

# **PRESENTATION**

## *COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY*

### *Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program Overview for Hurricane Michael*

*Presented by: Shumikia Duval*

*December 3, 2020*

#### **Slide #1: INTRODUCTION SLIDE**

**Shumikia:** Hello everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program overview. My name is Shumikia Duval, and I'm on the Office of Disaster Recovery Team at DEO. Today's presentation will provide an overview of the Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program for Hurricane Michael-impacted communities, including application requirements, scoring criteria and next steps for the program.

#### **SLIDE #2: AGENDA & GOALS FOR WEBINAR**

**Shumikia:** Our goals for today's webinar are to provide you with more information on the Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program, explain the program objectives and outline how your communities can apply for this funding. We will begin with a brief overview of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. We will then discuss which communities are eligible for the funding, and the guidelines and objectives of the Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization 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 questions. 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 #3: FLORIDA DEO: OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY**

**Shumikia:** 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. The Office of Disaster Recovery is a branch within DEO that oversees CDBG-DR funding for hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma and Michael, as well as the CDBG-Mitigation program. 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. The CDBG-DR allocation for Hurricane Michael totals \$735 million.

### **SLIDE #4: CDBG-DR OVERVIEW/TIMELINE**

**Shumikia:** As we are all well-aware, Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida Panhandle in October of 2018. In May of 2019, HUD announced \$448 million in CDBG-DR funding, followed by an additional \$287 million in December of that year. On January 2, 2020, HUD published the Federal Register necessary for the state of Florida to develop its federally-required Action Plan to access the funding. In February of this year, DEO hosted several public outreach meetings throughout Hurricane Michael-impacted communities and hosted a webinar to seek feedback on development of the State Action Plan. In March, DEO posted an initial draft of the State Action Plan for public comment and submitted the State Action Plan to HUD on May 14, 2020, months ahead of schedule. The State Action Plan was approved by HUD on June 26, 2020 and since then DEO has launched the following Rebuild Florida programs on your screen.

### **SLIDE #5: MOST IMPACTED AND DISTRESSED (MID) AREAS**

**Shumikia:** HUD designated Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington counties as Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas. The state of Florida then designated an additional three counties, Holmes, Leon and Taylor, as the remaining MID areas. According to the guidelines set by the Federal Register, at least 80% of the allocated funds must be spent in HUD-designated MID areas, shown in green on the map. The remaining funding can be spent in state-designated MID areas, shown in blue on the map.

### **SLIDE #6: Rebuild Florida Programs for Hurricane Michael Recovery**

**Shumikia:** DEO will use the allocated funding to launch six disaster recovery programs in the HUD and state-designated MID areas. The Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure

Repair Program, which launched on September 2, 2020, is designed to fund infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities impacted by Hurricane Michael. The Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program, which launched on November 18, will support the recovery of economic activity in commercial areas of impacted towns and cities, facilitating the return and recovery of businesses, jobs and provision of goods and services to the community. The Rebuild Florida Workforce Recovery Training Program, launched on October 2, will provide funding opportunities for local workforce development boards, educational institutions and technical centers located in the communities most impacted by Hurricane Michael to train new workers in construction trades. The Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program, which launched on August 17, 2020, is designed to encourage risk reduction through the purchase of residential property in high flood-risk areas to help reduce the impact of future disasters. Local governments that are within the federal and state designated MID areas are eligible to apply for funding. Additionally, on October 5, DEO launched the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program which is designed to help Fiscally Constrained Counties impacted by Hurricane Michael access Rebuild Florida's long-term disaster recovery programs by providing assistance with application development, including project identification, project cost determination, and scope of work preparation.

Lastly, The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program, will repair, replace or reconstruct homes damaged by Hurricane Michael.

## **SLIDE #7: Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program**

**Shumikia:** As we previously stated, the Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program application cycle opened on November 18 and the deadline to submit an application is February 16, 2021. The program has an allocation of just over \$60 million, with the minimum award amount being \$250,000 and a maximum amount of \$15 million available to eligible applicants. DEO will use a subrecipient model to administer the grant funds to eligible applicants. Those who are eligible to apply for this funding include Unit of Local Governments, State Agencies, Community Revitalization Agencies, Community Development Districts, Community Based Development Organizations or Non-Profits that primarily engages with Community Redevelopment Activities that applies in partnership with their Unit of Local Government 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, slum and blight and/or Urgent Need must be accounted for in all project proposals

## **SLIDE #8: Eligible Activities**

**Shumikia:** To be eligible for consideration of funding, projects must align with CDBG-DR requirements and priorities as outlined in the Action Plan and the Federal Register, including but not limited to those listed on your screen:

HRP awards are for the revitalization of a designated commercial district that has been damaged by Hurricane Michael.

Projects may focus on the physical revitalization of a commercial district through rehabilitation, reconstruction, or demolition.

Eligible uses of funds include, but are not limited to:

- Public facility improvements, including streetscapes, lighting, sidewalks, and other physical improvements to commercial areas;
- Acquisition, demolition, site preparation, or rehabilitation of commercial structures carried out by a unit of local government;
- Assistance to small businesses for rehabilitation and physical improvements to their places of business; and
- Façade improvements to private or public structures in commercial areas.

## **SLIDE #9: Ineligible Uses of Funding**

Ineligible activities under the Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program include:

- Working capital, operational capital or start-up capital for a business or business incubator.
- New construction of a commercial building that was not present prior to Hurricane Michael.
- Purchase of equipment.
- Inventory, furnishings, equipment or similar items provided to a business that are not related to improvements of real property.
- Acquisition of property via Eminent Domain.
- General government expenses.

## SLIDE #10: Application Scoring Criteria

**Shumikia:** DEO will apply a two-phased process to review applications. First, proposals must pass HUD CDBG-DR Threshold Compliance Criteria.

Second, DEO will review and score each proposal based on Scoring Criteria, as seen here.

If a proposal does not meet any of the Threshold Criteria, DEO cannot proceed to score it for funding consideration.

Threshold compliance criteria include benefit to LMI individuals and benefit to LMI areas. Projects or programs must also address a clear unmet need, be tied to Hurricane Michael, and primarily serve housing activities.

Once a proposal is determined to satisfy CDBG-DR's Threshold Compliance Criteria, then DEO will apply scoring based on the following Scoring Criteria for a maximum of 140 points:

**1. Overall LMI Benefit:** To meet this criteria and to receive a maximum of 30 points, the LMI score will be determined on the service area the project serves, in order to calculate the LMI score. The applicant should provide their LMI data for the project service area in a percentage form. For example, if the service area LMI is 65% DEO will multiply by 30 (the maximum amount of points) to receive the final LMI score of 19.5 points.

**2. Project Description:** For a maximum of 20 points, write an overview/summary, not to exceed 2,500 words, of the project being proposed.

- State the project purpose and include a description of the proposed activity.
- Next, specify the businesses that will be assisted by completion of this project.
- Then describe the tie-back to Hurricane Michael.
- Next, describe how the work will be done and the team assembled to complete work.
- Explain the method used to determine project funding requirements.
- Next, describe anticipated outcomes.
- Describe how the project will be maintained after it is completed.
- If not using the LMI national objective, provide justification for using slum or blight; or urgent need national objective.

**3. Project Impact:** For a maximum of 20 points, the applicant must describe the impact of the project in expanding permanent employment opportunities, including opportunities for LMI individuals.

**4. Leverage of Funds:** To receive 20 points, the applicant can leverage other funding sources for the project.

-This can be achieved by using HRP funds as local match for federal programs such as FEMA PA, or when the community uses local funds to supplement the HRP funding.

**5. Management Capacity Plan:** To earn a maximum of 10 points, Provide a strategic plan overview of 1,500 words or less that addresses goals, stakeholders, the work plan (major tasks and deliverables), resources (staffing and budget) and monitoring/quality controls. Describe any community partnerships and roles. Identify the staff members who will be responsible and/or positions that will be filled for the HRP project management and maintenance. Provide a short profile on each person on your current staff who perform project-related tasks and a brief position description for any new hires who will be assigned to project work.

**6. Special Designation:** To receive 10 points, the application outlines the qualification as a special designation Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) eligible county or community.

**7. Budget:** For a maximum of 10 points, include your project budget using the Budget Worksheet provided as Appendix A. The project budget must be cost-reasonable, appropriate and accurate. Budgeted items must be consistent with the project description and tasks. The funding requested must meet the HRP minimum award of \$250,000. Applicants must demonstrate there is no duplication of benefits.

**8. Project Readiness:** To earn up to 10 points, planning is complete, and the project is ready to break ground after the completion of a required HUD compliant environmental review or assessment and funds are available. Initial planning has been completed and the procurement process is ready to begin.

**9. Project Located in a HUD or State-Identified MID Area:** To receive 10 points, the project must be located in a HUD-designated MID, if the project resides in a State-designated MID area, you can receive 5 points.

## **SLIDE #11: Technical Assistance**

**Shumikia:** DEO will provide Technical Assistance (TA) to Hometown Revitalization Program applicants. You may email your questions in advance to: [CDBG-DRMichaelHRP@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:CDBG-DRMichaelHRP@deo.myflorida.com).

If you are an eligible entity in a state-designated Fiscally Constrained County and in need of assistance with application development, including project identification, project cost determination, and scope of work preparation, you may also apply for the Rebuild Florida Technical Assistance Grant Program.

## **SLIDE #12: Questions**

**Shumikia:** We will now take some time to answer questions that you may have. You may submit questions by typing them in the questions box. I am joined by Joseph Oglesby from DEO's Office of Disaster Recovery to assist in answering questions.

Thank you.