

# TRANSCRIPT

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY

### *Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program Application Cycle Two Webinar*

*Presented by: Caroline Pryor*

#### **Slide #1:**

**Speaker:** Hello everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program second application overview. My name is Caroline Pryor, and I am on the Office of Disaster Recovery team here at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Today's presentation will provide an overview of the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program, application requirements, scoring criteria and next steps for the program.

#### **SLIDE #2: Agenda**

**Speaker:** Our goals for today's webinar are to provide you with more information on the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program, explain the program objectives and outline how your communities can apply. We will begin with a brief overview of Rebuild Florida and the timeline of the Infrastructure Repair Program. We will then explain which communities are eligible to apply for funding, and the activities that funding may be used for. Following the explanation of those guidelines, I will review the application process for this second application cycle and the scoring criteria that will be utilized to evaluate submitted applications. After that, we will take some time 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 presentation will be posted on our website shortly after the conclusion of the webinar. And with that, let's get started.

#### **SLIDE #3: Introduction**

**Speaker:** 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 and CDBG - Mitigation funding for hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, and Irma. Launched in September of 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 also preparing for \$735 million in funds for Disaster Recovery for Hurricane Michael.

#### **SLIDE #4: Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program**

**Speaker:** In November of 2017, HUD announced an initial allocation of CDBG-DR funding for Florida to support long-term Recovery from Hurricane Irma. DEO included the initial description of the Infrastructure Repair Program in the State Action Plan for Disaster Recovery, published in June of 2018, and launched the first application submission cycle for the program in July of 2019, with more than \$84 million in funding awarded to applicants in January of 2020.

DEO has allocated just over \$100 million in additional CDBG - Disaster Recovery funding to the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program to address unmet disaster recovery needs related to damage from Hurricane Irma. In this webinar, we will be diving deeper into the specifics of this second cycle and its application process.

## **SLIDE #5: Eligible Counties and Entities**

**Speaker:** Units of General Local Government (UGLG) including counties and municipalities located in the designated areas that experienced Hurricane Irma storm damage are eligible to apply for funding based on the terms and conditions in this application. Please look at the map on your screen to see if you are eligible for funding.

## **SLIDE #6: Funding Eligibility**

**Speaker:** To be eligible for consideration of funding, projects must align with CDBG-DR requirements and priorities as outlined in the action plan and the Federal Register, including but not limited to those below:

- Projects must demonstrate tie-back to Irma.
- Projects must primarily serve Low-to Moderate Income (LMI) populations.
- Projects for infrastructure must support LMI housing.
- Projects must not contain a duplication of benefits (DOB).

Applicants must also provide a detailed description of damage caused by Hurricane Irma. Additionally, applications should include plans to mitigate against future damage and show how the proposed project will make the community more resilient in the future. It should be noted that projects requesting funds for damage caused by deferred maintenance will not be considered. Additionally, each applicant must request a project with a minimum amount of \$500,000 in funding.

## **SLIDE #7: Eligible Activities (continued)**

Examples of eligible activities under the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program include:

- Restoration of infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Irma (including water and sewer facilities, streets, provision of generators, removal of debris, drainage, bridges, etc.);
- Repair to public facilities such as emergency community shelters;

- Demolition, rehabilitation of publicly or privately owned commercial or industrial buildings;
- Economic revitalization which includes any CDBG-DR eligible activity that noticeably restores and improves some aspect of the local economy.

Please note that projects involving water and sewer facilities will be eligible for 10 points during the scoring process, as these have been identified as areas of critical importance.

## **SLIDE #8: Application**

**Speaker:** The application submission cycle officially opened on March 30, 2020 and will close on June 30, 2020.

The application has seven (7) parts that applicants must complete for a full submission:

- **A Cover Letter**
- **An Applicant Information Form** - where applicants provide basic organizational information.
- **A Proposal Information Form** - where applicants provide project information that will be scored by DEO.
- **A Budget** – which must include all costs related to administration and the construction a for each infrastructure project.
- **A Service Area Map**
- **A Work Plan** - that provides evidence of readiness to proceed.
- **An Organizational Chart and Schedule of Team Roles** such as Staff, Contractor, Vendor and Community Partner roles and responsibilities is encouraged, but not required. This is a responsibility of each applicant.

All program documents, including samples of a completed budget and work plans are available on the program webpage.

Completed applications must be submitted to DEO by email to [CDBG-DRInfrastructureApp@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:CDBG-DRInfrastructureApp@deo.myflorida.com) AND mailed to DEO.

Please submit only one project for each application.

## **SLIDE #9: Threshold Compliance Criteria**

**Speaker:** DEO will apply a two-phased process to review applications. First, proposals must pass three HUD required CDBG-DR Threshold Compliance Criteria. The Threshold compliance criteria include:

1. **Projects meeting a CDBG-DR National Objective** such as benefit to LMI individuals, benefit to LMI areas, or address an urgent need.
2. **Projects must be considered as CDBG-DR Eligible Activities.**
3. **Projects or programs must address a clear unmet need**, including tie-back to Hurricane Irma, primarily serving LMI populations, and primarily serving housing activities.

## **SLIDE #10: Application Scoring Criteria**

**Speaker:** Once a proposal is determined to satisfy CDBG-DR's Threshold Compliance Criteria, DEO will apply scoring based on the following Scoring Criteria. The maximum Scoring Criteria score is 105. Scoring will focus on the following categories:

- **Overall LMI benefit (up to 30 points)**
  - The applicant should provide their LMI data for the project service area in a percentage form, and the score will be the percentage multiplied by the total possible points. For example, if the service area LMI is 65% DEO will multiply by 30 to calculate a final LMI score of 13 points.
- Next is **Project Readiness (up to 25 points)**
  - For 25 points, the applicant must show that the planning is complete, and the project is ready to break ground after the completion of a required HUD-compliant environmental review and funds are available;
  - Or for 15 points, the applicant must show that the required permits are applied for;
  - Or for five points, the applicant must show that the project's initial planning is complete, and all consultants are hired.
- Next is **Management Capacity (up to 15 points)**
  - For a complete score, the applicant must show the local entity has the capacity to complete the project and the ability to perform required maintenance.
- Next is **Project Nature (up to 10 points)**
  - To receive the maximum amount of points, the applicant must show the proposed project seeks to improve storm water, waste water, drinking water or sewer systems.
- Next is **Special Designation (up to 10 points)**
  - For full score of 10 points, the applicant must show the project is located in a rural community (5 pts) and/or an Area of Critical State Concern (5pts).
- Finally, we have **Project Impact (up to 15 points)**

- For a perfect score, the applicant must show the impact of the project on the community should be significant, including: economic impact, community resiliency, etc.

## **SLIDE #11: Questions and Comments**

**Speaker:** To highlight the differences between the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program's first cycle and this second cycle, we would like to emphasize the following:

- The application submission cycle officially opened on March 30, 2020 and will close on June 30, 2020.
- Applicants may only submit one project per application, but eligible applicants may submit multiple project applications.
- Requests must be for a **minimum of \$500,000 per project**.
- When preparing a budget, please include a cost reasonable estimate for all administrative costs associated with the proposed project.
- Due to COVID-19, we are amending the public meeting requirements. Units of General Local Government can still receive public input on their infrastructure projects by posting information about the project online or holding a virtual meeting.
- We are also continuing to take questions about the Infrastructure Repair program throughout the application cycle and ask that you either call or email us with any questions you might have.

## **SLIDE #12: Questions and Comments**

Before we take questions, we would like to thank you for participating in today's webinar and remind you that all pertinent information can be found on the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program [webpage](#). You may also contact us by email at [CDBG-DRInfrastructureApp@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:CDBG-DRInfrastructureApp@deo.myflorida.com).

We will now answer some of the questions that we've received. Joining me are Infrastructure Repair Program manager Gina Herron and Business Economic Recovery Chief Joseph Oglesby. And with that, let's dive into questions.