

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY

Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program Overview for Hurricane Michael

Presented by: Caroline Pryor

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Slide #1: INTRODUCTION SLIDE

Caroline: Hello everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program overview. My name is Caroline Pryor, and I'm on the Office of Disaster Recovery Team at DEO. Today's presentation will provide an overview of the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program for Hurricane Michael-impacted communities, including eligible activities and next steps for the program.

SLIDE #2: AGENDA & GOALS FOR WEBINAR

Caroline: Our goals for today's webinar are to provide you with more information on the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program, explain the program objectives and outline how you can apply for this funding. We will begin with a brief overview of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. We will then discuss which communities are eligible for the funding, and an overview of the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program. Following that explanation, I will review the application process and next steps. After that we will take a few moments to answer questions. As your questions arise, please type them in the question box. As a point of information, all webinar materials will be made available on the program website. And with that, let's get started.

SLIDE #3: FLORIDA DEO: OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Caroline: 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. The Office of Disaster Recovery is a branch within DEO that oversees CDBG-DR funding for hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma and Michael, as well as the CDBG-Mitigation program. 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. The CDBG-DR allocation for Hurricane Michael totals \$735 million.

SLIDE #4: CDBG-DR OVERVIEW/TIMELINE

Caroline: As we are all well-aware, Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida Panhandle in October of 2018. In May of 2019, HUD announced \$448 million in CDBG-DR funding, followed by an additional \$287 million in December of that year. On January 2, 2020, HUD published the Federal Register necessary for the state of Florida to develop its federally-required Action Plan to access the funding. In February of this year, DEO hosted several public outreach meetings throughout Hurricane Michael-impacted communities and hosted a webinar to seek feedback on development of the State Action Plan. In March, DEO posted an initial draft of the State Action Plan for public comment and submitted the State Action Plan to HUD on May 14, 2020, months ahead of schedule. The State Action Plan was approved by HUD on June 26, 2020 and DEO has launched several Rebuild Florida programs including the Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program, the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program, Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program and the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program. Additional Rebuild Florida programs will be announced soon.

SLIDE #5: MOST IMPACTED AND DISTRESSED (MID) AREAS

Caroline: HUD designated Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington counties as Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas. The state of Florida then designated an additional three counties, Holmes, Leon and Taylor, as the remaining MID areas. According to the guidelines set by the Federal Register, at least 80% of the allocated funds must be spent in HUD-designated MID areas, shown in green on the map. The remaining funding can be spent in state-designated MID areas, shown in blue on the map.

SLIDE #6: Rebuild Florida Programs for Hurricane Michael Recovery

Caroline: DEO will use the allocated funding to launch five disaster recovery programs in the HUD and state-designated MID areas. The Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program, which launched on September 2, 2020, is designed to fund infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities impacted by Hurricane Michael. The Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program will support the recovery of economic activity in commercial areas of impacted towns and cities, facilitating the return and recovery of businesses, jobs and provision of goods and services to the community. The Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program will provide funding opportunities for local workforce development boards, educational institutions and technical centers located in the communities most impacted by Hurricane Michael to train new workers in construction trades. The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program will repair, replace or reconstruct homes damaged by Hurricane Michael. The Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program, which launched on August 17, 2020, is designed to encourage risk reduction through the purchase of residential property in high flood-risk areas to help reduce the impact of future disasters. Local governments that are within the federal and state designated MID areas are eligible to apply for funding. Launched on October 5, 2020, the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant program is designed to help Fiscally Constrained Counties impacted by Hurricane Michael access Rebuild Florida's long-term disaster recovery programs by providing assistance with application development, including project identification, project cost determination, and scope of work preparation.

SLIDE #7: Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program

Caroline: As we previously stated, the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program's application cycle opened on October 5 and the application cycle remains open until funds are exhausted. DEO will use a contractor model to administer the grant to eligible applicants. Those who are eligible to apply for this funding include units of local government and municipalities. Please note that only entities within the HUD or State-identified MID areas and that are classified as a Fiscally Constrained County can apply for this program. Eligible counties include:

- Calhoun
- Franklin
- Gadsden
- Gulf
- Holmes
- Jackson
- Liberty
- Taylor
- Wakulla
- Washington

SLIDE #8: Eligible Activities

Caroline: Grant requests may be submitted by eligible entities to receive Technical Assistance in preparing applications for the following Rebuild Florida programs:

- Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program
- Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program
- Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program
- Use of CDBG-DR funds as HMGP Match

For more information about these programs, visit our website at RebuildFlorida.gov

SLIDE #9: Order of Events

Caroline: The graphic on your screen displays the sequence of events once an eligible entity applies for the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program. Let us walk you through an example of the application process.

First, an applicant, such as a unit of local government or municipality that is a HUD or State-designated Most Impacted and Distressed Area and within a Fiscally Constrained County submits an application to receive Technical Assistance with developing an application for a Rebuild Florida program.

Next, after successfully completing an application, Rebuild Florida's team will review the application and determine its eligibility.

If the application is deemed eligible by Rebuild Florida staff, the application will be sent to the Technical Assistance vendor for further review.

Next, the Technical Assistance vendor will coordinate with the applicant and develop a Scope of Work which will provide the activities to be completed by the vendor and will also prepare a cost estimate for proposed services.

DEO will review and authorize the vendor to move forward with providing technical assistance services to the applicant.

It is important to note, that if you receive assistance through the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program, this does not mean the application developed during this process will be automatically awarded by DEO.

SLIDE #10: Questions

Caroline: We will now take some time to answer questions that you may have. You may submit questions by typing them in the questions box. I am joined today by Drew Winters, Deputy Director for the Office of Disaster Recovery to assist you in answering any questions you may have.

Thank you.