

TRANSCRIPT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY ORIENTATION WEBINAR

PRESENTED BY: HEATHER MARTIN

INTRODUCTION

Heather: “Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to DEO’s community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery Webinar. My name is Heather Martin. I am the Community Disaster Recovery Chief here at DEO. With me in the room, I just wanted to do a quick introduction to DEO’s Disaster Recovery team. I have Jamie McNease here, Kevin Ogden, Robin Grantham, and Mikayla Catani. We are going to go ahead and get started.”

SLIDE 1

Heather: “So thank you for joining us today. Today’s webinar is to go over the state’s long-term disaster recovery process which will include an overview of the CDGB-DR program, a projected timeline for implementation, highlights of the federal guidance, as well as what communities can expect and how to engage in the process.”

SLIDE 2

Heather: “The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Florida will receive \$616 million in federal funding for long-term recovery from Hurricane Irma. DEO has been and continues to advocate on behalf of the state of Florida to HUD and to Congress, as well as work closely with our state and federal partners. DEO continues to analyze data to project unmet needs in Florida, evaluate programs that could be created or expanded, as well as research best practices from other states.”

SLIDE 3

Heather: “The disaster recovery sequence often takes several months. When the disaster occurs, the state must first declare a disaster and submit it to the president for concurrence. Once the president concurs and declares a disaster, that allows for the usage of certain federal funding such as FEMA and SBA. Those funding streams are available immediately after an event and for response and recovery activities. Then as that immediate response is taking place, Congress may be considering additional supplemental funding to vote on, which is signed into law by the president. Once funds

are appropriated by Congress, HUD will publish guidelines in what is called the Federal Register. So, from the time of the disaster event to publication of the Federal Register that can take several months. After the Federal Register is issued, the process for accessing CDBG-Disaster Recovery assistance can formally begin.”

SLIDE 4

Heather: “After Hurricane Irma made landfall in September 2017, Congress appropriated \$7.4 billion for disaster recovery through the CDBG-Disaster Recovery program nationwide. In November 2017 HUD announced Florida will receive approximately \$616 million of this appropriation. This month HUD released guidance that must be followed to receive the funding. Congress also appropriated an additional \$28 billion for disaster recovery through the CDBG program nationwide. Florida does not know yet how much of this additional appropriation the state will receive.”

SLIDE 5

Heather: “HUD’s guidance states that 80% of the funding must be expended for recovery in the HUD identified “most impacted and distressed” areas. HUD recently released the following breakdown, based on their assessment of unmet need in Florida which can also be found in the Federal Register.”

SLIDE 6

Heather: “Key guidelines for the funding are outlined in the Federal Register for CDBG-Disaster Recovery. These guidelines include: Flexible funding to address the community’s needs, that the state is the primary grantee and will prepare the Action Plan for HUD. This is a responsibility of DEO to prepare that Action Plan. Both non-entitlement and entitlement communities will be eligible to participate in state programs included in the Action Plan. Funds must primarily consider and address housing unmet needs. Funds can also be used to address unmet economic revitalization and infrastructure needs, but in doing so, the state must identify how housing needs will be addressed or how the proposed economic revitalization and infrastructure activities will contribute to long-term recovery and restoration of housing.”

SLIDE 7

Heather: “While this funding is built on the foundation of the CDBG program, that some of you may be familiar with already, the management of disaster recovery funding will look different than what communities are used to seeing through traditional CDBG annual allocations. Funding may be used as match for other federal programs, if the

project meets the eligibility requirements for CDBG-DR. This can include FEMA HMGP and Public Assistance Program, as well as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. It is important to remember that all funded activities must meet one of the three HUD National Objectives. These objectives are to benefit persons of low and moderate income, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and meet other urgent community development needs because of serious or immediate threat. Also, 70% of the \$616 million must benefit LMI”

SLIDE 8

Heather: “Funding can(not) be used to relocate homes to floodplain or flood-prone area or to pay off loans homeowners received through SBA. Additionally, households that make above 120% of the area median income, are in the flood zone and that failed to maintain flood insurance at the time of the hurricane will not be eligible to receive funding to rehabilitate or rebuild their home. However, these homeowners may be eligible for other forms of assistance.

SLIDE 9

Heather: “So what kind of activities are eligible for CDBG-DR? CDBG-DR funding can be used to address long-term recovery needs related to housing, infrastructure, and economic revitalization.”

SLIDE 10

Heather: “Funding must be used to primarily address unmet housing recovery needs. This could include rehabilitating homes and rental units, constructing new homes or rental units to address disaster related impacts, property buyouts in high flood risk areas, acquisition of property for other purposes. Just to name a few.”

SLIDE 11

Heather: “Funding can be used to rehabilitate, replace, or relocate damaged public facilities, which can include roads, bridges, water treatment facilities, sewers, water lines, and storm management systems.”

SLIDE 12

Heather: “In regard to economic revitalization, funding can be used to restore or improve the local economy. The prioritization of assistance to small businesses assistance is encouraged. Some of these activities for economic revitalization can include public services, loan and grants to businesses, or job training.”

SLIDE 13

Heather: “HUD encourages the state to incorporate mitigation measures into CDBG-DR eligible programs. All mitigation measures must be incorporated into rebuilding or necessary long-term recovery efforts for Hurricane Irma. Funding can be used for reimbursement for disaster recovery related costs that are incurred prior to an award of funding to the entity, for up to one year from the date of the event, if they are eligible CDBG-DR activities and meet program requirements.

SLIDE 14

Heather: “When talking about duplication of benefits one of the key considerations is providing CDBG Disaster Recovery assistance. That is because there is a Stafford act that requires or prohibits individuals from receiving federal assistance for a covered loss they already received assistance for. So this image shows a hierarchy of funding assistance starting with private insurance, then working its way down to FEMA, SBA, civil society such as nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity or the Red Cross, and then finally CDBG-DR which is meant to be a funding of last resort. So for example, a victim’s home was destroyed by a hurricane. The estimated cost to repair their home is \$100,000. They receive a total of \$150,000 from private insurance, FEMA, and HUD therefore they would have received a duplication of benefits.

SLIDE 15

Heather: “Here is a projected timeline of events. The state of Florida must conduct an unmet needs assessment and create an Action Plan that describes how the funding will be allocated to eligible communities to address remaining needs. This plan is due no later than May 15, 2018. However, DEO is expediting the process and development of the assessment and the Action Plan is underway now. DEO will conduct outreach to communities through calls, in-person visits and webinars throughout this month and the month of March as well.”

SLIDE 16

Heather: “Unmet needs assessments are general estimations of the storm’s impact at the highest level. That includes the sectors of housing, infrastructure, economy and the different subsectors which are included on this slide. When you take the funds made available from the estimated storm impact that results in the unmet needs.”

SLIDE 17

Heather: “The Action Plan will include programs that specify how the money will be allocated and how communities can access these programs. Programs in the Action Plan should describe the connection between the identified unmet needs and the allocation of CDBG-DR resources. Programs should also demonstrate a proportionate allocation of resources relative to areas and categories of greatest need.

SLIDE 18

Heather: “DEO’s next steps will include meeting with each community HUD identified as “most impacted and distressed” to understand remaining unmet needs priorities for redevelopment, gather feedback on how to design programs that meet each community needs, and answer questions related to the funding and next steps. DEO will solicit feedback on unmet needs and priorities for redevelopment from other communities impacted by Hurricane Irma as well. We will also conduct an additional webinar on unmet needs data assessment and request feedback. DEO will publish the draft Action Plan on its website for a 14-day public comment period and finalize the Action Plan and submit to HUD by May 15, 2018.

SLIDE 19

Heather: “If you would like to download the slides from this webinar it can be found in the handout section on your screen. If you have questions please feel free to contact me or the Disaster Recovery team and thank you for participating in this webinar.