

# THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the FDEM Mitigation Bureau



## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program DR-4673 Hurricane Ian Notice of Funding Availability

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is pleased to announce the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for Hurricane Ian DR-4673 has been published to the Florida Administrative Register and is available on our website. Given the impact of this unique event, every county in the state is eligible for Tiers 1 & 2 and has an allocation; there will not be a Tier 3. We ask that everyone **take the time to read through the entire NOFA**, as there are some changes for this event.

In the coming weeks, the HMGP Unit will begin scheduling Applicant Workshops. If you plan to submit a subapplication, please consider attending! You will get a comprehensive look at what information should be included in your subapplication and our team will be able to answer questions you may have about your submission.



### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Apply digitally using the FDEM Portal, instructions are found in the NOFA

**MAY 31, 2023, 11:59 PM (EDT)**

### Questions?

Contact Jared Jaworski at [Jared.Jaworski@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Jared.Jaworski@em.myflorida.com) or the Hurricane Ian inbox at [IanMitigation@em.myflorida.com](mailto:IanMitigation@em.myflorida.com)

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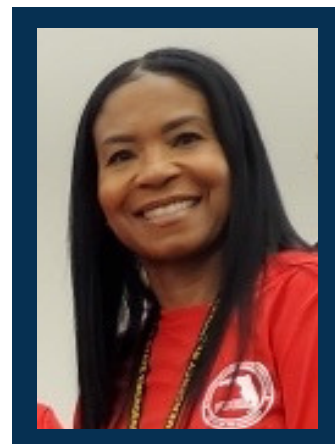
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# Mighty Mitigator of the Quarter

The Mitigation Bureau is thrilled to congratulate Kathleen Marshall for reaching 30 years with the State of Florida! This impressive feat shows her dedication to the citizens of Florida and the hazard risk reduction that has been accomplished through her work with the Mitigation Bureau and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Kathleen started working at FDEM in 1997. In 1998, FEMA proposed the "Managing States" pilot program starting in the State of Florida while Kathleen led HMGP. Overall, the program was a success! Under the managing state concept, FEMA approved 108 projects with a Federal share of \$48M while achieving a 94% reduction in funds exceeding the 2-year obligation deadline. The "Managing States" implementation contributed to how Florida structured its mitigation operation with the Programmatic and Technical Teams, made up of engineering and environmental specialists. The "Managing States" pilot program was the predecessor to Program Administration by States (PAS) wherein Florida was also the first state in the nation to participate under Kathleen's leadership. To this day, under PAS, Florida remains the only state that has all available delegated authorities, as well as delegated environmental review authority!



The first storm Kathleen ever worked was DR-1195 (Florida Tornadoes). Since then, there have been 51 declarations where projects have been awarded under HMGP during Kathleen's tenure. As of this Bulletin, Kathleen has overseen the obligation of over \$1.194 billion in federal funds through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, dating back to Hurricane Floyd (DR-1300) in September 1999. This accounts for most but not all of the storms she has worked. Since she began, the Bureau has seen many firsts. In 2003, Florida was the first state to pursue and implement Global Match strategies, leading to the HMGP Unit receiving Florida's Davis Productivity Award. Additionally, the first phased projects ever submitted in the nation were submitted by Florida. There have been many notable and first of their kind projects funded by HMGP during her time with FDEM, including Rebuild Northwest Florida, a Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, the HB 7121 Statewide Generator Initiative, the Watershed Planning Initiative, and various university research HMGP projects that have advanced mitigation efforts nationally.

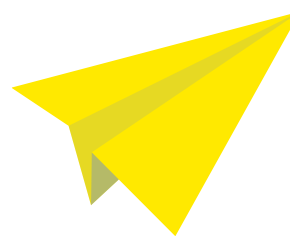
Florida also received its first Enhanced Status for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2007, due in part to the grant administration practices by the HMGP Unit and the historical performance of the Bureau. Florida's Enhanced Status has led to an additional \$569.8 million in HMGP funding (with 30-day Hurricane Ian estimate). Some of Kathleen's many other accomplishments include leading HMGP through a number of audits, developing F.A.C. 27P-22 and the online HMGP application process, Joint Field Office (JFO) deployments, completing the first loss avoidance study with seven more since, participating in the Bureau's first business plan development process, and supporting the development of the first Standard Operating Procedures for the Bureau. The Bureau of Mitigation would not be the same today without Kathleen and her administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Congratulations again for your amazing accomplishment in reaching 30 years of service to the State of Florida!



First disaster worked



First Enhanced Status



Piloted new programs



Federal Funds awarded through HMGP

## Florida Silver Jackets: Astor Site Visit

By: Angie Speir

With support from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Silver Jackets, the Lake County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is conducting a hydrologic and hydraulic study to identify potential mitigation projects in Astor. This FY23 project seeks to minimize the impacts of flooding and interact with members of the community to address ongoing issues in the city of Astor.



*Shown are those from Silver Jackets, FDEM, and Lake County who attended the Astor Site Visit*

The Florida Silver Jackets and FDEM team, accompanied by Lake County Communications, OEM, Public Works, St. Johns Water Management District, and the NWS Melbourne, went on a guided tour of the affected areas in December of last year. During the tour, representatives from Lake County pointed out unusually high-water marks along the river, indicating severe flooding from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

Residents located near Lake George were left stranded in their homes for numerous weeks due to the impassable roads during the storms. Many residences throughout Astor still rely on septic tanks, which, during times of severe flood, risks contaminating floodwater. The Silver Jackets Team hopes to assist the residents of Astor by restoring their community and preventing future impacts through flood mitigation.



*Post-storm water level under Astor Bridge*

## Florida Silver Jackets: Yankeetown Site Visit

By: Brigette Carrillo

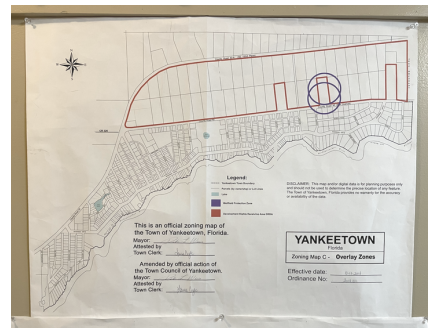
One of the Florida Silver Jackets' FY23 projects, Advancing Florida Vulnerability Assessments (AFVA), focuses on tidally influenced locations, specifically within underserved communities. This project seeks to develop best practices for utilizing publicly available tools used to complete specific portions of the standard assessment, helping promote resiliency in these communities.

The Florida Silver Jackets team determined that Yankeetown, located in Levy County, would act as a preemptive case study before assisting other vulnerable communities through AFVA. The Florida Silver Jackets, accompanied by the FDEM team, met with the Yankeetown town manager, Building Services Coordinator, and a council member to experience Yankeetown's most susceptible areas firsthand.

Yankeetown is just upstream of where the Withlacoochee River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. It has 7 public parks and 1 city-owned boat ramp that allows up to 12 local charters to come out of Yankeetown. When severe flooding events occur, impacts are felt throughout the community, especially in areas located near boat ramps, docks, low-lying areas, and Highways 40 and U.S. 19.

This project will allow Yankeetown and the Florida Silver Jackets team to collaborate and complete a vulnerability assessment of the affected areas. The vulnerability assessment created as a result of this case study will act as a template to help promote resiliency in other vulnerable communities.

To learn more about AFVA, visit the Florida Silver Jackets [website](#). For any questions regarding the Florida Silver Jackets team, email Brigette Carrillo at [Brigette.Carrillo@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Brigette.Carrillo@em.myflorida.com).



*Pictured above is the official zoning map for Yankeetown*



*Touring frequently flooded areas*

## Public Notice: Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is seeking input from communities who may be interested in applying for low interest loans to implement hazard mitigation projects under the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program. The Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act became law on Jan. 1, 2021. This Act authorizes FEMA to provide capitalization grants for eligible entities to make funding decisions and award loans directly to local communities. Eligible entities are states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia.

The Division is gathering information with the intent of applying for a capitalization grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), per the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) published on December 20, 2022.

Before applying, the Division must solicit projects from local governments to develop a project proposal list, which will accompany the state's application. If awarded a capitalization grant, the Division may grant loans to projects from this project proposal list. To solicit the project proposals, FDEM will be publishing a public notice and along with a list of frequently asked questions. The public notice will include a link to the Project Proposal Form, where interested local governments will be asked to include details of their proposed projects. For more information and to view the public notice once it is published, please visit the website [here](#). Questions may be directed to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Laura Dhuwe, at [Laura.Dhuwe@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Laura.Dhuwe@em.myflorida.com).

### Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program

By: Grant Goodwin

The Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program is actively looking for hurricane-related mitigation projects throughout the state! Typical projects include wind retrofits and drainage projects, but innovative ways to mitigate the effects of hurricanes are encouraged. The no-match state-funded reimbursable projects are capped at \$194,000.00, and the period of performance is July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024. Additionally, these projects are not required to be on the LMS Project list. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, and non-profit organizations. The Request for Proposal (RFP) can be found on the HLMP [website](#) and the deadline to submit proposals is April 7, 2023.

Recently, the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners applied to retrofit their Emergency Operations Center. The building was vulnerable to high-wind events, and the scope included impact-rated storefront glass and a roof replacement. The county finished this project on August 8, 2022, 51 days before the worst hurricane the county has seen in years, Hurricane Ian. While it was an extremely stressful time for the county, the EOC stood firm. This allowed DeSoto to coordinate and collaborate on mission-critical operations for its residents. HLMP thanks the DeSoto BOCC for being proactive in mitigating their community.



*DeSoto County EOC before installing impact glass*



*DeSoto County EOC after installing impact glass*

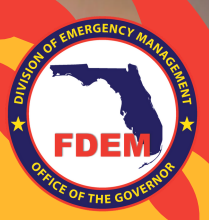


*DeSoto County EOC before roof replacement*



*DeSoto County EOC after roof replacement*

For specific questions regarding the HLMP program, please visit the HLMP [website](#) or contact the HLMP Grant Manager at [Grant.Goodwin@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Grant.Goodwin@em.myflorida.com).



# New Employee Spotlight

Help us welcome our new Mitigation staff to the team. They're on fire!



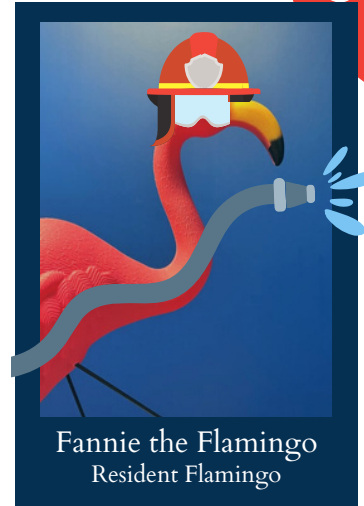
**Andrea Horne**  
Senior Management Analyst



**Jillian Holzman**  
HLMP Project Manager



**Ashley Blonsick**  
Environmental Specialist



**Fannie the Flamingo**  
Resident Flamingo

## The Office of Floodplain Management Maintains “Advanced” Status

By: Kristabel Moore

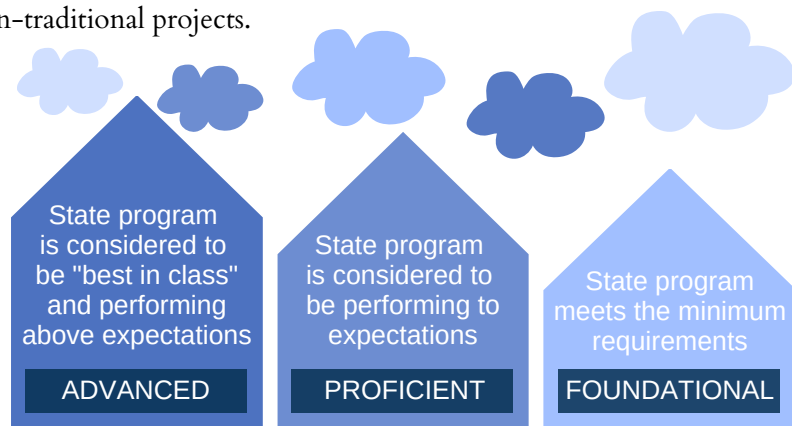
This year, FDEM’s Office of Floodplain Management (OFM) maintained its Advanced Status after receiving 60 out of 63 points available under FEMA’s 2023 Tiered State Framework (TSF) assessment. A score of 58 or higher is required for states to reach the Advanced Tier.

As a condition of maintaining grant eligibility under FEMA’s Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) Program, state floodplain management offices are assessed every three years, starting in 2020, against a series of characteristics and benchmarks that demonstrate their capability, capacity, past performance, and level of planning and coordination.

The TSF assessment includes a self-evaluation submitted by the state, which is then validated by the appropriate FEMA Regional Office. The state is then assigned a tier – foundational, proficient, or advanced – based on the assessment results. Advanced states secure 30% incentive funding for CAP-SSSE eligible activities. Along with additional funding, other benefits of scoring well include increased autonomy over workplans and strategies and eligibility of certain non-traditional projects.

Florida was the highest-ranking state in 2020, achieving 53 out of 54 points! For the 2020 TSF Assessment, states with a score of 50 or higher fell in the Advanced tier. As an advanced state, Florida continues to participate in the Advanced State Partners Group (ASPG). The ASPG meets quarterly to provide and adjudicate state feedback on transformational change to strengthen the nationwide CAP-SSSE program.

We are thrilled that FDEM’s OFM will continue to lead the way in floodplain management!





# Resilient Florida Grant Program

By: Marisa Gleason

The Resilient Florida Program, established on May 12, 2021, is one of the newest resilience programs in the state. This DEP led program encourages a coordinated approach to Florida’s coastal and inland resilience by enhancing efforts to protect our inland waterways, coastlines and shores. One of the primary ways the program supports resilience efforts is through grants available to counties, municipalities, water management districts, flood control districts and regional resilience entities to effectively address the impacts of flooding and sea level rise that the state faces.

Applications for 2022 were accepted through the Resilient Florida grant portal from May 1 through Sept. 1, 2022. These included applications for Regional Resilience Entities, Planning grants, the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, and Supplemental Resilient Florida grants.

Following the grant review process, the program developed the FY 2023–24 statewide plan of ranked implementation projects aimed at protecting critical assets, including transportation and evacuation routes, critical infrastructure, critical community and emergency facilities, and natural, cultural, and historical resources. The statewide plan includes 223 eligible new projects totaling over \$773 million. Governor DeSantis recently announced the [award](#) of more than \$275 million immediately available for 75 resilience project from the statewide plan using already appropriated funding. In addition, the Governor announced awards for over \$28 million to develop or update comprehensive vulnerability assessments. The 128 planning grants will result in 222 total local government vulnerability assessments.



For more information, please visit the Resilient Florida Program [website](#) or click [here](#) to subscribe for email updates. Please email any questions regarding the Resilient Florida Program or grant application process to [Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Resilience@FloridaDEP.gov)

## Building Resilience in Coastal Communities Using LiMWA

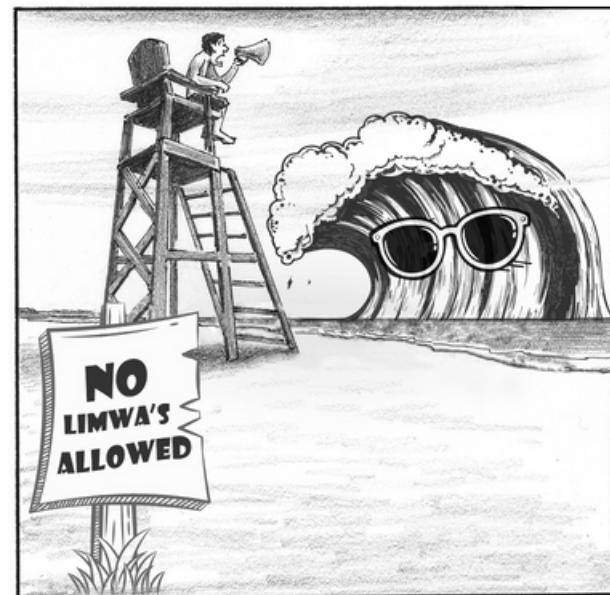
*Featuring an original cartoon by Michael Burchette*

Coastal areas are dynamic environments that are constantly reshaped by the forces of nature. As a result, coastal communities face a range of flood hazards, including storm surges, waves, and erosion. Floods are the nation’s costliest natural disaster since they can cause extensive damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

FEMA has documented storm damage for decades. Post-storm damage shows that even 1.5 foot waves can cause significant damage to buildings that were not built to withstand them. To highlight this risk on flood maps, FEMA developed the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA).

The LiMWA is an informational line that can be found on flood maps for some coastal areas. On a flood map, it is shown as a black line with black arrows that point to areas where wave heights are between 1.5 and 3 feet. It also marks the inland limit of the Coastal A Zone.

Due to the higher risk of wave damage to structures in the Coastal A Zone, FEMA encourages communities to apply VE Zone floodplain management standards in this area. Communities are also encouraged to adopt the most recent International Building Codes. These require buildings in the Coastal A Zone to meet Zone VE standards. Adopting higher construction and floodplain management standards in the Coastal A Zone may also reduce flood insurance premiums.



**Nope, You’re just gonna need to turn around pal!**

Click [here](#) for more information regarding Zone VE standards as outlined in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 60.3.

# Top 5 Hazard Mitigation Project Types in 2022

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs provide funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to reduce disaster suffering and future disaster losses in communities. Since the inception of HMA back in 1989, more than \$21 billion in federally obligated funds have been delivered for mitigation projects. In 2022, FEMA obligated **\$1.3 billion** for mitigation projects. The top 5 project types that were funded by FEMA represent \$752 million, which was 58.9% of project funds provided.

**1 FLOOD CONTROL** → 148 projects  
→ 14.5% of total funds **\$ 185M**

**\$ 159M** 145 projects ←  
(across 1,761 properties) **ACQUISITIONS** **2**  
12.4% of total funds ←

**3 MGMT. COSTS AND TECHNICAL ASST.** → 183 projects  
→ 11.7% of total funds **\$ 149M**

**\$ 147M** 131 projects ←  
11.5% of total funds **UTILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION** **4**

**5 ELEVATIONS** → 79 projects  
(across 1,106 properties) **\$ 113M**  
→ 8.9% of total funds

## Need More Information?

**Kristin Lentz:** [Kristin.Lentz@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Kristin.Lentz@em.myflorida.com)

**Brigette Carrillo:** [Brigette.Carrillo@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Brigette.Carrillo@em.myflorida.com)

**Jantzen Heberle:** [Jantzen.Heberle@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Jantzen.Heberle@em.myflorida.com)

**Angie Speir:** [Angie.Speir@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Angie.Speir@em.myflorida.com)

## The Bureau of Mitigation

Mitigation is an integral part of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Due to Florida's weather, geography and miles of coastline, the state is highly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters can be very costly to both the citizens and government.

Under the direction of Division Director Kevin Guthrie and State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Laura Dhuwe, the Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The Bureau also administers a state funded mitigation program called the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.

If you would like to know more about mitigation in Florida, visit [www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation](http://www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation).

