Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Economic Impact Scoring Categories

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The State of Florida's CDBG-CV application scoring criteria includes a measure of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities. This memo describes the methodology used to determine the economic impact scoring categories for eligible communities.

Measure of Economic Impact

The measurement that will be used to assess economic impact is the change in unemployment claims, as a percentage of the labor force, between 2019 and 2020, at the county level.[1] This statistic was used because (1) it is easy to obtain and (2) since it is a percentage, it ensures that larger areas do not get an unfair advantage when it comes to scoring. This measure is also consistent with the state's CDBG-CV2 method of distribution and follows HUD precedent for measuring the economic impact of COVID.

Scoring Categories

After calculating the measure of economic impact (change in unemployment), we considered the following goals in determining the scoring categories:

1. Use a methodology that is statistically accurate and unbiased.

2. Use a methodology that is logical, consistent, and easy to understand.

3. Ensure that the methodology creates fair groups on an individual community basis.

To obtain a baseline for the breaks that should be used, a statistical method known as kernel density estimation was used to approximate the density function for the changes

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[1] The specific calculation approximates the unemployment rate attributable to COVID and is calculated by taking the difference in claimants pre and post COVID (March 2020 to Jan 2021 compared to the same period the previous year) and then dividing by the labor force.

in unemployment claims. In other words, this method identifies natural "breaks" in the data based on the distribution of our economic impact measure across communities. After adjusting for outliers and rounding (for simplicity), the following natural data breaks (and associated point allocations) were identified:

**Figure 1.
Scoring Categories**

Note:

*This is an approximation of unemployment rate attributable to COVID. It is calculated by taking the difference in claimants pre and post COVID (March 2020 to Jan 2021 compared to the same period the previous year) and then dividing by the labor force.

Source:

Root Policy Research and Florida DEO.

Change in Unemployment (2019 to 2020)	Point Allocation for CDBG-CV Applications
Less than 8%	0 points
8% to 11.99%	10 points
12% to 15.99%	20 points
16%-19.99%:	30 points
20%-23.99%:	40 points
24% or more	50 points

Percent change in unemployment and associated scoring is shown by county in the following figure. Individual communities within each county will be given the county-wide score.

**Figure 2.
Economic Impact
Scoring by County**

Note:

*This is an approximation of unemployment rate attributable to COVID. It is calculated by taking the difference in claimants pre and post COVID (March 2020 to Jan 2021 compared to the same period the previous year) and then dividing by the labor force.

Source:

Root Policy Research and Florida DEO.

County	Entire County is CDBG Entitlements?	Change in UI Claims over Labor Force*	Point Allocation
Alachua	No	14.4%	20 points
Baker	No	12.2%	20 points
Bay	No	21.1%	40 points
Bradford	No	14.7%	20 points
Brevard	Yes	20.5%	40 points
Broward	Yes	28.7%	50 points
Calhoun	No	12.9%	20 points
Charlotte	No	21.6%	40 points
Citrus	No	23.4%	40 points
Clay	No	14.7%	20 points
Collier	Yes	20.2%	40 points
Columbia	No	17.4%	30 points
DeSoto	No	12.6%	20 points
Dixie	No	12.6%	20 points
Duval	Yes	20.1%	40 points
Escambia	Yes	20.4%	40 points
Flagler	No	22.4%	40 points
Franklin	No	18.6%	30 points
Gadsden	No	16.6%	30 points
Gilchrist	No	12.5%	20 points
Glades	No	9.7%	10 points
Gulf	No	14.9%	20 points
Hamilton	No	18.2%	30 points

**Figure 2
(continued).
Economic Impact
Scoring by County**

Note:

*This is an approximation of
unemployment rate
attributable to COVID. It is
calculated by taking the
difference in claimants pre and
post COVID (March 2020 to Jan
2021 compared to the same
period the previous year) and
then dividing by the labor force.

Source:

Root Policy Research and
Florida DEO.

County	Entire County is CDBG Entitlements?	Change in UI Claims over Labor Force*	Point Allocation
Hardee	No	14.4%	20 points
Hendry	No	17.0%	30 points
Hernando	No	23.1%	40 points
Highlands	No	21.0%	40 points
Hillsborough	Yes	21.9%	40 points
Holmes	No	13.5%	20 points
Indian River	No	21.4%	40 points
Jackson	No	14.5%	20 points
Jefferson	No	13.2%	20 points
Lafayette	No	9.1%	10 points
Lake	Yes	25.9%	50 points
Lee	Yes	22.5%	40 points
Leon	No	16.6%	30 points
Levy	No	17.6%	30 points
Liberty	No	11.7%	10 points
Madison	No	15.3%	20 points
Manatee	Yes	20.7%	40 points
Marion	Yes	20.9%	40 points
Martin	No	17.4%	30 points
Miami-Dade	Yes	31.6%	50 points
Monroe	No	31.8%	50 points
Nassau	No	16.3%	30 points
Okaloosa	No	19.1%	30 points
Okeechobee	No	13.1%	20 points
Orange	Yes	33.6%	50 points
Osceola	Yes	44.3%	50 points
Palm Beach	Yes	24.0%	50 points
Pasco	Yes	21.9%	40 points
Pinellas	Yes	21.9%	40 points
Polk	Yes	27.8%	50 points
Putnam	No	21.7%	40 points
Santa Rosa	No	15.0%	20 points
Sarasota	Yes	21.4%	40 points
Seminole	Yes	20.9%	40 points
St. Johns	Yes	16.1%	30 points
St. Lucie	No	23.1%	40 points
Sumter	No	18.0%	30 points
Suwannee	No	13.8%	20 points
Taylor	No	17.6%	30 points
Union	No	13.0%	20 points
Volusia	Yes	23.3%	40 points
Wakulla	No	11.5%	10 points
Walton	No	22.9%	40 points
Washington	No	16.6%	30 points