

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT- DISASTER RECOVERY

Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program for Hurricane Michael Webinar

Presented by: Caroline Pryor

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Slide #1: INTRODUCTION SLIDE

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

SLIDE #2: AGENDA & GOALS FOR WEBINAR

Caroline: Our goals for today's webinar are to provide you with more information on the Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout 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 Voluntary Home Buyout 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

Caroline: 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

Caroline: 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 27, 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 2020, 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 2020, 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 DEO announced the launch of the Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program on August 17.

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

Caroline: 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

Caroline: DEO will use the allocated funding to launch five 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 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 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 Housing Repair and Replacement Program will repair, replace or reconstruct homes damaged by Hurricane Michael. The Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program, 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.

SLIDE #7: Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program

Caroline: As previously stated, the Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program opened on August 17 and the deadline to submit an application is November 30, 2020. The program has an allocation of \$27 million, and the maximum award amount is \$5 million. DEO will use a subrecipient model to administer the grant funds to eligible applicants. Subrecipients will be selected through a competitive Request for Application (RFA) process. This program is not a direct grant program and no funds will be paid directly to individuals. Those who are eligible to apply include counties and municipalities. Projects must benefit HUD and State designated MID areas and HUD's national objectives of benefiting Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) persons and/or Unmet Needs must be accounted for in all project proposals.

SLIDE #8: Property Eligibility Criteria

Caroline: Allowable costs for property buyout projects depend upon the scope of the project. The following costs associated with the buyout of hazard-prone real property and the demolition of structures are allowable:

- Market value of the real property either at the time of sale or immediately prior to Hurricane Michael depending upon the ownership status at the time of Hurricane

Michael. It should be noted that if the appraisal of the property is prior to the disaster, then all Duplication of Benefits (DOB) must be subtracted from this amount unless the owner can provide proof that funds were used for another eligible purpose and should be excluded as an offset to the amount of the DOB.

Additional allowable costs are

- demolition and removal of property,
- fees paid for environmental review services and
- relocation costs associated with displaced tenants under the Uniform Relocation Act.

Each property must meet the following qualifications:

- The property is purchased from a willing seller; the property contains a structure that has been damaged or destroyed due to Hurricane Michael or the property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), or a High- Risk Flood Area;
- all compatible easements or encumbrances can and must be extinguished;
- the property cannot be contaminated with hazardous materials at the time of buyout other than incidental demolition or household waste;
- the property cannot be part of a project area where there is an intention to use the property for any public or private future use inconsistent with the open space deed restrictions and FEMA acquisition requirements; and
- the property will not be subdivided prior to the buyout, except for portions outside the identified hazard area, such as within a SFHA or any risk zone identified by FEMA.

It should also be noted that properties that have received rehabilitation or repairs through the Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program will not be eligible for assistance under the Voluntary Home Buyout Program.

SLIDE #9: Application Scoring Criteria

Caroline: 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.

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 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 170 points:

1. Management Capacity: To meet this criteria, the subrecipient, program manager and/or developer must demonstrate program, case and compliance management capacity to deliver services on-time and on-budget, and show that a Citizen Complaint Policy is in place.

2. Readiness to Proceed and Viable Production Plan: To meet this criteria, the applicant must show evidence for how the proposed program or project will mobilize and operate in a timely manner.

3. Proposes Cost Reasonable Budget: To meet this criteria, the proposal budgets must reflect cost reasonableness and affirmative efforts to leverage CDBG-DR funds with additional funding to address unmet needs. The budget narrative must reflect research, quotes and/or contracted pricing.

4. Storm Resilience: In addition to addressing unmet needs, program or project proposals need to show how they make investments that improve resilience to future storm-related damage.

5. Overall LMI benefit (Percent LMI benefit of the activity): Higher LMI benefit activities will receive higher scores. For example, a project with 100 percent LMI benefit would be scored higher than a project with 65 percent LMI benefit.

6. Vulnerable Populations: Applications which address vulnerable populations will receive higher scores. This includes the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing.

Please note that applications that have not been signed will not be considered.

SLIDE #10: Technical Assistance

Caroline: DEO will provide one-on-one Technical Assistance (TA) calls to Voluntary Home Buyout Program applicants. You may reserve a time for one-on-one TA by emailing Joshua.Bradt@deo.myflorida.com.

SLIDE #11: Questions

Caroline: 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 Joshua Bradt and Ryan Butler from DEO's Office of Disaster Recovery to assist in answering questions.