

# **TRANSCRIPT**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY ACTION PLAN UPDATES**

PRESENTED BY: MIKAYLA CATANI AND EMILIE OGLESBY

### **INTRODUCTION SLIDE**

**Mikayla:** “Good morning everyone. Thank you for joining us today. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s Action Plan Update Overview. My name is Mikayla Catani. I am the Community Disaster Recovery Program Coordinator here at DEO. With me today is Emilie Oglesby, the Disaster Recovery External Affairs Director. Today’s webinar will provide a summary of the state’s Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. The webinar will provide a timeline of events, a summary of the action plan as it is currently written, highlights of the federal guidance and its requirements and DEO’s next steps. Please note, we will not be taking questions during this webinar. If you have a question, please type it in the grey question box on your screen. We will do our best to respond after the webinar is over. To begin, I want to give a brief overview of how the disaster recovery sequence takes place. When a disaster occurs, the state must first declare a disaster and submit it to the president for concurrence. Once the president concurs and declares a disaster, that allows for the usage of certain federal funding such as FEMA and SBA. Those funding streams are available immediately after an event and for response and recovery activities. Then as that immediate response is taking place, Congress may be considering additional supplemental funding to vote on, which is signed into law by the president. Once funds are appropriated by Congress, HUD will publish guidelines in what is called the Federal Register. After the Federal Register is issued, the process for accessing CDBG-Disaster Recovery assistance can formally begin.”

### **SLIDE 1 ACTION PLAN TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

“Here is where we are at so far. After Hurricane Irma made landfall in September 2017, Congress appropriated \$7.4 billion for disaster recovery through the CDBG-Disaster Recovery program nationwide. In November 2017 HUD announced Florida will receive approximately \$616 million of this appropriation. In February, HUD released guidance that must be followed to receive the funding. Additionally, Congress also appropriated another \$28 billion for disaster recovery through the CDBG program nationwide. Florida will receive \$791 million from this additional appropriation. From the \$791 million, \$157 million will address remaining unmet needs and the remaining \$634 million will be used to address mitigation. DEO submitted its action plan to HUD in May 2018 and the plan was officially approved in June. Since June, DEO has been working to implement all programs within the action plan”

## **Slide 2 \$157 MILLION**

“As DEO is beginning to implement our programs from the initial \$616,922,00 million, HUD released the federal guidance for \$157,676,00 million in funding from the second appropriation. DEO now has 90 days to complete a substantial amendment to the state of Florida’s action plan. To do this, DEO will update its unmet needs assessment for Florida, work with other states to follow best practices and evaluate programs that could be created or expanded.”

## **Slide 3 CURRENT SUMMARY IMPACT AND UNMET NEEDS**

“DEO completed an unmet needs assessment in March of 2018. To complete our Assessment, we pulled data from several different sources and community feedback. To determine unmet need, Florida’s methodology includes the following formula

the Estimated storm impacts – Funds made available through FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Association (or SBA), and the National Flood Insurance Program (or NFIP) = Florida’s Unmet Need.

Additionally, we examined the storm’s impact on the most vulnerable populations in the state. After looking at the data of impacts and unmet needs from Hurricanes Irma and Maria, it was determined that the total estimated impacts from these storms is about \$17.4 billion across the three sectors of housing, infrastructure, and the economy, and the total estimated unmet need is greater than \$10.9 billion. The housing sector represents the greatest unmet need at 62.51 percent, followed with economic revitalization at 33.95 percent and infrastructure at 3.54 percent of the total unmet need.

The results from our assessment indicate the importance of focusing programs on housing recovery first, then the economy and infrastructure recovery.”

## **Slide 4 and 5 KEY GUIDELINES FOR CDBG-DR**

Our next few slides focus on the key guidelines on how CDBG-DR funds can be used. These key guidelines for the funding are outlined in the Federal Register and include: Flexible funding to address the community’s needs, that the state is the primary grantee and will prepare the Action Plan for HUD. CDBG-DR funding can be used to address long-term disaster recovery needs after all other resources have been exhausted. This includes activities related to housing, infrastructure and economic development. It is DEO’s responsibility to prepare that Action Plan. Both non-entitlement and entitlement communities will be eligible to participate in state programs included in the Action Plan. Funds must primarily consider and address housing unmet needs, but may also include unmet need in economic revitalization and infrastructure needs that are unrelated to unmet housing needs if DEO can demonstrate in its needs assessment that there is no

remaining unmet housing need or that the remaining unmet housing need will be addressed by other sources of funds. This is new from the latest federal register.

Activities must also meet one of HUD's three national objectives:

1. Benefit persons of low- and moderate-income
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
3. Meet other urgent community development needs because of serious or immediate threat

70 percent of all funding must go to the 1<sup>st</sup> national objective of benefiting persons of low- and moderate-income

### **Slide 6 NEW REQUIREMENTS**

With the latest appropriation of roughly \$157 million, HUD released a second federal register last month. Some significant changes include: new communities, slight adjustments with affordability periods, public comment has been extended from 14-days to 30 days, we must update our needs assessment and reach back out with affected citizens, we may also include disaster related preparedness and mitigation measures. New communities included in this federal register are:

Clay County

Hillsborough County

Palm Beach County

St. Lucie County

Osceola County

Additional ZIP codes include:

32145 and 32084 in St. Johns County

32771 in Seminole County

33935 and 33440 in Hendry County

33523 in Pasco County

33825 and 33870 in Highlands County

### **Slide 7 FUNDING BREAKDOWN**

This slide shows the new funding breakdown from the latest federal register. These updates will be included in the substantial amendment process. At least 80 percent of

this funding most go to the HUD-identified most impacted and distressed communities. The bolded communities in the table are new additions. As mentioned before, it is also important to note that 70 percent of the total funds must be spend on LMI populations.

### **Slide 8 ACTION PLAN PROGRAM DESIGN**

We are now about to cover the programs within the action plan. The programs are broken up into our main categories of housing, economic revitalization and public assistance. In the action plan DEO references infrastructure with the next appropriation of funding.

### **Slide 9 ACTION PLAN PROGRAM DETAILS**

DEO has four housing programs in the action plan.

### **Slide 10 HOUSING REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

The first program is the Housing Repair and Replacement Program. This is a state-run program where applicants will be able to apply for repairs, reconstruction or replacement of their homes damaged by Hurricane Irma. Eligible activities under this program can include:

### **Slide 11-13 WORKFORCE AFFORDABLE RENTAL**

Next, we have three programs that will be run by Florida Housing Finance Corporation. These programs are Workforce Affordable Rental New Construction, Workforce Affordable Rental New Construction- Small Rental Developments and Land Acquisition. FHFC will be presenting a workshop on September 24 to cover a high level review of the programs and how their applications will work. Activities within the new construction programs will include utilizing low-income housing tax credits and zero interest loans. These programs will focus on the new construction of multi-family affordable rental housing. These rental projects will have a minimum affordability period of 15 years, depending on the projects. The Land Acquisition program will assist applicants by funding the purchase of land for the development of affordable housing. These programs will have a competitive application.

### **Slide 14 VOLUNTARY HOME BUYOUT PROGRAM**

The Voluntary Home Buyout Program will have two potential funding options for pursuing home buyout. This program will allow for the leveraging of CDBG-DR funds as a match for projects that are eligible for HMGP, as well as projects located in LMI areas to support permanent open space supporting green infrastructure or other floodplain management systems.

#### **Slide 15 ACTION PLAN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION PROGRAM DETAILS**

Moving into Economic Revitalization, DEO has two programs in the action plan.

#### **Slide 16 RECOVERY WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM**

DEO's first program is a recovery workforce training program. The purpose of this program is to meet the growing workforce needs by providing training programs, primarily in the housing construction field. To name a few, training could include roofing, plumbing, OJT. The CDBG-DR office will be working with our Division of Workforce to help us implement this program.

#### **Slide 17 BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM**

DEO's next program is the Business Recovery Grant Program. This program will assist eligible business owners who are seeking reimbursement for the cost of replacing equipment and inventory that was damaged.

#### **Slide 18 ACTION PLAN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DETAILS**

Continuing on, our last program is for public assistance. When Hurricane Maria hit, many Puerto Ricans were displacement and forced to relocate here in Florida.

#### **Slide 19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE TO NEW FLORIDIANS FROM PUERTO RICO**

This program will help these new Floridians by providing assistance for new businesses and entrepreneurs who have migrated. Some activities under this program will include: Business plan guidance, information about regional markets, accounting and legal assistance, and other assistance such as educational seminars.

#### **Slide 20 DEO'S NEXT STEPS**

Throughout this month, DEO will continue to host meetings to hear feedback from your communities. After the conclusion of this webinar, DEO will send out a survey. We encourage you all to fill out this survey based on your community and the unmet need that remains from Hurricane Irma. The feedback we get from you all is invaluable in helping us to understand what your community needs.

In October, DEO will be publishing our draft substantial amendment of the action plan to our webpage for a 30-day public comment period. This amendment will include new federal register requirements and technical amendments. Once the draft is posted to the webpage, DEO will hold an additional webinar. This webinar will cover all the changes made in the action plan and the community feedback we received in September.

In November, DEO will finalize our draft substantial amendment, address public comment and submit to HUD. HUD will then have 45 days to approve the amendment.

## **Slide 21 CONTACT US**

Once again, we strongly encourage you all to fill out our survey. We really appreciate your time in joining us for this webinar this morning. There is a PDF attached in this presentation, but if you don't see it please email us and we will send it to you. We will respond to all questions when the webinar is over. If you are interested in joining our mailing list, go to our website at [www.floridajobs.org\CDBG-DR](http://www.floridajobs.org/CDBG-DR) look at the right top of the page. Have a wonderful day and please do not hesitate to email or call with any questions you might have.