

TRANSCRIPT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- MITIGATION

State Action Plan for Mitigation Substantial Amendment Overview

Presented by: Caroline Pryor

Slide #0: INTRODUCTION SLIDE

Caroline: Good afternoon everyone. Welcome the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's public hearing for the Substantial Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) State Action Plan. My name is Caroline Pryor, and I'm the Mitigation Infrastructure Manager in the Office of Long-Term Resiliency here at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). We will begin today with a presentation to provide a summary of DEO's mitigation program, the substantial amendment, and the instructions to provide public comment. At the end of the presentation, we will have a time for questions and feedback, so please enter any questions or comments that you have in the 'questions' 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. A Spanish-language version of today's presentation and transcript are available as a handout.

SLIDE #1: AGENDA

Caroline: Today's presentation 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, goals, and substantial amendment process. 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 (HUD). Following the explanation of those guidelines, I will provide an overview of the substantial amendment. 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 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: HUD 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 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, and submitting the substantial amendment to HUD by July 9, 2021. HUD will then have 60 days to review and approve the substantial amendment. In April, DEO hosted a series of community workshops in Panhandle communities that were impacted by Hurricane Michael, as well as a public webinar and an online survey. Feedback from this community engagement has been incorporated into the initial draft of the Substantial Amendment, which was posted for public comment on May 24. Today's hearing is part of the public comment period, which will conclude on June 23.

SLIDE #6: 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 #7: SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT OVERVIEW

Caroline: The substantial amendment that we have developed in collaboration with community stakeholders and state agencies includes the 2018 CDBG-MIT Allocation, a Risk-Based Needs Assessment (flooding, tropical cyclones, severe storms, wildfire, coastal erosion), outlines of eligible communities and activities, and a description of the program to be offered.

SLIDE #8: 2018 CDBG-MITIGATION PROGRAM ALLOCATION

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 #9: 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 and is specific to Panhandle communities. The risk-based mitigation needs assessment must quantitatively assess the potential impacts and risks of hazards and must utilize the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). As mitigation needs evolve over time and conditions change, the program will make and submit amendments to the initial assessment.

SLIDE #10: Community Lifelines

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. 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: Eligible Counties

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 #12: MITIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Caroline: To streamline program delivery to panhandle communities, DEO will utilize the funding allocation for Hurricane Michael to offer one consolidated infrastructure program. The program will focus on risk reduction for the hazards identified in the State Action Plan's risk-based mitigation needs assessment. Again, those hazards include flooding, severe storms, tropical cyclones, coastal erosion, and wildfires.

SLIDE #13: ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Caroline: 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. Some activities that will be eligible under the Mitigation Infrastructure Program will be: the upgrading of public infrastructure like water, sewer, solid waste, communications, energy, and transportation; the hardening of critical buildings that serve a public safety purpose for local communities; and the hardening of energy resiliency projects that ensure the most critical facilities have access to power throughout and following an emergency.

SLIDE #14: CDBG-MITIGATION TIMELINE- NEXT STEPS

Caroline: Next steps for this program include gathering public comment on the substantial amendment for the Hurricane Michael allocation during this 30-day Public Comment Period through public meetings like this one and the online Public Comment Form. 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 #15: SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT CONTENT

Caroline: A comprehensive description of the changes included in the Substantial Amendment to the CDBG-Mitigation State Action Plan is included on pages ii through xii in the draft of the Substantial Amendment, located on the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program webpage at RebuildFlorida.gov

SLIDE #16: HOW TO SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT

Caroline: Interested parties are encouraged to submit their comments using the online Public Comment Form, also available on the Mitigation webpage. The bottom right corner of the screen shows what the Public Comment Form looks like. Participants will be asked for their name, email, and organization, which are optional. Instructions for submitting a comment are also available on the webpage. Comments must be submitted via the online form by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. A summary of comments will be included in the Action Plan when it is submitted to HUD.

SLIDE #17: COMMENTS/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. We will now take a moment to answer your questions. I am joined by Alyssa Hernandez and Joseph Oglesby.