

TRANSCRIPT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY IRMA UNMET NEEDS ASSESSMENT WEBINAR

PRESENTED BY: HEATHER MARTIN AND JAMIE MCNEASE

INTRODUCTION SLIDE

Heather: “Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to DEO’s community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery Unmet Needs Assessment Webinar. My name is Heather Martin. I am the Community Disaster Recovery Chief here at DEO. With me today is also Jamie McNease, the Disaster Recovery Program Manager, and Mikayla Catani the Disaster Recovery Assistant.”

SLIDE 1

Heather: “Thank you for joining us today. Today’s webinar is to go over the state’s long-term disaster recovery process which will include an overview of the CDGB-DR program, a projected timeline for implementation and the majority of the focus of this webinar will be a summary of the impacts to the state of Florida and Unmet Needs Assessment.”

SLIDE 2

Heather: “In September 2017, Congress appropriated \$7.4 billion for disaster recovery through the CDBG-DR program nationwide. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced Florida will receive \$616 million in federal funding for long-term recovery from Hurricane Irma. In February, HUD released guidelines that must be followed to receive the funding as well as appropriated an additional \$28 billion for disaster recovery to the CBDG program nationwide. Recently, on April 10, HUD announced \$791 million for remaining unmet needs for Hurricane Irma to support mitigation activities. We anticipate the HUD will provide an additional federal register to guide the allocation of the new funding.”

SLIDE 3

Heather: “Here is a projected timeline of events for the CDBG-DR program. 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 and in March through meetings and webinars DEO worked with communities to finalize the unmet needs assessment and received feedback to determine how to best design programs to address those needs. This month DEO will post the draft action plan on its website for a 14-day public comment period. The action plan must be submitted to HUD no later than May 15 which will then give HUD 45-days to approve the action plan or provide feedback. In July DEO anticipates an approved Action Plan from HUD or feedback. In August DEO anticipates receiving a grant agreement from HUD and in Fall of 2018 DEO anticipates working with eligible communities to implement programs developed in the action plan.”

SLIDE 4

Heather: “HUD’s guidance states that 80% of the funding must be expended for recovery in the HUD identified “most impacted and distressed” areas. HUD recently released the following breakdown, based on their assessment of unmet need in Florida which can also be found in the Federal Register.”

SLIDE 5

Heather: “Key guidelines for the funding are outlined in the Federal Register for CDBG-Disaster Recovery. These guidelines include: Flexible funding to address the community’s needs, that the state is the primary grantee and will prepare the Action Plan for HUD. This is a responsibility of DEO 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. Funds can also be used to address unmet economic revitalization and infrastructure needs, but in doing so, the state must identify how housing needs will be addressed or how the proposed economic revitalization and infrastructure activities will contribute to long-term recovery and restoration of housing.”

SLIDE 6

Heather: “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.”

SLIDE 7

Heather: “At this time, I will turn it over to Jamie McNease our Program Manager to explain the unmet needs assessment.”

Jamie: “Good afternoon. I am Jamie McNease and I’m the Community Disaster Recovery Manager here at DEO. I will be going over our Unmet Needs Assessment

with you all today. For our Unmet Needs Assessment, we pulled data from several different sources. This table shows our data sources for housing, infrastructure, and economic development and the dates each data set was pulled.”

SLIDE 8

Jamie: “To arrive at the total unmet need, the basic equation we used was:

Estimated storm impact – 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”

SLIDE 9

Jamie: “In the Federal Register released by HUD on February 9 of this year, 10 counties and 4 zip codes were identified as being the “most impacted and distressed” from Hurricane Irma.

These counties and communities include:

- Brevard County
- Broward County
- Collier County
- Duval County
- Lee County
- Miami-Dade County
- Monroe County
- Orange County
- Volusia County
- Polk County
- 32068 (which is in Clay County)
- 32091 (which is in Bradford County)
- 32136 (which is in Flagler County)
- 34266 (which is in Desoto County)”

SLIDE 10

Jamie: “As a part of our unmet needs assessment, we examined the storm’s impact on the most vulnerable populations in the state.

Those populations of individuals with special needs, or individuals who will require assistance with accessing and/or receiving disaster resources, include:

- Children
- Older adults
- Pregnant women
- People who are transportation disadvantaged
- Homeless individuals, and

- Those who have limited English proficiency or who only speak a language other than English”

SLIDE 11

Jamie: “These maps show the percentages of these special needs populations in the counties that were declared by FEMA for Individual and Public Assistance.

As you can see from the first figure, there are higher percentages of non-English speaking populations in South Florida.

The second figure shows that Monroe County, in particular, has a higher population of older individuals than most other counties in the state.

The third figure, which shows the percentage of the population living below the poverty line, indicates a higher concentration of those living below poverty level in Central Florida and some in North Central Florida.

Finally, the last figure showing the percentage of mobile home populations in Florida, demonstrates the overall high percentage of individuals living in mobile homes throughout the state.

The most noticeable location with a lower percentage of the population living in mobile homes is in Southeast Florida, although other communities exist throughout the state.”

SLIDE 12

Jamie: “Although Florida did not receive a direct hit from Hurricane Maria last fall, we did receive a large influx of individuals evacuating from Puerto Rico.

In order to assess the overall impact of the population increase due to storm evacuees, we looked at school enrollment data.

In total, 10,324 students who were previously enrolled in Puerto Rican schools prior to the storm are now enrolled in Florida schools.

A total of 59,196 evacuees are now in Florida and are looking to resettle and restart their lives here.

CDBG-DR funding assists primarily low-moderate income individuals and populations, and it is estimated that of those 59 thousand evacuees, 28,896 families are considered to be low-moderate income.”

SLIDE 13

Jamie: “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.

The economy follows the housing sector at 33.95 percent and infrastructure represents 3.54 percent of the total unmet need.

This indicates the importance of focusing programs on housing recovery first, then the economy and infrastructure recovery.”

SLIDE 14

Jamie: “To arrive at the total unmet need for housing, we had to look at the available storm impact data.

More than 2.6 million applicants filed for FEMA Individual Assistance statewide as a result of Hurricane Irma.

Of these, more than 57 percent live in single family homes or duplexes, 22 percent live in apartments and 8 percent live in mobile homes.”

SLIDE 15

Jamie: “Another staggering number is the amount of individuals living in rental housing who are requesting assistance.

Nearly 50 percent of the FEMA Individual Assistance program applicants indicated that they live in rental housing, and over 1.1 million of those are also at a low-moderate income.

The figure shown here indicates that a high concentration of renters live in Monroe County, Broward County and in South Miami-Dade County, as well as other communities throughout the state.”

SLIDE 16

Jamie: “Another population that experienced a substantial impact from the storm is the Mobile Home population.

Of the FEMA Individual Assistance program applicants, 202,927 of them reside in mobile homes.

As shown in the figure here, almost the entire state has a high concentration of individuals living in mobile homes, with the exception of Southeast Florida.”

SLIDE 17

Jamie: “Another issue faced by Floridians when Hurricane Irma hit was flooding.

In Florida, approximately 3.1 million residential structures are located in the 100-year flood zone.

Of those, only about 1.8 million are insured by flood insurance policies.”

SLIDE 18

Jamie: “After the storm hit, several federal agencies made funds available to help with the immediate impacts of the storm.

The main federal funding sources include:

- FEMA Individual Assistance
- Low-interest loans from SBA
- Insurance proceeds from NFIP

These three funding streams account for the majority of the federal funding made available prior to CDBG-DR funding.”

SLIDE 19

Jamie: “HUD prepared a methodology to assess Florida’s unmet housing need and justify the allocation of \$404.4 million. For housing unmet needs, HUD used the following equation:

HUD estimated that the housing unmet needs would equal the number of housing units with unmet needs multiplied by the estimated cost to repair those housing units, minus the repair funds already provided by FEMA, SBA and NFIP.

To arrive at the estimated number of housing units with unmet needs, HUD looked at the total number of units with FEMA-inspected damage, then separated those out into three groups: Owners inside or outside the flood plain, Owners with or without flood or hazard insurance, and renters.

From there, HUD drilled down to exclude the housing units with less than \$8,000 in FEMA-inspected damage, all housing units with flood or hazard insurance, and those with higher percentages of area median income or AMI.

HUD went from 122,511 damaged units all the way down to 7,951 units classified as having serious unmet housing repair needs.”

SLIDE 20

Jamie: “Based on HUD’s methodology, Florida used a similar method to determine actual unmet need for housing.

We added up the total loss based on data received from SBA and FEMA, which came out to be around \$7.1 billion.

Then we subtracted the total amount of federal funds received to-date for recovery, which resulted in a decrease to approximately \$5.4 billion.

After this, we factored in 20 percent to account for resilience or funding needed to support rebuilding to higher standards, which comes out to be about \$6.8 billion.

Then, we have to subtract what was already allocated to us by HUD, which is \$404.4 million for housing unmet needs.

This brings us to our total estimated unmet housing need of \$6.4 billion.”

SLIDE 21

Jamie: ‘Infrastructure systems affected by the Hurricane Irma included roadways, bridges and state beaches with little reported damage to wastewater treatment systems or drinking water.

The immediate recovery efforts were well-documented by the individual recovery support functions and by the initial project worksheets being submitted for Public Assistance.

Infrastructure unmet need is based upon data received from the FEMA Public Assistance program.

The FEMA Public Assistance (FEMA-PA) Program is designed to provide immediate assistance to impacted jurisdictions for emergency protective measures and permanent repairs to infrastructure and community facilities.

Based on this data, a remaining unmet need of \$387,515,822 (applicant share) in identified infrastructure damage that is eligible under FEMA-Public Assistance program categories.’

SLIDE 22

Jamie: “Similar to the housing unmet needs, HUD created a methodology to initially assess business unmet needs and assign an allocation of \$211 million.

HUD’s methodology followed this simple equation:

HUD Unmet Business Needs equals the number of businesses denied an SBA loan multiplied by the median damage estimates of greater than 30 thousand dollars.

To arrive at the number of businesses denied an SBA loan, HUD looked at the number of businesses inspected and denied a loan plus the estimated number of businesses denied a loan prior to inspection minus the businesses with damage estimates of less than 30 thousand dollars.”

SLIDE 23

Jamie: “Using HUD’s business methodology, Florida designed a methodology which, in our opinion, better assesses the unmet business needs of the state.

Florida’s methodology is as follows:

First, we added up the total business loss based on data received from SBA, which totaled to be about \$1.7 billion.

Then, we subtracted the total amount of federal assistance for recovery received to-date, which resulted in a reduction to approximately \$1.5 billion.

Next, we factored in 20 percent to the real estate, or rebuild, repair, and replace unmet need for resilience, which comes out to around \$1.75 billion.

Finally, we have to subtract what HUD has already allocated to us for business unmet needs, which is \$211 million, resulting in a final unmet business need of about \$1.5 billion.”

SLIDE 24

Jamie: “Heather will now discuss community outreach methods which was a vital part of the overall unmet needs assessment and program design.”

Heather: “Thank you so much Jamie and thank you for going over the unmet needs assessment for us all.” During the month of March, DEO conducted community outreach with each area HUD identified as most-impacted and distressed in the Federal Register. During each meeting, discussions were held to provide an overview of CDBG-DR and receive feedback on programs that will be most helpful to the communities. A survey was then sent out to gather additional input on program designs. The following slides display the results.”

SLIDE 25

Heather: The feedback we received in regard to housing activities shows a predominant need for a housing rehabilitation program and affordable rental program. Followed by a land acquisition program and HMGP match.

SLIDE 26

Heather: Survey results show a need for a traditional CDBG-DR program to address remaining unmet needs for infrastructure, followed by HMGP/PA match.

SLIDE 27

Heather: The program needs voiced through the survey and in-person meetings reflect a majority of the need being a business loan/grant program and a workforce training program, as well as assistance to Puerto Ricans due to the influx of evacuees from Hurricane Maria.

SLIDE 28

Heather: “DEO’s next steps will be to publish the draft action plan on its website for a 14-day public comment period at the end of this month and to finalize the action plan to submit to HUD by May 15, 2018.”

SLIDE 29

Heather: “If you are interested, you can download the presentation in the Handouts section of this webinar and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at my contact information listed on this slide or contact the Disaster Recovery team. Thank you for participating in this webinar.”