2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Program - Q&A

Updated June 2023

GENERAL

What is DEMES?

- DEMES stands for the **Division of Emergency Management Enterprise Solution,** which was enhanced utilizing existing buildouts of the Salesforce Platform.

How long does it take to get the approval of the 2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Application?

- Once the portal opens on June 15, we will start reviewing applications. Depending on the number of applications submitted, it may take a few months to allow time for full review.

How do I know if my 2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Application was approved?

- The grant manager, who is assigned to your application, will notify you if your application approved. If your application is approved for funding, the grant manager will change the status from "in review" to "approved" in DEMES and you will receive an email notification.

After I get the approval of my 2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Application, when will I get the funds?

- FDEM is hoping to start distributing funds by early fall.

Is there a 2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Application deadline?

- We will be accepting application through July 31.

Can I apply to the 2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Program if I am not registered in DEMES?

- Unfortunately, no, you must apply for this funding through DEMES. If you need any support with registering for an account in DEMES, please reach out to Melissa Hancock (contact info) or visit https://www.fdemportal.com/grants to create an account.

What if I am unable to access DEMES?

- Anyone who experiences access issues, should contact DEMES.Support@em.myflorida.com for assistance.

I'm new to using DEMES - where can I go to learn about the basics?

- Assisting agencies and FDEM partners can visit the DEMES site for general information, project updates, training tools, and resources.

2023/2024 Hurricane Legislative Appropriation Program

The division will be accepting applications for 4 types of categories.

1. The first category, labeled Public Assistance will be funding for Local Governments that have a Public Assistance Project Worksheet (PW) on file or submitted a legislative appropriation project (member project) related to hurricane repairs.
   a. Types of Projects that you can apply for to be considered for a loan or an advance payment
      i. A project worksheet that has a legislative member project that was introduced during this last legislative session and is associated to the work
      ii. A PW that is ready to start work, but you need funding to get it going
      iii. A member project that doesn't have a PW associated with it but could require a PW to be established because it is considered permanent work
   b. FDEM will also consider member projects that are not considered permanent work, but it is related to hurricane repairs. This will be a grant, not a loan as this would not be considered "traditional" Public Assistance by FEMA standards.

2. The second category that we will be accepting applications will be for local governments that are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement for infrastructure repair. Types of projects that you can apply for in this category will be for non-engineered beaches, dirt roads that are not maintained. The Division will also review projects that have a determination memo for funding consideration. Projects in this category will be considered a grant.

3. The third category for which the Division will be accepting applications is local and county revenue losses and operating deficits. These applications will be considered when the Department of Economic Opportunity's Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan funding has been exhausted or upon an applicant's denial of that program. These types of projects will be a grant.

4. The Division will consider applications for local governments to administer grants requiring a 50/50 match for infrastructure repairs or replacement like roads, sewer, water facilities, beach renourishment, seawalls, or debris removal. These projects will be grant.

How will the Division decide what to fund and what not to fund?
- In determining which projects will receive funding, the Division will follow the categories and criteria listed above when reviewing projects.

What type of documentation will I need to upload in my application?
- Based on the type of project you are applying for; your grant manager may request additional information.
  - FEMA Project Worksheets, Member projects,
  - previous 3 years of tax revenue and the current projected tax revenue
  - proof of damages and estimates
  - engineering recommendations
- If there is information that you have relating to your project that you think is important, please provide that information in the upload document section.

If you have hired a consultant to do work on your behalf, will they be able to log into the system, and see the application files?
- Yes, but they would need to create an individual account under that agency and specify in the DEMES registration the reason of requesting access.

Special Districts were excluded from DEO's Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan funding. Are there any other programs special districts should exhaust prior to applying for this grant?
- No

How will the subrecipient grants work for the 50/50 program? That is, what is the arrangement by which counties are a pass-through to HOAs or other entities?
- The 50/50 grant program is for local governments to apply to FDEM to administer infrastructure repair and beach renourishment grants within the jurisdiction of the local government, provided that the grant program requires matching funds by the grantees of at least 50 percent of the project costs. HOAs (and other non-government entities) will need to apply through the city or county for the 50/50 program. Funding agreements will be between FDEM and the respective city/county. The city/county will be the pass-though entity to manage the grant on behalf of the HOA (and other non-government entities)

How does this program differ from current FEMA projects that have already been submitted?
- The applications received for the Public Assistance category to fund permanent work projects will be for a 0% loan. This funding will allow for you start your projects faster. Once reimbursements from FEMA are deposited in FDEM's Smart Link account, these funds will be returned to general revenue.

Can the city apply directly, or does it need to go through the county?
- This is open to local and county, so if you are a city, you can apply directly. You may want to communicate with the county that you are applying.

Do RAO or economically disadvantaged communities receive any priority with the funding?
- Proviso does not prioritize any projects.

We completed emergency road repairs on federal aid roads, debris removal and emergency repair to a water control structure that would have been eligible under the Federal Highway Agency and National Resources Conservation. Reimbursement was denied for various reasons. Would this type of work be covered under the new state grant program?

- The best category for the project described will be the 50/50 match option, which is a grant instead of the loan.

Are tribes eligible?

- Tribes are not included in the proviso language.

We submitted a member project, that was assigned a number in the legislative process, but because we knew this program was coming, the project was not included for consideration beyond LFIR submittal. Do we count as a "member project"?

- Yes, please reference the member project number when applying for funding.

Would charter schools apply on their own or under a school districts application?

- Charter schools may apply on their own. We encourage you to communicate with your respective school board for the applications you are submitting.

Do you receive a status update on your application?

- As we go through the review and approval process, your grant managers will update you on your application status.

Are there match requirements for this program?

- No, this program does not require a match. The only match requirement is if a local government decides to request funding to administer infrastructure repair and beach renourishment grants, which require matching funds by grantees of at least 50 percent.

Is there a requirement to apply for all other possible funding before the project would be eligible for this program?

- Yes, you need to try other revenues before going through this one.

For which project types or school districts eligible to apply?

- All categories are open to all eligible applicants.

Where can we find details on the terms of the loan advance, such as dates for repayment, etc?

- FDEM will not be asking for repayment for any grant, and the loan will be a 0% loan. The terms for the repayment of the loan will be dependent upon the subrecipients receiving federal funds.

Is there a cap on the amount per project that you can request?

- There is no cap on the amount per project, but funds are limited as the Division was appropriated only $350 million.

Will funds be paid incrementally? Or in full?

- Should your project be approved, you will receive a one-time payment of funds.

Is the funding reimbursement based?

- This funding is not a grant reimbursement program.

Will projects submitted/approved through this funding stream be subject to PAPPG Procurement requirements, or would a simple approval negate the need for competitive bidding/cost appropriateness estimates?

- This program is not subject to PAPPG Procurement requirements, however, if your project is tied to another federal or state program, you should comply with those respective procurement requirements. For example, if your project is eligible for FEMA funding, then the PAPPG must be followed.

Will there be any recipient reporting requirements after funds are issued for applicants?

- Yes, our funding agreement will outline the reporting requirements. You can anticipate a quarterly reporting mechanism.

SUPPORT

Where do I go for troubleshooting?

- If you are having access or troubleshooting issues, please contact DEMES.Support@em.myflorida.com for assistance.

Where can I go to obtain updates and information on what is changing?

- Assisting agencies and FDEM partners are encouraged to visit the DEMES site for project updates, training tools, and resources. FDEM will share updates on new functionality that impacts your operations, as needed. Agency contacts will be asked to cascade messages, shared by FDEM, to their respective partners to further drive awareness and adoption.

Where can I find tools to help me learn about DEM*ES* and its new functionality?

- Assisting agencies and FDEM partners are encouraged to visit the DEMES site for training tools and resources.

Where can I find training sessions to help me learn about new processes and functionality?

- FDEM will be offering training sessions to introduce DEMES and its functionality to our Assisting agencies and FDEM partners. Training sessions will be posted on the DEMES site and Agencies will be notified via email.