation team members.

## **SLIDE #13: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**Caroline:** Now we will dedicate the remainder of this webinar to answer questions about the program. I'm here with DEO staff members Joseph Oglesby and Alyssa Hernandez who represent the mitigation team. As a point of information, all slides along with a transcript of today's presentation will be made available shortly after today's webinar. To learn more please visit [www.rebuildflorida.gov](http://www.rebuildflorida.gov) And with that, let's dive into questions.