STATE OF FLORIDA

Action Plan for Disaster Recovery

Submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in fulfillment of requirements for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program for recovery from Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew.
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<td>27. Consultation-Local Efforts</td>
<td>Changed 14-day comment period to 10-day comment period to be consistent with the Application Guide.</td>
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Information pertaining to recovery from the 2016 Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew posted to the webpage includes, but is not limited, to program design and reporting, the citizen participation plan, procurement, executed CDBG-DR contracts, and their statuses. Program announcements and details of activities will also be posted on DEO’s website on an ongoing basis along with program guidebooks and manuals in English and made available in other languages for limited English proficiency audiences, as applicable.

27. CONSULTATION

DEO has consulted directly with local governments, including, but not limited to, Brevard, Volusia, Pasco, and St. Johns counties. DEO has also consulted with Public Housing Authorities to develop and distribute a PHA disaster-impact survey to all Authorities in the FEMA disaster declared counties requesting information of storm-related damage and whether any residents were displaced due to the hurricane events. DEO also requested feedback on the storm-related damage from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and the Florida Department of Health.

In addition, all stakeholders were invited to four stakeholder session webinars and slides were made available to interested parties. A Spanish-speaking interpreter was available at each session. The dates were:

- **Stakeholder Session 1** - CDBG-DR Overview of Requirements (3/9/2017)
- **Stakeholder Session 1 Repeat** - CDBG-DR Overview of Requirements (3/17/2017)
- **Stakeholder Session 2** - Impact and Unmet Needs Assessment (3/28/2017)
- **Stakeholder Session 3** - Draft Action Plan (4/7/2017)

The state published a notice in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) on April 7, 2017, announcing the availability of the funding and the development of a draft Action Plan. The information was also emailed to all eligible local governments and posted to the Department’s website. Comments from the public on the Action Plan were accepted from April 7, 2017 until April 21, 2017. A summary of public comments received, and the state’s response to each comment, is included in Appendix Six. The state also collected attendee lists for each webinar.

LOCAL EFFORTS

Counties and other units of local government eligible to receive funds must coordinate to consider the needs of all municipalities (and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes) within the incorporated as well as unincorporated area of the county (and reservations contiguous to the county). Eligible units of government should also consult with local housing providers regarding funding for affordable rental housing needs related to the storms. Applicants for funding must provide DEO with documentation that all parties were allowed an opportunity to discuss unmet needs and the best use of the funding.

Applicants are required to conduct at least one public hearing or meeting to receive comments from residents of the community. Applicants will be required to post a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation and to their website, that states the types of projects to be undertaken, the source and amount of funding available for the activities, a date by which public comments must be made, and who to contact for a copy of the proposed application (i.e., name or office and telephone number). This notice, which must provide for a 10-day comment period, must be published prior to the submission of their application. A compilation of the public comments received must be included as an appendix to the application.

Additionally, applicants are required to conduct outreach to vulnerable populations and are required to have at least one outreach session in an area or areas targeting different special needs populations throughout the county or municipality to ensure best efforts to maximize community outreach are achieved and documented. Since certain areas throughout the state have bilingual and multi-lingual populations, there should be at least a Spanish translation of all relevant documentation available for the public. It would be helpful, if applicable, to have a Spanish translator available during public meetings. This could also be applicable for disabled individuals that may be hearing-impaired or blind.

Applicants for funding must allow their citizens access to grant information pursuant to Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Law as well as federal requirements. Records should be made available for public inspection during normal business hours. In addition, if possible, information should be posted to websites. Upon request, information must be provided in a format accessible to persons with disabilities. Retention of records must meet existing public record requirements.