

# TRANSCRIPT

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- MITIGATION

### *Rebuild Florida Mitigation Funding Allocation for Hurricane Michael-Impacted Areas Overview*

*Presented by: Caroline Pryor*

#### **Slide #0: INTRODUCTION SLIDE**

**Caroline:** Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's overview webinar for the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) allocation for Hurricane Michael-impacted communities. My name is Caroline Pryor, and I'm the Mitigation Program Manager in the Office of Long-Term Resiliency here at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Today's webinar will provide a summary of DEO's mitigation program and the steps necessary to access the CDBG-MIT funding allocated for communities impacted by Hurricane Michael. At the end of the presentation, we will have a time for questions and feedback, so please enter any questions that you have in the chat box and we will answer them as time permits. Please also note that the presentation slides and a recording of today's presentation will be posted on the program webpage, which can be accessed at [RebuildFlorida.gov](http://RebuildFlorida.gov).

#### **SLIDE #1: AGENDA**

**Caroline:** Today's webinar will provide information on and an overview of Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation funding. We will begin with a brief overview of DEO's Office of Long-Term Resiliency and discuss the mitigation program's definition and goals. Then we will cover the benefits of mitigation planning and the parameters outlined by the Federal Register recently published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Following the explanation of those guidelines, I will discuss the substantial amendment that must be developed in order to access the funding, including our timeline, and the types of projects that align with our funding and mitigation protocols. After the presentation, our team will take some time to answer any questions you may have. Let's get started.

#### **SLIDE #2: THE FLORIDA DEPT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY: OFFICE OF LONG-TERM RESILIENCY**

**Caroline:** DEO is the official state partner for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). DEO's Office of Long-Term Resiliency within the Division of Community Development supports long-term housing needs, infrastructure, and economic development in Florida communities impacted by disasters. We are currently administering long-term recovery programs for communities impacted by Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, and Michael in addition to the CDBG-MIT program.

#### **SLIDE #3: HUD MITIGATION DEFINITION**

**Caroline:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines mitigation as, "those activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters." Mitigation efforts recognize that disasters will occur in our future and seek to empower communities to withstand potential unforeseen disasters. Resilient communities are equipped with the plans and actions necessary to respond appropriately to various disaster scenarios.

## **SLIDE #4: INITIAL CDBG-MITIGATION ALLOCATION/TIMELINE**

**Caroline:** The Mitigation Program's first funding announcement occurred in 2018 when the state was awarded over \$633 million to assist communities who were impacted by storms from 2016-2017 (Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, and Irma). 51 Florida counties were deemed eligible for these funds. One year later, the Federal Register for this allocation was published and Florida submitted the State Action Plan in February of 2020. After HUD's approval of the State Action Plan, the DEO launched three programs: The Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program, the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program, and the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program. In January of this year HUD, announced an additional allocation of over \$46 million for communities impacted by 2018 storms. The timeline for the additional allocation is very similar to the initial funding timeline.

## **SLIDE #5: CDBG-MITIGATION TIMELINE**

**Caroline:** This slide shows the four phases of the timeline for the allocation for Hurricane Michael impacted communities. Phase One is Substantial Amendment Development, Phase Two is Program Design, Phase Three is the Application Cycle, and Phase Four is Program Implementation. Each phase has tasks listed below it that DEO will accomplish during the phase. Right now, we are in Phase One, the Substantial Amendment Development Phase. We are drafting the Substantial Amendment, conducting outreach via meetings and an online survey, and will open a public comment period for the substantial amendment. After the public comment period has ended, we will submit the substantial amendment to HUD. Once it has been submitted, the Mitigation team will move into Phase Two of the timeline. Throughout the entire life of this program, we will continue to conduct stakeholder outreach activities to help ensure alignment with community needs.

## **SLIDE #6: ADDITIONAL CDBG-MITIGATION FUNDING**

**Caroline:** The CDBG-MIT allocation amount for communities impacted by Hurricane Michael is \$46,926,000. According to the guidelines set by the Federal Register, 50% of these funds must be spent in HUD Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, and the remaining amount can be spent in State MID areas. At least 50% must benefit low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities. 50% of the grant must be expended in 6 years, and 100% of these funds must be expended in 12 years.

## **SLIDE #7: HUD AND STATE MID MAP**

**Caroline:** This map shows the communities that are eligible for the CDBG-MIT allocation for areas that were impacted by Hurricane Michael in 2018. Dark blue counties are HUD MID areas and light blue counties are State MID areas. The eligible counties are: Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington counties.

## **SLIDE #8: CDBG-MITIGATION SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT PROCESS**

**Caroline:** To access the \$46 million available for Hurricane Michael-impacted communities, DEO must fulfill certain requirements for the substantial amendment process. This involves soliciting community feedback from meetings and surveys, holding a 30-day public comment period for Panhandle stakeholders, and submitting the substantial amendment to HUD by July 9, 2021. HUD will then have 60 days to review and approve the substantial amendment.

## **SLIDE #9: CDBG-MITIGATION SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT FOR HURRICANE MICHAEL TIMELINE**

**Caroline:** This is our timeline of events that shows our Substantial Amendment process from start to finish. From the day the Federal Register was published through the Substantial Amendment submission date, we have set forth a collaborative process to help ensure that we provide funding to conduct the most important mitigation activities to increase the resilience of Panhandle communities.

## **SLIDE #10: SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**Caroline:** The requirements for the substantial amendment include a Risk-Based Needs Assessment (flooding, tropical cyclones, severe storms, wildfire, coastal erosion), a Community Participation Strategy, and outlining eligible and ineligible activities. We would like to see projects that include interagency effort and increase the resilience of the Seven Community Lifelines of Risk Reduction. A community lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.

## **SLIDE #11: RISK BASED MITIGATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**Caroline:** The risk-based mitigation needs assessment addresses current and future risks identified in the most impacted and distressed areas. As it relates to the amendment, we must identify and analyze all significant current and future disaster risks and quantitatively assess the significant potential impacts and risks of hazards. We need to support programs that have a clear alignment with the data from the risk-based mitigation needs assessment. There is no need to demonstrate direct storm tie-back. This means that you do not have to prove damage from any specific disaster to receive funding for community mitigation activities. The main goal is to minimize current and future disaster impacts based on demonstrated risks and hazards. When we think of a risk-based mitigation needs assessment, we take into account the Seven Community Lifelines that are essential in reducing the impact of hazards.

## **SLIDE #12: RISK BASED MITIGATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**Caroline:** This slide shows the Seven Community Lifelines of risk reduction. The lifelines are Safety and Security, Food Water and Shelter, Health and Medical, Energy, Communication, Transportation, and Hazardous Material. As you can see in the graphic provided, there are many options in our communities that can be fortified and supported through mitigation funding. This is by no means an exhaustive list of eligible mitigation activities, but it is a good starting point to help communities propose projects that best align with the program goals.

## **SLIDE #13: ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

**Caroline:** Eligible activities include infrastructure. We would like to see regional investments that will increase resilience in communities. We are also looking for multi-use infrastructure and natural infrastructure development. CDBG-MIT funding can also be used as match to help fund other projects. As we evaluate the types of projects to receive funds, we want to promote local and regional partnerships and coordinating and leveraging of funds.

## **SLIDE #14: ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

**Caroline:** This slide shows entities that are eligible to apply for CDBG-MIT funding. Eligible applicants include Units of General Local Government such as cities and counties, state agencies, and nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations that apply in partnership with their local city or county or state agency.

## **SLIDE #15: INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

**Caroline:** This slide shows activities that are ineligible for CDBG-MIT funding. Ineligible activities include funding for buildings used for the general conduct of government and Emergency Response Services. However, funds can be used to enhance facilities. CDBG-MIT funding cannot be used for forced mortgage payoff, enlargements of dams or levees, or assistance to private utilities.

## **SLIDE #16: NEXT STEPS**

**Caroline:** Next steps for this program include gathering community feedback for the Hurricane Michael allocation through surveys and meetings with Panhandle stakeholders. The QR code on screen will take you to the Mitigation survey. Open your smart phone camera and point it at the screen. A link will populate and take you to the Michael Mitigation survey. We are seeking as much input as we can to effectively build programs that will most benefit the impacted areas. There will also be an opportunity to hear from stakeholders during the 30-day public comment period. By July 9, 2021 DEO will submit the substantial amendment to HUD and HUD will then have 60 days to review and approve the amendment. We will provide technical assistance to interested applicants and then open the application cycle.

## **SLIDE #17: FEEDBACK/QUESTIONS**

**Caroline:** If you would like to learn more or stay up to date with where we are in our process, all pertinent information can be found on the Rebuild Florida website. You can also send us an email at [cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com). We will now take a moment to answer your questions. I am joined by Bureau Chief Alyssa Hernandez.