

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- MITIGATION

Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program Round II

Webinar

June 24, 2021

Presented by: Caroline Pryor

Slide #1: 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 Long-Term Resiliency's Mitigation team at DEO. Today's presentation will provide an overview of round-two of the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program, including application requirements, scoring criteria and next steps for the program.

SLIDE #2: 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 mitigation funding. We will begin with an introduction of DEO's Office of Long-Term, Resiliency and follow 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, the slides, transcript, and a recording of today's webinar be made available on the program website. And with that, let's get started.

SLIDE #3: FLORIDA DEO: OFFICE OF LONG-TERM RESILIENCY

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 Long-Term Resiliency, withing DEO's Division of

Community Development, oversees CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding for hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma and Michael. 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.

SLIDE #4: 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 #5: 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 this mitigation funding. For Florida, this eligibility is based on 2016 and 2017 presidentially declared disasters. DEO launched the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program in April of 2020. This was followed by the Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program in May of 2020. DEO launched the first round of application for the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program in June of 2020. Today's webinar is focused on the second application cycle for the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program, which opened on June 16, 2021.

SLIDE #6: 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 six 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 #7: REBUILD FLORIDA MITIGATION GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (GIP)

Caroline: \$175 million in funding has been allocated for Round 2 of the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program. The application cycle opened on June 16th and will close on September 17th. As with Round 1, DEO will use a subrecipient model to administer the grant funds to eligible applicants. Subrecipients will be selected through a competitive application 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 Urgent 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 #8: 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 identifying 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 #9: APPLICATION PROCESS

The GIP application window opened on June 16, 2021 and closes on September 17, 2021. 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 17, 2021. When your application has been successfully submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address that you provided.

DE #10: 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 #11: SCORING EVALUATION

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.

SLIDE #12 APPLICATION Walk-Through

Caroline: A step-by-step video walk-through of our user-friendly online application is available on the program webpage for you to view at your convenience, and we highly recommend that you take advantage of this resource before beginning an application. To request an application link, you must complete the application registration form, which can also be found on the program webpage. You may use the application registration form to provide basic contact information and let the mitigation team know how many applications you wish to request. For example, if you want to submit three applications, you must register three times to receive three unique links.

SLIDE #13: ROUND II RECOMMENDATIONS

Caroline: Based on applications received for previous rounds of funding, we have some helpful tips and suggestions for creating the strongest possible application. We recommend reading the Program Guidelines, Application Instructions and Checklist, and Action Plan, and watching the application walk-through video before moving forward with the application. All of these resources are available on the program webpage. Before responding to questions, review the application. Follow application instructions carefully using the resource links provided. When preparing your application, be sure to justify budget line items, and ensure eligibility requirements are met. A strong project will have a strong mitigation connection and highlight Community Lifeline benefits. Lastly, review the Public Notice to ensure that posting dates precede the application deadline.

SLIDE #14: 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 July 19 to July 30, 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 <https://www.picktime.com/taconference>. 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 30, applicants will have additional opportunities to receive further technical assistance from our mitigation team members.

SLIDE #15: QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Caroline: Now we will dedicate the remainder of this webinar to answer questions about the program. If you have a question, please type it in the questions box, and we will attempt to answer it as time allows. As a reminder, the slides along with a transcript and recording of today's presentation will be made available on the program webpage. To learn more, please visit rebuildflorida.gov And with that, let's dive into questions. I'm joined by DEO staff members Alyssa Hernandez and Joseph Oglesby who will assist in answering the questions that you submit.