

THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the FDEM Mitigation Bureau

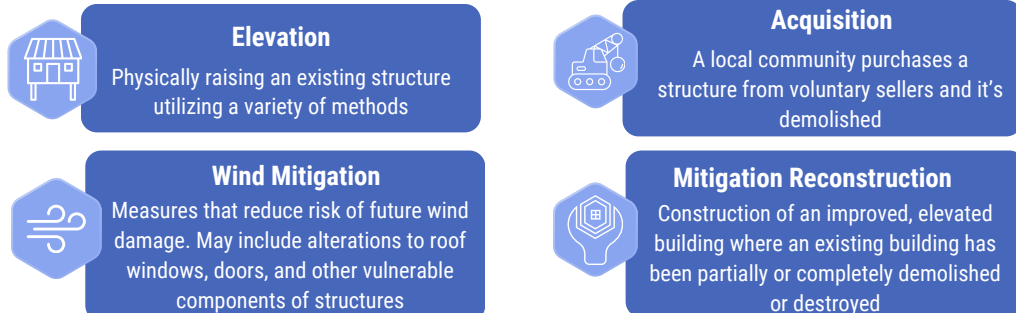


Elevate Florida: Protecting Homes

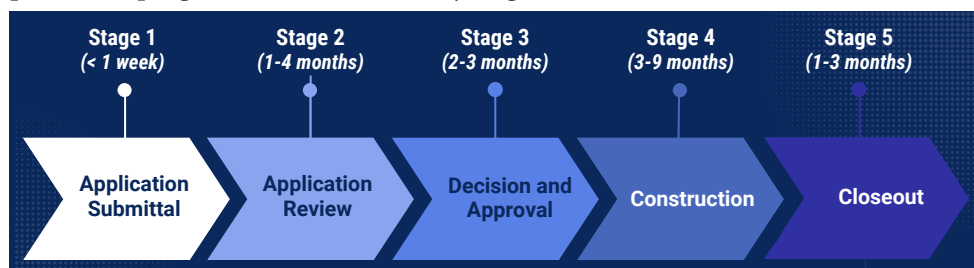
By: Sabrina Uribe

Elevate Florida is a new, state-facilitated program that helps Florida homeowners protect their properties from hurricanes and floods. Funded by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current, the program provides federal funding to support mitigation projects, streamlining a process that previously took several years.

Eligibility requires applicants to be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old, and the legal property owner. Homeowners contribute up to 25 percent of project costs, but unlike traditional programs that require full upfront payment, Elevate Florida covers at least 75 percent of costs in advance. Homeowners are only required to cover their cost share for pre-construction assessments during the application phase and construction costs at contract signing. Elevate Florida facilitates four kinds of mitigation projects, helping residents choose solutions best suited to their needs.



Once an application is submitted, the process typically takes between one to two years to complete. The program consists of five key stages, each with an estimated timeline:



For more information or to apply, visit the [Elevate Florida Application Portal](#).

This Issue:

**Elevate Florida:
Protecting Homes**

PAGE 01

**Flood Mitigation and Historic
Properties**

PAGE 02

**Snowfall in Northern Florida:
A Historic Event**

PAGE 03

**Mitigation Highlight:
Technical Unit**

PAGE 04

**Developing Original Training:
A Quick-Start Guide**

PAGE 05-06

HLMP Updates

PAGE 06

Grants Updates

PAGE 07-08

New Employee Spotlight

PAGE 09

Crossword & Contact Info

PAGE 10

Flood Mitigation and Historic Properties

By: Jonathan Lammers

Hello, fellow mitigators. My name is Jonathan Lammers, and I recently joined the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) as a specialist in historic property reviews. With over 20 years of experience as an architectural historian, I have worked extensively in researching and preserving historic buildings. My career began at the Florida Division of Historical Resources and later took me to the San Francisco Planning Department, where I worked on historic surveys and landmark designations. My role at FDEM focuses on reviewing properties 45 years or older in accordance with FEMA's Environmental and Historic Preservation Review process.

A few years ago, I assisted the City of St. Augustine in developing flood mitigation guidelines for buildings located in the city's historic districts. Flooding has long been a concern for the city, but the frequency and severity have increased dramatically in recent decades. To address this, the city created a web resource titled Flooding and Historic Properties: Resilient Heritage in the Nation's Oldest City to help homeowners navigate mitigation options.



Flooding in St. Augustine after a hurricane in October 1944, *Florida Memory*

One particularly valuable resource on this page is the brochure Flood Mitigation Design Guidance for Historic Residences, available as a PDF. It outlines various flood mitigation strategies, many of which align with National Flood Insurance Program guidelines. Some of these are relatively simple, while others are more involved. These strategies include:

- Elevating critical equipment such as HVAC systems, washers, dryers, and generators above the design flood elevation.
- Installing temporary flood barriers for doors and windows.
- Using backflow preventers to prevent stormwater from entering residential plumbing.
- Implementing wet floodproofing measures to allow floodwaters to enter and exit at the same rate as external flood levels.

For areas with severe flooding, the entire structure may need to be physically elevated above the flood level. This is a complex process that is accomplished using jacks to raise the building and place it onto a higher foundation. Such work requires expertise and considerable expense but may be the only viable option for some property owners. The brochure provides guidance on preserving historic integrity while implementing these protective measures.

Additional topics covered include flood-resistant materials, maintenance tips, case studies, and an extensive glossary. I encourage everyone to explore this resource and take advantage of this information if the need arises. Feel free to reach out if you have questions about historic properties or would like to discuss local or state history. Thank you for the warm welcome—I look forward to working with you all.



A historic St. Augustine residence was raised to mitigate flooding, *St. Augustine Planning Department*

Snowfall in Northern Florida: A Historic Weather Event

By: Sabrina Uribe

On January 21–22, 2025, Northern Florida experienced an extraordinary weather event, as snowfall blanketed parts of the region. Against all expectations, the Sunshine State recorded approximately three inches of snow in Leon County, with a record-breaking eight inches reported in Bonifay, Holmes County. This historic snowfall, brought on by Winter Storm Enzo, resulted in Florida accumulating more snow than Anchorage, Alaska, and parts of Canada during the same winter season.

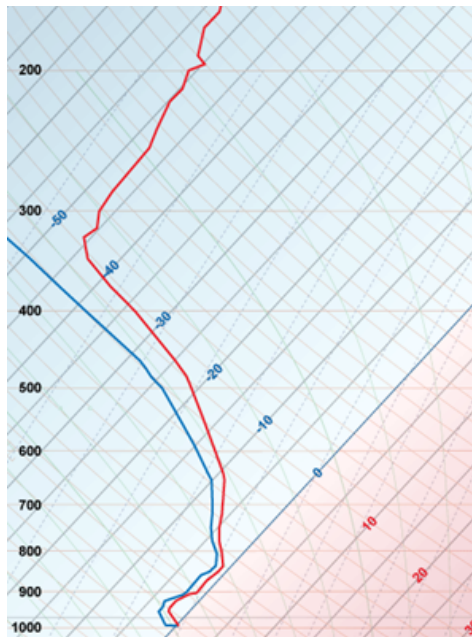
Atmospheric Conditions Leading to Snowfall

The rare occurrence of snowfall in Florida was made possible by a unique combination of meteorological factors. An influx of extremely cold air from the north, combined with warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico, created the necessary conditions for snow formation.

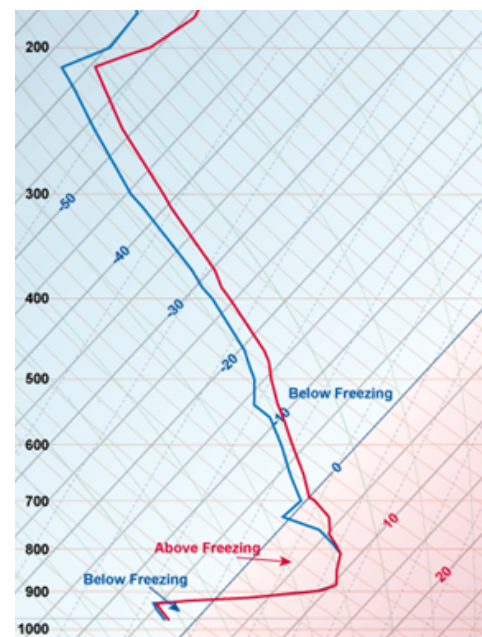
A critical factor in determining snowfall is the vertical composition of the atmosphere. For snow to reach the ground, the entire column of air must remain below freezing. Meteorologists analyze atmospheric profiles using Skew-T diagrams, which are generated when weather balloons are launched to measure temperature and humidity changes with altitude. These diagrams help predict the type of precipitation expected in a given weather scenario.

Understanding Skew-T Diagrams and Precipitation Types

Skew-T diagrams are essential meteorological tools that display how temperature and dew point vary with altitude. The red line represents temperature, while the blue line represents dew point. When these lines are close together, the atmosphere is saturated, indicating high humidity levels. The diagrams help forecasters determine precipitation types by identifying temperature profiles at different atmospheric levels.



A typical snow sounding, NOAA



A typical freezing rain sounding, NOAA

- **Freezing Rain and Sleet Profile:** In this scenario, a layer of above-freezing air exists above the surface, sandwiched between layers of sub-freezing air. This results in precipitation melting as it descends through the warm layer before refreezing closer to the ground, leading to sleet or freezing rain instead of snow.
- **Snow Profile:** A snow-friendly profile maintains below-freezing temperatures from higher altitudes down to the surface. This ensures that precipitation remains frozen throughout its descent, allowing it to reach the ground as snowfall rather than melting into rain or sleet.

In Tallahassee, the observed precipitation consisted of a mix of sleet and snow, suggesting that the atmospheric temperature profile fluctuated near the freezing threshold. This variability contributed to the diverse precipitation types experienced across the region.

The January 2025 snowfall event serves as a testament to the complexity of weather patterns and highlights the importance of continuous atmospheric monitoring. While snow remains a rare occurrence in Florida, this event demonstrates that, under the right conditions, even the most unexpected weather phenomena can become reality.

Mitigation Highlight: Technical Unit

By: Mitchell Budihas

The Mitigation Bureau Technical Unit plays a crucial role in the project review process for FEMA and State mitigation grants. The unit consists of two key sections, the Engineering Section and the Environmental Section, each responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations while providing technical guidance to applicants.

Engineering Section

The Engineering Section provides technical expertise and oversight for mitigation projects across various jurisdictions. Engineering Specialists are responsible for reviewing and managing the engineering components of federal grant applications, ensuring compliance with applicable requirements, and offering guidance, technical knowledge, and training to applicants and subapplicants.

Their responsibilities include:

- Conducting Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)
- Providing federal guidance on site plans
- Conducting damage assessments
- Reviewing engineering designs for feasibility and compliance with hazard mitigation criteria
- Performing final inspections of completed projects

Provide expertise on a wide range of projects:

- Acquisition-Elevation
- Wind Retrofit
- Flood Control & Drainage Improvement
- Generators
- Hurricane and Tornado Safe Rooms
- Wildfire and Drought Mitigation
- Utility Mitigation

By ensuring that projects adhere to Federal and State regulations, Engineering Specialists help facilitate successful mitigation efforts. They provide expertise on a wide range of projects, including:

Environmental Section

The Environmental Section ensures that proposed mitigation projects comply with all relevant federal, state, and local environmental laws and policies. Environmental Specialists manage the environmental review process, helping applicants navigate regulatory requirements and coordinating with key agencies.

Their responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with FEMA Environmental Officers for project reviews
- Reviewing and analyzing environmental and historical data related to project areas
- Evaluating alternative actions and assessing potential project impacts
- Coordinating with agencies such as:
 - State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
 - Other State and Federal organizations

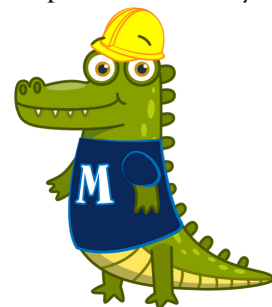
By maintaining compliance with Federal and State environmental regulations, Environmental Specialists enhance the success of mitigation projects in reducing risks and protecting communities from identified hazards.

Both sections of the Mitigation Technical Unit play a vital role in ensuring that mitigation projects are technically sound, environmentally responsible, and regulatory compliant, ultimately strengthening Florida's resilience to disasters.

If you have any questions or need to contact the Technical Unit, please email:

MitigationEngineering@em.myflorida.com

MitigationEnvironmental@em.myflorida.com



Developing Original Training in the Public Sector: A Quick-Start Guide

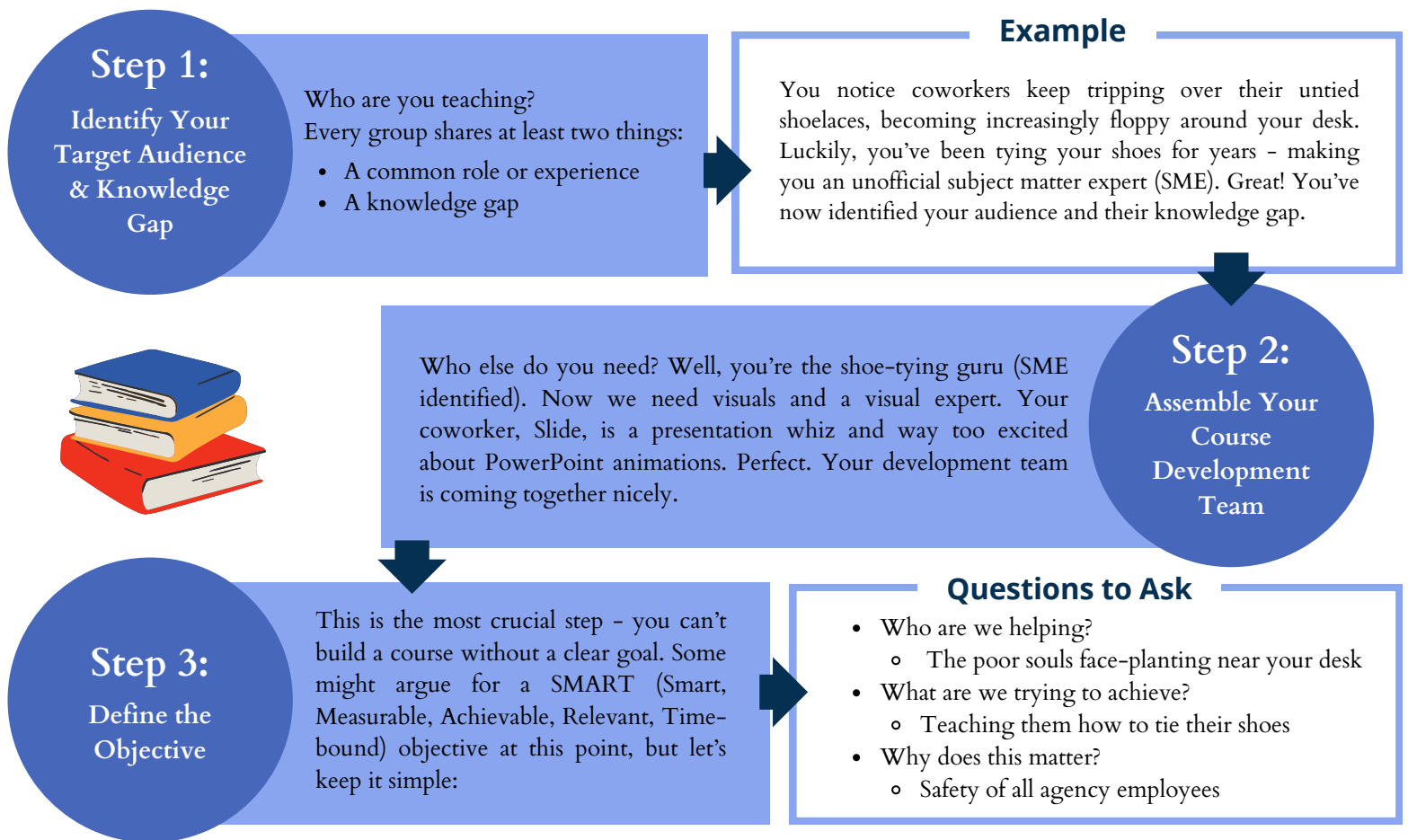
By: Mitchell Carbajal

The public sector workforce is rich with knowledge and experience. Every day, we serve our neighbors and communities, gaining firsthand expertise that's worth sharing—especially with those who will serve after us. Some people learn from studies or reading; others end up having to learn on the job. But there's something invaluable about learning directly from those who've been there before. That's where training comes in.

Helping the next in line? That is an admirable pursuit. But training isn't an innate (nor required) skill for most public servants, and developing it can feel overwhelming. While established models exist— like ADDIE (Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, Evaluation) — navigating an entire industry from scratch can be daunting. Don't fret, fellow trainer. While the following guide isn't comprehensive, if you're new to teaching those around you, it will set you up to succeed.

The Goal: Real Learning

The aim isn't just to present information - it's to achieve real learning. Take learners from "I don't know what I don't know" to "I know this so well, I don't have to think about it" (Kolb's Four Stages of Learning). That takes more than slides and fancy graphics (though they can help); it requires a structured approach.



The last question is often overlooked. It's not just "Why do we want this?" but "Why should our audience care?" Answering this gives your course heart - and it answers the question every adult learner asks when attending any course: "What's in it for me?" If your course doesn't communicate value to your audience, it might as well be background noise in a waiting room.

(continued on next page)

Developing Original Training in the Public Sector (cont'd)

After intense debate (and possibly a few whiteboard diagrams), you and Slide land on this:

“Guide office personnel with loose laces through the steps of tying shoes to ensure their safety and the safety of all agency employees.”

Strong. Clear. Direct. Answers all the questions needed for both you and your learners.

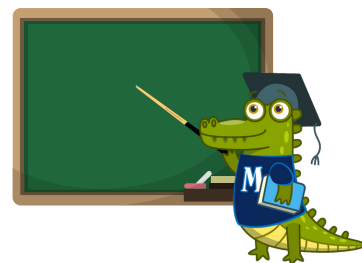
The Takeaway

With a target audience, a development team, and a defined objective, you have a solid foundation from which to build your course.

Key Steps:

- Identify the audience and knowledge gap
- Assemble a development team
- Define a clear objective

Is there more to training development? Absolutely. The field exists for a reason, and there's a lot to it. But now, you can confidently take the first step in guiding the next public servant in line.



(Stay tuned for Part 2 in June's Issue!)

Enhancements to the Hazard Loss Mitigation Program for 2025

By: Jillian Holzman

The Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP) has undergone significant changes over the past year to streamline processes. Beginning with the 2024/2025 application cycle, HLMP transitioned from a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Additionally, the maximum funding amount per project has increased to \$250,000, expanding opportunities for impactful mitigation initiatives.

For the 2025/2026 funding cycle, further enhancements are being introduced. For the first time, HLMP launched a Notice of Interest (NOI) process, which opened on January 22, 2025, and closed on February 21, 2025. This initiative allows interested applicants to submit project concepts for preliminary feedback before submitting a formal application, improving project preparedness and alignment with program objectives.

A major procedural update for the upcoming cycle is the requirement for documentation supporting the costs and benefits of proposed projects. This will enable the HLMP team to conduct a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) during the evaluation process. By incorporating this analysis, HLMP can provide project-specific contracts to awarded applicants, expediting project initiation within the grant's one-year timeframe.

Eligible applicants include government entities, non-profit organizations, and public and private educational institutions. The 2025/2026 NOFO has opened and remain available until **April 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST**. Applications will be evaluated based on programmatic eligibility, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness. Upon review and ranking, Notice of Award letters will be issued to selected applicants.

To stay informed about HLMP updates, stakeholders can subscribe to [Mitigation Grant Announcements](#) via FDEM's GovDelivery communications. For application materials and detailed program information, please visit the [HLMP Webpage](#). For further inquiries, contact the HLMP team at HLMP@em.myflorida.com.



Watershed Planning Program Updates

On December 2, 2024, FDEM Mitigation announced the proposal period for the Watershed Planning Program with a deadline of March 31, 2025. The eligible planning activities expanded to include Stormwater Master Plans (SWMP). For the purpose of this program, a Stormwater Master Plan will focus on managing rainwater runoff within a specific area, primarily to prevent flooding and pollution. A Watershed Master Plan (WMP) considers the entire watershed, including land use practices, to develop strategies for managing water resources across the whole area.

2022 WMP
(from 22 counties)

Active Projects: 35
Task 1 Deliverables (Draft WMP):

- 10 Sets of Deliverables Submitted
- 3 Deliverables Approved
- 4 Final Deliverables Approved
 - 2 Moved up CRS Class

2025 WMP/SWMP Plans
(from 22 counties)

Proposals submitted: 39				
<table><tr><th>Watershed Master Plan</th><th>Stormwater Master Plan</th></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Watershed Master Plan	Stormwater Master Plan	19	20
Watershed Master Plan	Stormwater Master Plan			
19	20			

Non-Disaster Grants Updates

The State has submitted the FY2024 BRIC and FMA subapplications to FEMA! After receiving the subapplications on or before the State deadline of February 17, 2025, FDEM Mitigation is working on conducting programmatic, engineering, and environmental reviews of all submissions. Throughout the review process, FDEM will determine whether projects are eligible, cost-effective, and have all the required documentation to submit complete subapplications to FEMA for funding consideration.

BRIC FY2024

Total # of Subapplications Received: 39

Project Types Submitted:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drainage (8)Early Warning (1)Generator (7)Infrastructure Retrofit (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utility Mitigation (1)Wildfire Mitigation (1)Wind Retrofit (10)Other (2)
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Total Project Cost: \$454,639,818.68	Federal Share: \$342,459,301.67
------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

FMA FY2024

Total # of Subapplications Received: 48

Project Types Submitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Elevation (36)Acquisition (2)Reconstruction (10)	Total Project Cost: \$74,676,077.21 Federal Share: \$17,219,138.03
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Floodplain Updates

The Office of Floodplain Management has been actively managing substantial damage missions for communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. See the numbers below for the missions and total substantial damage estimations they have completed.

Substantial Damage
(from 19 jurisdictions)

Total Substantial Damage Estimations	Missions by Disaster	Total Vendors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">108,962 inspections<ul style="list-style-type: none">7,629 homes need to be re-inspected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Debby: 9Helene: 59Milton: 84	<p>4 actively working on missions</p> <p>2 additional vendors to fill gaps</p>



HMGP Notice of Funding Availability Published

FDEM is pleased to announce the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for DR-4794 Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Tornadoes and DR-4806 Hurricane Debby have been published to the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) and are available on our [State HMGP page](#). We ask that everyone **take the time to read through the entire NOFA for both disasters**.

FDEM requires the submission of your applications, and all required supporting documentation to be uploaded to DEMES. Additional details can be found in the NOFA and on the HMGP website. The application deadline for this event is May 21, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT). **FDEM must receive your DEMES access request by 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on May 21, 2025.**

We look forward to working with you!

APPLICATION DEADLINE

DR-4794 Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes and DR-4806 Hurricane Debby



Apply digitally using the FDEM Portal. Instructions can be found in the NOFA.

May 21st, 11:59 PM (EDT)

HMGP Best Practices: Lessons Learned

By: Jared Jaworski

Every disaster brings new opportunities to learn and grow. The HMGP application periods for Hurricane Ian and Nicole showed us at FDEM where we can improve in both the functionality of the DEMES system as well our outreach and education of DEMES to the community. The latter is what I would like to focus on with a few best practices for those applying for the HMGP in DEMES.



Get in Early!



Do not sit on your registration until the last few days of the application period. Every system has a learning curve, and you are at a disadvantage trying to learn a system and submit applications with only a day or so left. To register for DEMES, visit our website at www.fdemportal.com/grants.



Since we have moved to receiving all applications through DEMES, we now require to have an Authorized Agent Form. Make sure that you have this filled out early so there's no scramble for signature on the last day when the Mayor may be on vacation. The link to this form can be found [here](#).



Ensure consistency in the budget across all documents, including the LMS project priority list, LMS endorsement letter, and DEMES application. Any discrepancies could delay processing or impact funding decisions. Review each document carefully and align all budget figures before submission.

Make sure the point of contact (POC) is correct and is someone who is knowledgeable about the project. All requests for information during review go to this person. If the POC changes, notify us ASAP.

These are fairly basic points, but you would be surprised how much they make a difference at scale. We hope to continue to improve DEMES for our users and we encourage feedback on how we can do so. For more information, please contact our HMGP team at DEM_hazardmitigationgrantprogram@em.myflorida.com.

**For more information please
see the following contacts**



Jared.Jaworski@em.myflorida.com

dem_hazardmitigationgrantprogram@em.myflorida.com

New Employee Spotlight

Spring brings new beginnings! If you see our new Mitigation staff in the halls, say hello and welcome them to the team!



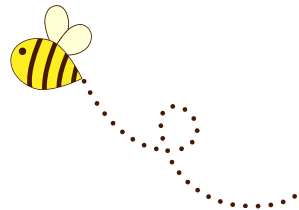
D'Ondra Denson
Finance Unit Manager



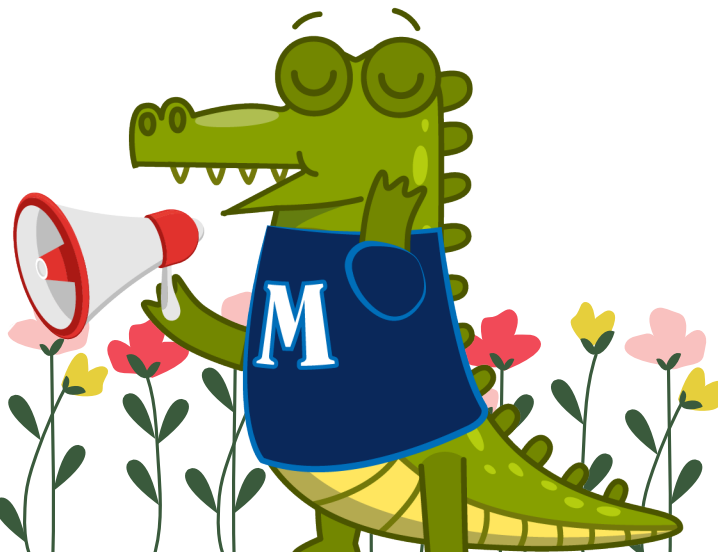
Jazmine Martinez
HMGP Grant Manager



Jonathan Lammers
Historic and
Environmental Specialist

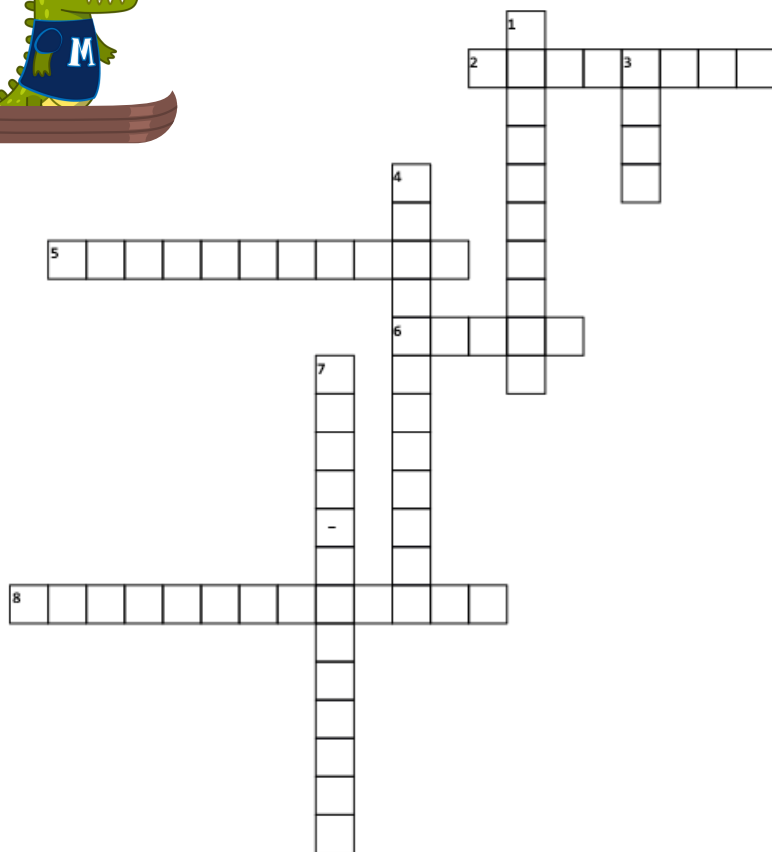


WELCOME



Technical Unit Crossword

By: Evan Jenkins



ACROSS

2. Natural disaster prevention method focused on the presence of fire
5. The section of the Mitigation Bureau that focuses on project engineering
6. -control is a project involving protecting buildings from flooding
8. The process of reviewing the potential environmental impact of a project

DOWN

1. This term refers to efforts made to reduce or eliminate risks from hazards
3. This agency oversees federal grants for disaster mitigation
4. This cost process is used to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of mitigation actions
7. This mitigation project involves fortifying structures to withstand wind

Need More Information?

Mitigation Planning Team Contact
MitigationPlanning@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 FDEM Executive 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.