

TRANSCRIPT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY

Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program Overview

Presented by: Alyssa Hernandez

Slide #1: INTRODUCTION SLIDE

Alyssa: Good morning everyone. Welcome to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program overview webinar. My name is Alyssa Hernandez, and I'm on the Office of Disaster Recovery team here at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Today's webinar will provide a summary of Rebuild Florida's Infrastructure Repair Program.

SLIDE #2: Agenda

Alyssa: Today's webinar will provide information on and an overview of:

- Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding
- Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program
- Eligible Counties and Entities
- Eligible Activities
- Application Cycle
- Application Scoring Criteria
- CDBG-DR Compliance
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Question and Answer Period

SLIDE #3: CDBG-DR

Alyssa: First, 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 consider additional supplemental funding, which is signed into law by the president. Once funds are appropriated by Congress, the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development 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. CDBG-Disaster Recovery assistance is designed to be the federal disaster recovery funding of last resort.

SLIDE #4: Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program

Alyssa: HUD uses the best available data to identify and calculate unmet needs for disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing and economic revitalization. HUD has awarded the state of Florida disaster recovery funds to assist in recovery from Hurricane Irma.

Of this funding, more than \$85 million has been designated to launch DEO's Infrastructure Repair Program for infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities

impacted by Hurricane Irma. DEO included the initial description of the Infrastructure Repair Program in the State Action Plan for Disaster Recovery, published in June of 2018, and has now made the Program Guidebook and Request for Applications available to the public on the [program website](#). In this webinar, we will be diving deeper into the specifics of this program and its application process.

SLIDE #5: Eligible Counties and Entities

Alyssa: Units of General Local Government (UGLG) including counties, municipalities, water districts, and water authorities located in Irma eligible areas may apply for funding for projects and/or programs that address unmet needs tied to Irma. A UGLG may only submit one project application, and proposals for funding may only serve eligible counties and zip codes.

SLIDE #6: Eligible Activities

Alyssa: To be eligible for consideration of funding, UGLGs must propose programs or projects that align with CDBG-DR and DEO requirements and priorities as outlined in the action plan and the Federal Register, including but not limited to:

- Projects must demonstrate tie-back to Irma.
- Projects must primarily serve LMI populations.
- Projects for infrastructure must support LMI housing.
- Projects must not duplicate benefits.

Applicants must provide a detailed description of damage caused by Hurricane Irma. Additionally, Applications should include plans to mitigate against future damage and show how the proposed project will make the community more resilient in the future. It should be noted that projects requesting funds for damage caused by deferred maintenance will not be considered.

SLIDE #7: Eligible Activities (continued)

Once requirements are met, eligible activities include:

- Restoration – Infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Irma; Water and sewer facilities have been identified as areas of critical importance.
- Creation – Public facilities such as emergency community shelters;
- Demolition – Rehabilitation of publicly or privately owned commercial or industrial buildings;
- Economic Revitalization – Includes any CDBG-DR eligible activity that demonstrably restores and improves some aspect of the local economy.

SLIDE #8: Application Cycle

Alyssa: The application submission cycle will officially open on July 29, 2019, and will be open for a period of 30 days. The Applicant Information Form, Proposal Information Form, Program Guidebook and other program documents will be available [on the program website](#).

The application has seven (7) parts that applicants must complete for a full submission:

- Cover Letter
- Applicant Information Form
- Proposal Information Form
- Budget
- Service Area Map
- Work Plan
- Organizational Chart and Schedule of Team Roles

SLIDE #9: Application Scoring Criteria

Alyssa: Once a proposal is determined to satisfy CDBG-DR Compliance Criteria, DEO will apply scoring based on the following Scoring Criteria. The maximum Scoring Criteria score is 115. Scoring will focus on the following categories:

- **Overall Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Benefits (up to 30 points)**
 - Higher LMI benefit of the activity will receive higher score. For example, a project with 100 percent LMI benefit would be scored higher than a project with 65 percent LMI benefit.
- **Project Readiness (up to 25 points)**
 - Planning is complete for the project, or the required permits are applied for, or the project is underway through the FEMA PA program.
- **Management Capacity (up to 15 points)**
 - The local entity has the capacity to complete the project and the ability to perform required maintenance.
- **Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) (up to 10 points)**
 - An applicant can score 10 points if it has appointed a CATF to provide input on all phases of the infrastructure project including community needs and make recommendations to the local governing body before the application is submitted.
- **Project Nature (up to 10 points)**
 - Proposed project seeks to improve storm water, waste water, drinking water or sewer systems.
- **Special Designation (up to 10 points)**
 - A project is located in a rural community (5 pts) and/or an Area of Critical State Concern (5pts).
- **Project Impact (up to 15 points)**
 - The impact of the project on the community should be significant, including: economic impact, community resiliency, etc.

SLIDE #10: CDBG-DR Compliance

Alyssa: All UGLG applicants with proposals approved for CDBG-DR funds under this application must execute a subrecipient agreement with DEO which will specify all terms and conditions for successful program and/or project and compliance management of a grant.

The DEO subrecipient agreement will include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- **National Objectives:** All activities must meet one of the national objectives set out in the Housing and Community Development Act, with at least 70 percent of the dollars going towards projects benefiting LMI persons.
- **Cross-Cutting Federal Regulations:** DEO requires projects or programs selected for CDBG-DR funding to meet HUD crosscutting federal regulations, such as NEPA environmental review, duplication of benefits, fair housing, Section 3 employment, Davis Bacon wages and others which will be specified in the subrecipient funding agreement.
- **Citizen Participation Requirements:** Counties eligible to receive funds must consider the needs of all municipalities (and federally recognized tribes) within the incorporated as well as unincorporated area of the county (and reservations contiguous to the county). Evidence of public meeting with city and tribal governments must meet the following requirements:
 - Notice of the public meeting must be provided at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.
 - Documentation of the meeting must include sign-in sheets and minutes.
- **Use of CDBG-DR as Match:** Funds may be used to meet a matching, share, or contribution requirement for any other federal program when used to carry out an eligible CDBG-DR activity. This includes programs or activities administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- **System of Record and Compliance Verifications:** DEO will provide a CDBG-DR System of Record that will serve as the repository for all program and project compliance documentation to satisfy monitoring and audit requirements.
- **Cost Reasonable and Anti-Fraud, Waste and Abuse:** Applicants in their submissions must provide evidence for how their programs and proposals will meet cost reasonableness and anti-fraud, waste and abuse standards.
- **CDBG-DR Costs Guidance:** Applicants in their budget proposals must include all costs related to the construction and ongoing, necessary maintenance, of the infrastructure project.
- **Waivers:** On a case-by-case basis, DEO will consider proposals that may require a CDBG-DR regulatory waiver from HUD. Please note waiver applications take time to review and will impact scoring based on the “Readiness To Proceed” criteria.

SLIDE #11: Frequently Asked Questions

Alyssa: A compilation of frequently asked questions has been published on the [program webpage](#).

SLIDE #12: Question and Answer Period

Alyssa: Beginning July 15, interested parties must submit all programmatic questions related to the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair program by email to RebuildFlorida@deo.myflorida.com. The Office of Disaster Recovery will respond to each question by posting response publicly on the program webpage in a timely manner.