

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- MITIGATION

Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program Webinar

Presented by: Caroline Pryor

Slide #0: INTRODUCTION SLIDE

Caroline: Hello everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program presentation. My name is Caroline Pryor, and I'm on the Office of Disaster Recovery - Mitigation team at DEO. Today's presentation will provide an overview of the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program, application requirements, scoring criteria and next steps for the program.

SLIDE #1: AGENDA & GOALS FOR CDBG-MIT WEBINAR

Caroline: Our goals for today's webinar are to provide you with more information on the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program (GIP), explain the program objectives and outline how your communities can apply for this transformative, first-of-its-kind mitigation funding. We will begin with a brief overview of the Mitigation program, communities that are eligible for the funding, and the guidelines and objectives of the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program. Following the explanation of those guidelines, I will review the application process and scoring criteria that will be utilized to evaluate submitted applications. Then we will discuss opportunities for how you can receive further technical assistance from the DEO team. After that we will take a few moments to answer any questions you may have. 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 #2: FLORIDA DEO: OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Caroline: 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 funding for hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma. Launched in September 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 preparing for \$735 million in funds for Disaster Recovery for Hurricane Michael recovery. In total, the CDBG-MIT program has an allocation of over \$633 million for Mitigation activities.

SLIDE #3: CDBG-MIT OVERVIEW/TIMELINE

Caroline: In the Spring of 2018, HUD originally announced that Florida would receive more than \$633 million in Mitigation funding. These funds are available through HUD's newly created Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation program formed in response to the presidentially declared disasters from 2015-2017. The Federal Register was published on August 30, 2019. If you wish to view a copy of the Federal Register, please visit our website at RebuildFlorida.gov. Per federal guidelines, 51 Florida counties are eligible for the mitigation funding. For Florida, this eligibility is based on 2016 and 2017 presidentially declared disasters. On April 3, 2020, HUD approved the State Action Plan. Over the last few weeks, we've launched two new Mitigation programs and this month we have launched our final Mitigation program.

SLIDE #4: MOST IMPACTED AND DISTRESSED (MID) AREAS

Caroline: According to the guidelines set by the Federal Register, at least 50% of these funds must be spent in HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, shown in green on the map. The remaining funding can be spent in state-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, shown in yellow on the map. Additionally, as set in the Federal Register, at least 50% of the funding must benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. Also set by federal guidelines, 50% of the grant must be expended in 6 years and 100% of these funds must be expended in 12 years. To ensure that this mitigation funding can be most effective, HUD created the CDBG-MIT funding as a 12-year long program.

SLIDE #5: CDBG-MIT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Caroline: This chart displays the funding allocations for the CDBG-MIT programs. The programs we've already launched include the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program and the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program. The Mitigation infrastructure programs received 87% of the funding allocation with the General Infrastructure Program having a \$475 million allocation and the Critical Facility

Hardening Program having a \$75 million allocation and the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support program has a \$20 million allocation.

SLIDE #6: REBUILD FLORIDA MITIGATION GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (GIP)

Caroline: As previously stated, the GIP allocation is \$475 million with the application cycle opening last week on June 15th and closing on September 14th. This program will undergo three rounds of funding. This webinar is for Round I, which has an allocation of \$150 million. DEO will use a subrecipient model to administer the grant funds to eligible applicants. Subrecipients will be selected through a competitive Request for Application (RFA) process. This program is not a direct grant program and no funds will be paid directly to individuals. Those who are eligible to apply include units of general local government (UGLG) such as counties and municipalities, state agencies, and non-profits or non-governmental organizations that apply in partnership with their UGLG or state agency. Projects must benefit HUD and State designated MID areas and HUD's national objectives of benefiting Low and Moderate Income (LMI) persons and/or Unmet Needs must be accounted for in all project proposals. Hazards that should be addressed are those laid out in the State Action Plan and the Community Lifelines that will be fortified in this program are also outlined for you in this slide.

SLIDE #7: REBUILD FLORIDA GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The GIP program is designed to provide funding to units of general local government (UGLG) such as counties and municipalities, state agencies, non-profits and non-governmental organizations to implement innovative, collaborative, multi-jurisdictional and/or large-scale mitigation activities that reduce previously-identified hazard risks for local communities to better withstand emergency-related challenges. These regional investments include, but are not limited to, restoration of critical infrastructure (ex: water and sewer facilities, streets, removal of debris, drainage, bridges, etc.), renourishment of protective coastal dune systems and state beaches, building or fortifying buildings that are essential to the health, safety and welfare of a community, rehabilitation or construction of stormwater management systems, and road repair improvement and bridge strengthening. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but rather one to get you started as you think through large-scale, regional projects and identify key partnerships that will positively impact your communities.

To be eligible for funding, grant proposals must be in conformance with the state of Florida's Mitigation Action Plan, have a beneficial impact on the designated disaster

area, solve a problem independently or constitute a portion of a solution with assurance that the project as a whole will be completed, and be cost effective or substantially reduce future risks.

SLIDE #8: APPLICATION PROCESS

The GIP application window opened on June 15, 2020 and closes on September 14, 2020. Applications must describe the activity being proposed and address how and why the activity needs to be executed or updated to mitigate risks attributable to threats identified in the State of Florida Action Plan Risk-Based Mitigation Needs Assessment. Projects must also include a proposed budget with a detailed description of anticipated costs by category, including support services, program management and administration.

Responses will be evaluated to ensure proposed projects meet the minimum criteria as outlined in the application materials. Applications that meet minimum threshold requirements will then be scored. Applications will be evaluated to determine the mitigation value and cost effectiveness of the proposed project. An applicant's planning strategy and management capacity must be evident.

To receive access to DEO's user-friendly online application, instructions and a submission checklist, GIP Application Registration is available. To register, applicants should click the link on the mitigation webpage. A contact name and email address will be requested. Once registered, you will be emailed an individualized application link. The application will be available from the CDBG-MIT website until September 14, 2020.

We encourage you to use the web application; however, there is a fillable PDF application that is posted on our website. The PDF version can be downloaded, completed and submitted online to cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com.

Applications may also be submitted by mail. If a paper application is submitted in lieu of an online application, three identical hard copies must be submitted. Paper applications must be postmarked by September 14, 2020. Late applications will not be considered eligible for the General Infrastructure Program. DEO will email application receipt confirmations by close of business on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

SLIDE #9: ELIGIBLE & INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Caroline: Eligible activities for the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program include, but are not limited to: Training, Materials and supplies related to GIP activities, construction costs, rehabilitation or construction of stormwater management systems, improvements to drainage facilities, support services, participant outreach, program management and program administration.

A note about administrative costs: administrative costs can be reimbursable under the project grant agreement when the following conditions are met. Condition 1: They are allowable, reasonable and necessary. Condition 2: They are directly related to the project (invoicing, providing documentation, tracking expenditures, copying costs,

postage). Indirect costs recovery is not allowable under the CDBG-MIT program (building rent, utilities, general office expenses). Documentation must be provided for reimbursement (timesheets, hourly rates, etc.)

Ineligible costs also include but are not limited to: material or supply costs unrelated to GIP activities, costs not associated with the development of plans or planning activities, furnishings and personal property, political activities or lobbying, payments to for profit businesses who are not in compliance with CDBG assistance, and any other costs determined as unallowable or ineligible pursuant to federal laws or regulations. More information on this guidance can be found in the Mitigation General Infrastructure Program guidelines, located on the program webpage.

SLIDE #10: SCORING EVALUATION RUBRIC PHASE 1 - GIP

Caroline: DEO will utilize a two-phased review process when scoring applications. The first phase is the threshold checklist. This includes a signed and completed application with all necessary attachments of the provided templates and forms and Public Notice that was submitted on time by an eligible applicant such as a county or municipality that benefits HUD and/or State identified MID areas. Project proposals that do not meet the Mandatory Threshold Compliance Criteria will not move on to Phase 2. Phase 2 will award applicants a score based on specific scoring categories and cost effectiveness. Only the application itself (including requested attachments) will be scored. Any documents submitted with the application *that were not requested* will not be scored.

Under the Phase 2 process, there are 150 maximum points available broken out into the following categories: Project Description, Community Value, Capacity Plan, Implementation Plan, Budget, Leveraged Dollars, MID areas, Overall LMI Benefit, Social Vulnerability, and Special Designations. If eligible responses exceed available funding, applicants will be funded in rank order based on evaluation scores. Let's take a look at the online application.

SLIDE #11 APPLICATION DEMO

Caroline: Now we will do a step-by-step application walk through of our online, user-friendly application and cover each value in the scoring rubric as we go along. We developed this application with your communities in mind.

This is our landing page for the GIP application. You'll see that there are links to the guidelines as well as application instructions and templates that you'll have to fill out and attach with your submission. There's a mixture of short response, essays and templates that will need to be submitted with this application. Please note that if you do not have a unique registration link, you will be unable to return to a saved application. If you would like to receive a unique registration link, please register on the website or request one via email to cdbq-mit@deo.myflorida.com. (arrow)

Enter the information and primary contact name. (arrow)

If you are applying in partnership with another entity, this is where you would enter their co-applicant information. If you have more than three co-applicants list the three that are contributing the most to this project. Additional co-applicants can be identified in your Capacity Plan. (arrow)

For a maximum award of 20 points is Project Description. The applicant must explain in sufficient detail the nature of the project being proposed as well as its purpose and what risks are being mitigated against. Remember that the focus of the General Infrastructure Program is to support large scale, multi-jurisdictional, transformative mitigation activities. Applicants will also need to describe how the work will be completed, funding projection methods, and anticipated outcomes. (arrow)

The next 20-point category is Community Value. Here the applicant will describe the significance of the identified plan or activity, discuss which community lifelines will be fortified as a result of the project completion, and the process for involving community members in the proposed project. Here, you may attach up to 10 photos of the project site. (arrow)

The Capacity Plan, worth a maximum of 15 points, outlines goals, stakeholders, work plan (including major tasks and deliverables), addresses which staff will accomplish what tasks, budget specifics, and the applicant's monitoring and maintenance plan. (arrow)

The Public Notice Requirement must be fulfilled for all proposed mitigation activities. Applicants may use one or both of the methods outlined below to meet these HUD regulations. Resources for non-English speaking citizens must also be documented. In this case, documentation must be translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole. Public notice dates should be included in the notes section of the Implementation Plan template as well.

A maximum of 10 points may be awarded for the next category, the Implementation Plan. Here the applicant must provide a chronological timeline of events from the project's beginning to end, including all deliverables and milestones. (arrow)

Here, applicants may attach any blueprints or architectural designs relevant to their project. (arrow)

In the Budget category there is a maximum amount of 10 points. We expect detailed projections of finances for each step of the project. On this page of the application you must also acknowledge whether or not there will be a duplication of benefits. If there is a duplication of benefits, the project will be ineligible to receive funding. We want to ensure that mitigation dollars go as far as possible.

The Leveraged Dollars category also has a maximum amount of 10 points. Mitigation dollars should be used as a fund of last resort, after all other options have been exhausted. If \$1 of HUD money is used, the project becomes a HUD project and must be HUD compliant. (arrow)

Here you will choose the county or counties that are impacted by your project. There is a maximum of 10 points in the MID area category. HUD MIDs will receive 10 points and State MIDs will receive 5 points. There is a 10-point maximum for Social Vulnerability (SoVI). SoVI synthesizes a number of factors including age, gender, race and unemployment rates to identify vulnerable communities. 2 points are awarded for a low SoVI score, 4 for medium low, 6 for medium, 8 for medium high, and 10 for high. (arrow)

A maximum of 30 points may be awarded for Overall LMI benefit. Those with a higher percentage of LMI benefit area will receive higher scores. Applicants must provide specific block groups in accordance with HUD's methodology. (arrow)

A maximum of 15 points may be awarded for Special Designations. This includes areas of Critical State Concern according to Florida Statutes 380.05, rural county status, or fiscally-constrained county status. 5 points will be awarded per special designation. (arrow)

There are also a series of compliance questions. (click through and arrow)

Sign to confirm submission. (arrow)

This is the Page of No Return so please ensure that all information is submitted. Double check that everything is attached, and necessary information is included. (arrow)

Print a PDF.

(Transition back to live screen)

SLIDE #12: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Caroline: Applications will be independently reviewed and scored by DEO staff according to the aforementioned scoring criteria. We want to provide as much support as we can to program applicants. We will offer intensive Technical Assistance (TA) through July 8 on a first-come first-served basis and will transition to a more traditional TA structure after that timeframe ends. From June 25 to July 8, DEO will provide one-on-one technical assistance phone calls with interested applicants. Email your questions ahead of your scheduled call to cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com. You can also reserve a time by visiting www.picktime.com/cdbgmit. To maximize your time during the call, please review the General Infrastructure Program guidelines on the mitigation

website prior to your scheduled meeting. After July 8, applicants will have additional opportunities to receive further technical assistance from our mitigation team members.

SLIDE #13: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Caroline: Now we will dedicate the remainder of this webinar to answer questions about the program. I'm here with DEO staff member Alyssa Hernandez who represents the mitigation team. As a point of information, all slides along with a transcript of today's presentation will be made available on the program webpage. To learn more please visit www.rebuildflorida.gov And with that, let's dive into questions.