

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- MITIGATION

Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening 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 Critical Facility Hardening 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 Critical Facility Hardening 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 Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP), 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 Critical Facility Hardening 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 and presentation 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 over \$633 million allocated.

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. 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 next few weeks, we will be launching other new Mitigation programs.

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, 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, 50% of the funding must benefit low-to-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're launching include the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program, Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program and the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program. 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 CRITICAL FACILITY HARDENING PROGRAM (CFHP)

Caroline: As previously stated, the CFHP allocation is \$75 million with the application cycle opening last week on April 15th and closing on June 30th. 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) and state agencies as well as non-profits or non-governmental organizations that apply in partnership with their UGLG or state agency. Projects must be located in the HUD and State designated MID areas, and HUD's national objectives of benefiting Low to Moderate Income (LMI) persons and/or Unmet Needs must be accounted for in all project proposals. 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 CRITICAL FACILITY HARDENING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

For purposes of the CFHP, critical facilities are defined as the buildings/structures that serve as a public safety purpose for local communities. Critical facilities are essential for the functionality of a community and typically house operations that, if interrupted, will cause a negative impact on at least one of the seven community lifelines. Critical Facilities include but are not limited to: potable water facilities, wastewater facilities, police and fire departments, hospitals, and emergency shelters. Again, this is not an exhaustive list, but rather examples to help identify critical facilities in your communities.

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, solve a problem independently or constitute a portion of a solution with assurance that the project as a whole will be completed, and be cost effective or substantially reduce future risks.

SLIDE #8: APPLICATION PROCESS

The CFHP application window opened on April 15, 2020 and closes on June 30, 2020. Applicants **must** describe what is being identified as a critical facility and address how and why it needs to be hardened to mitigate risks attributable to natural disasters. Plans must also include a proposed budget with a detailed description of anticipated costs by category, including support services and program management and administration. Application materials included in appendices B-E of the guidelines contain the application form and instructions, the application checklist, and a sample application.

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.

To receive access to DEO's user-friendly online application, instructions and submission checklist, CFHP 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 June 30, 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.

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 June 30, 2020. Late applications will not be considered eligible for the Critical Facility Hardening Program. DEO will email application receipt confirmations by close of business on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

SLIDE #9: ELIGIBLE & INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Caroline: 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, solve a problem independently or constitute a portion of a solution with assurance that the project as a whole will be completed, and be cost effective or substantially reduce future risks.

Eligible activities are limited to projects that increase the resilience of critical facilities. For this program, activities include but are not limited to: Dry proofing, wet proofing, anchoring roof mounted heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units, and retrofitting existing structures with hazard resistant materials in accordance with national safety standards. You can do one or many of these things to harden your facility.

Costs considered to be program eligible include but are not limited to: Training, dry and wet proofing, anchoring roof-mounted heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, retrofitting buildings, energy resiliency, support services, participant outreach, and program management and administration. Ineligible costs include but are not limited to: travel, material or supply costs, furnishings and personal property, costs incurred prior to the date of execution for the subrecipient agreement, 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.

SLIDE #10: SCORING EVALUATION RUBRIC PHASE 1 - CFHP

Caroline: DEO will utilize a two-phase 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 unit of general local government (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 150 maximum points available broken out into the following categories: Project Description, Community Value, Capacity Plan, Implementation Plan, Budget, Leveraged Dollars, MID areas, Overall LMI Benefit, Social Vulnerability, and Special Designations. 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 CFHP 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. (arrow)

Enter the information and primary contact name. (arrow)

If you are applying in partnership with another entity such as a non-profit or non-governmental organization, 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 20 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 plans for operation and maintenance of the project post grant. (arrow)

The next 20-point category is Community Value. Here the applicant will describe the significance of the identified facility and discuss which community lifelines will be fortified as a result of project completion. (arrow)

The Capacity Plan, worth a maximum of 15 points, outlines goals, 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)

A maximum of 10 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 when

The Leveraged Dollars category also has a maximum amount of 10 points. If \$1 of HUD money is used, the project becomes a HUD project, so must be HUD compliant. (arrow)

Here you will choose the county or counties that are impacted by your project. There is a maximum of 10 points in the MID area category. HUD MIDs will receive 10 points and State MIDs will receive 5 points. There is a 10-point maximum for Social Vulnerability (SoVI). SoVI takes synthesizes a number of factors including age, gender, race and unemployment rates to identify vulnerable communities. 2 points are awarded for a low SoVI score, 4 for medium low, 6 for medium, 8 for medium high, and 10 for high. (arrow)

A maximum of 30 points may be awarded for Overall LMI benefit. Those with a higher percentage of LMI benefit area will receive higher scores. Applicants must provide specific block groups in accordance with HUD's methodology. (arrow)

A maximum of 15 points may be awarded for Special Designations. This includes areas of Critical State Concern according to Florida Statutes 380.05, rural county status, or fiscally-constrained county status. 5 points will be awarded per special designation. (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.

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 TA through next week and will transition to a more traditional TA structure after that timeframe ends. From April 24th to May 1st, DEO will provide one-on-one technical assistance phone calls with interested applicants. Email your questions ahead of your scheduled call to cdbgmit@deo.myflorida.com. You can also reserve a time by visiting www.picktime.com/cdbgmit. After May 1st, 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 And with that, let's dive into questions.