



Ron DeSantis  
Governor

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Executive Director

**FLORIDA NATURAL HAZARDS  
INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP  
252.3655 FLORIDA STATUES  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

January 1, 2026

Prepared by  
Florida Division of Emergency Management



# STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document satisfies subsection 252.3655(2)(a), Florida Statutes, by providing an annual progress report on the implementation of the state’s hazard mitigation plan, an assessment of agency efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards and ongoing efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards. This report refers to activities between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025.

## STATUTE REVIEW

In July 2017, section 252.3655, Florida Statutes, went into effect. The statute mandates an interagency workgroup to share information on the current and potential impacts of natural hazards throughout the state, to coordinate the ongoing efforts of state agencies in addressing the impacts of natural hazards, and to collaborate on statewide initiatives to address the impacts of natural hazards. Each agency within the executive branch of state government, each water management district, and the Florida Public Service Commission is required to designate an agency liaison to the workgroup, while the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) or designee will serve as the liaison and coordinator of the workgroup. Each liaison is required to provide information from their respective agency regarding the current and potential impacts of natural hazards to his or her agency, agency resources available to mitigate against natural hazards, and efforts made by the agency to address the impacts of natural hazards. FDEM is also required to submit an annual progress report regarding the implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), beginning on January 1, 2019.

Since the membership and purpose of this new Natural Hazards Interagency Workgroup was similar to two other statewide mitigation groups, the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) and the Silver Jackets team, the Mitigation Bureau combined the three groups into one and named it Mitigate FL. This was to avoid duplication of efforts and to leverage resources more effectively.

## FLORIDA ENHANCED STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2023 UPDATE

The Mitigation Bureau is responsible for updating, maintaining, and implementing the SHMP in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Part 201 and 42 U.S.C. 5165. The SHMP is “Enhanced,” per 44 C.F.R. Part 201.5, which allows Florida to receive increased funds for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) specifically 20 percent of total estimated eligible federal disaster assistance. Non-Enhanced states receive only 15 percent of disaster assistance for the HMGP program. Florida achieved “Enhanced” status by developing a comprehensive mitigation program, effectively using available mitigation funding, and managing the increased funding. Florida has been delegated certain authorities to manage portions of the mitigation program on behalf of FEMA, under the Program Administration by States (PAS). For example, the Mitigation Bureau reviews project applications, completes benefit-cost analyses, approves scope of work modifications, and reviews and approves county Local Mitigation Strategy plans. This allows Florida to have oversight over mitigation projects and shortens the standard 24-month grant obligation timeline.

The Mitigation Planning Team began the 2023 SHMP update in 2021. For this update, the SHMP was converted to an all-online format with the goal of making it more accessible and user-friendly. This website replaces the previous 500-page document (1,500 pages with the appendices) and can be viewed at the following link: <https://flshmp-floridadisaster.hub.arcgis.com/>. The 2023 SHMP updated was completed and submitted for approval to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on June 1, 2023, and was subsequently approved by FEMA on August 10, 2023. The 2023 Enhanced SHMP went into effect on August 23, 2023, and will expire on August 23, 2028.



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## ANNUAL ACTIONS

On August 2, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed EO-24-156 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida for Invest 97L, later named Hurricane Debby. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated to a Level 1 on August 4, with full staffing from many of the participating Mitigate FL agencies. Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Florida Big Bend region as a Category 4 storm on September 26th. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Milton made landfall in Sarasota County on October 9th. Following the immediate response efforts for Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton, discussions and efforts of recovery and mitigation began and at no time did the mitigation efforts of FDEM and other agencies stop altogether.

In 2017, the FDEM Director designated a workgroup coordinator in the Mitigation Bureau. The coordinator communicates with state agencies regularly and schedules quarterly meetings, which were announced in the Florida Administrative Register and on the [FDEM website](#). Also available are the meeting materials, including the meeting presentations and minutes. Listed below are the dates of the Mitigate FL meetings held in 2025, along with summaries of the meetings.

- March 11, 2025
- June 17, 2025
- September 09, 2025
- December 09, 2025

### March 2025 Meeting

At the March 2025 Mitigate FL meeting, the FDEM Mitigation Bureau provided updates related to mitigation grants, floodplain management, Florida Silver Jackets, and mitigation workshops at Florida's Training for Emergency Managers. A guest speaker from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spoke on NOAA's new Sea Level Calculator. There were 252 attendees at this meeting.

### June 2025 Meeting

The June 2024 Mitigate FL meeting included updates related mitigation grants, the Mitigation Bureau's Technical Unit, Silver Jackets, and floodplain management. A guest speaker from Florida DEP spoke about the hazard that sinkholes pose to communities in Florida. There were 243 attendees at this meeting.

### September 2025 Meeting

The September 2023 Mitigate FL meeting included information on updates to mitigation grants, FDEM staff changes, Silver Jackets, the upcoming Mitigate FL Annual Report, and the SHMP. There was also a guest speaker from US SBA on post-disaster loans and grants offered. There were 113 attendees at this meeting.

### December 2025 Meeting

The December 2024 Mitigate FL meeting included information on updates to the Bureau's mitigation grants, floodplain management, Silver Jackets, and mitigation planning efforts. There were 133 attendees at this meeting.

Attendance at the quarterly Mitigate FL meetings in 2025 ranged between 113 and 252 via webinar/conference call and in-person attendance. There are twenty-five agencies required to participate in this group, per section 252.3655,



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Florida Statutes. Other agencies invited include other state agencies, county Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group coordinators, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and members of the private and academic sectors.

The Silver Jackets group continued to meet virtually with meetings held on November 6 in 2024 and on February 19, June 25, and September 3 in 2025. The Silver Jackets Team successfully worked on four projects in 2025: Flood Observations – Regional Coordination and Community Engagement, Community Guidebook to Flood Modeling, and Post-Flooding Hazard Awareness. One project was approved for FY 2026, Lake County Emergency Action Plan for Dam Break and Flood Inundation Mapping.

### **MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE COORDINATION**

The Florida Statewide Office of Resilience (FSOR), housed within the Executive Office of the Governor, is responsible for reviewing all flood resilience and mitigation activities in the state. The Office also serves as the lead state agency for coordinating flood resilience and mitigation efforts, and aligning priorities with federal, state, and local governmental entities and other stakeholders. The Office is led by the state’s Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) who is authorized to set strategic direction for interagency and cross-disciplinary initiatives to minimize the flood vulnerability of critical assets, provide technical guidance to state agencies and local governments, and consult with the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation to improve the usability of data products. The CRO is further empowered to make requests for assistance of any state agency or local government to the extent that such assistance is consistent with law and with budgetary constraints.

Throughout 2025, the CRO convened monthly meetings of the Mitigation and Resilience Coordination (MARC) Team, made up of senior managers, program staff, and officials from the Division of Emergency Management, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Commerce, Department of Transportation, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to assist in coordination of mitigation and resilience activities taking place across the state. Specifically, the Team continued developing a MARC Geodatabase which will serve as a fundamental tool for sharing resilience-related needs and grant application information across agencies. The Team’s work is foundational to supporting the Interagency Coordination on Resilience and Mitigation Funding (ICRMF) Working Group. The Working Group is focused on a set of initiatives including evaluating opportunities across agencies to leverage state funds, identifying opportunities to bundle projects to maximize federal funding, avoiding duplicative and redundant efforts, and sharing project information and timelines to promote informed decision making at local, regional, and state levels.



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## ONGOING EFFORTS

In 2025, the Natural Hazards Interagency Work Group, and the entire Mitigate FL group, aimed to achieve the tasks below. The columns below indicate the status of those actions and the goal for maintaining the tasks next year.

Task	2025 Status	2026 Status
Provide grant management and technical assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, Flood Mitigation Assistance program, and Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program	Ongoing	Ongoing
Mitigation education and outreach to all levels of government, the private sector, and the public, specifically focusing on homeowner mitigation and flood insurance topics	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue the Watershed Planning Initiative to develop and update all watershed plans in the state of Florida	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide mitigation training, like G-/FL-393 and FL-391, to state and local agencies	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide mitigation planning technical assistance to local entities, including local planning mechanisms such as Local Mitigation Strategy, local Comprehensive Plans and redevelopment plans, coastal resiliency, historical preservation plans, local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans, etc.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Implement the NFIP Compliance Audit Program to conduct compliance audits in each community every five years	Ongoing	Ongoing
Manage the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Florida	Ongoing	Ongoing
Hold Quarterly Silver Jackets Meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing
Coordinate with Florida Chief Resiliency Officer	Ongoing	Ongoing
Add new partners to the Mitigate FL workgroup	Ongoing	Ongoing
Consider establishing other subcommittees to address specific tasks or needs	Ongoing	Ongoing
Present and educate stakeholders about completed 2023 SHMP	Ongoing	Ongoing
Work with Floodplain/CRS officials and the Office of Floodplain Management to develop CRS PPI, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Complete <i>May 2025</i>	
Coordinate with FDEP and other partners to develop materials for incorporating coral restoration into Florida's grants, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Complete <i>May 2025</i>	
Coordinate with WMDs and Florida Flood Hub to inventory flood assessment data and identify strategy for prioritizing future efforts, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Completed <i>May 2025</i>	
Coordinate with the City of Jacksonville to hold a green roadway design charrette, per USACE Silver Jackets project	Completed <i>June 2025</i>	
Coordinate with WMDs and Florida Flood Hub in creating a guidebook for localities that are recognized to need a flooding assessment, which are often Environmental Justice communities	Ongoing	Complete <i>March 2026</i>
Coordinate with WMDs, DEP, and Florida Flood Hub to create educational tools highlighting issues of post-disaster flooding hazards and water sampling	Ongoing	Complete <i>March 2026</i>



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Coordinate with WMDs, DEP, and Florida Flood Hub to build upon FY24 project efforts by delineating a process, map existing tools to collect data on flood, and promote community engagement for the collection and compilation of observations of flooding.	Ongoing	Complete <i>March 2026</i>
Coordinate with local communities designated as Community Disaster Resilience Zones	Ongoing	Ongoing
Work with FDEM leadership and Florida communities to implement a state managed residential mitigation program for elevations, acquisitions, and mitigation reconstructions.	Implemented	Ongoing
Develop rules and implement the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund program in Florida	Implemented	Ongoing



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## AGENCY ASSESSMENTS

Below is an assessment of each state agency within the executive branch, the Florida Public Service Commission, and each of the five Water Management Districts. For each agency, there is a summary of mitigation-related programs, a 2025 update, and a workgroup liaison as submitted by the respective agency. Additionally, FDEM has provided a Mitigation Agency Assessment, which was agreed upon by the respective agency and FDEM.

The Mitigation Implementation Rating is determined by first scoring each agency based upon its mitigation efforts in terms of three criteria: relevance, level, and significance, per the language in section 252.3655, Florida Statutes. Each agency receives one to three points for relevance, level, and significance of its mitigation efforts. The scale is defined below.

Agency Assessment Scale			
Points		Level	Significance
<b>1</b>	<b>Not Relevant</b> <i>Agency mission and programs are not related to mitigation</i>	<b>Low</b> <i>No programs or projects each year</i>	<b>Not Significant</b> <i>Agency not working to accomplish mitigation due to mission</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>Somewhat Relevant</b> <i>Agency mission and programs are somewhat related to mitigation</i>	<b>Medium</b> <i>Some programs or projects each year</i>	<b>Somewhat Significant</b> Supporting <i>agency assisting to accomplish mitigation</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>Very Relevant</b> <i>Agency mission and programs are very related to mitigation</i>	<b>High</b> <i>Many programs or projects each year</i>	<b>Very Significant</b> <i>Primary agency accomplishing mitigation</i>

These points are then added to provide each agency with an overall Mitigation Implementation Rating of Standard, Above Standard, or Exceptional. These ratings are defined below.

Mitigation Implementation Rating Scale		
<b>STANDARD</b> 3-4 points	<b>ABOVE STANDARD</b> 5-7 points	<b>EXCEPTIONAL</b> 8-9 points
Rarely implements mitigation projects or projects with mitigation or resiliency aspects. <i>Mitigation or resiliency is not part of the agency mission.</i>	Occasionally implements mitigation projects or projects with mitigation or resiliency aspects. <i>Mitigation or resiliency is part of the agency mission.</i>	Consistently implements mitigation projects or projects with mitigation or resiliency aspects. <i>Mitigation or resiliency is a core aspect of the agency mission.</i>

These ratings are intended to demonstrate which agencies, required per section 252.3655, Florida Statutes, are most relevant in respect to enabling and completing mitigation actions. These ratings are not intended to claim that certain agencies are not doing enough mitigation projects, but rather the ratings serve to demonstrate that some agencies may not have mitigation as a core mission.



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Below is a summary of the agency ratings.

<b>252.3655, Florida Statutes, Executive Agency Mitigation Assessment</b>				
<b>Agencies</b>	<b>Relevance</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Mitigation Score</b>
Agency for Health Care Administration	2	2	2	6
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	2	2	1	5
Department of Business and Professional Regulation	2	2	2	6
Department of Children and Families	1	2	1	4
Department of Citrus	1	1	1	3
Department of Corrections	2	3	2	7
Department of Commerce	3	3	3	9
Department of Education	1	2	1	4
Department of Elder Affairs	2	2	2	6
Department of Environmental Protection	3	3	3	9
Department of Health	2	2	2	6
Department of Juvenile Justice	1	2	2	5
Department of Lottery	1	1	1	3
Department of Management Services	2	2	2	6
Department of Military Affairs/FLNG	2	2	2	6
Department of State	2	2	2	6
Department of Transportation	3	3	3	9
Division of Emergency Management	3	3	3	9
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	2	2	2	6
Public Service Commission	2	2	2	6
Northwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
South Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Southwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
St. Johns River Water Management District	3	3	3	9
Suwannee River Water Management District	3	3	3	9



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## ***AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION***

AHCA is responsible for health policy and planning in the state, including the Medicaid program, licensing health care facilities, and sharing of health care data. The Division of Health Quality Assurance oversees healthcare facilities in Florida, including hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities (ALF). AHCA requires that each of Florida’s 67 counties review and approve Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) for hospitals, nursing homes, and ALFs. AHCA also requires that all nursing homes and ALFs have generators.

Rule 59A-36.025 Florida Administrative Code (formerly 58A-5.036) and Rule 59A-4.1265 Florida Administrative Code were enacted to reduce vulnerability of ALFs and Nursing Homes to power outages. Each assisted living facility and nursing home is required to prepare a detailed plan to serve as a supplement to its CEMP to address emergency environmental control in the event of the loss of primary electrical power. The plan must include information about the acquisition of a sufficient alternate power source, such as a generator, to ensure that ambient air temperatures are maintained at or below 81 degrees Fahrenheit for minimum of 96 hours in the event of the loss of primary electrical power. If a facility violates any part of this rule, AHCA may revoke or suspend the license or impose administrative fines.

### **2025 Update**

In 2022, the Health Facility Reporting System (HFRS), was rebranded and expanded to capture critical information utilized pre- and post-storm. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Assisted Living Facilities are among those required to report information daily into HFRS during hurricanes and other emergent events. HFRS reporting enables the Agency to better access facility needs and damages in order to protect residents and ensure the safety of their facility for occupancy and/or re-entry.

We continue to improve our response efforts by performing training exercises throughout the year to ensure providers understand how to access HFRS and enter data. When onsite visits are performed, the provider is asked to demonstrate their ability to navigate HFRS. This added safeguard helps ensure their ability to comply with reporting requirements during an emergency so we can ensure a safe environment for our most vulnerable population.

In 2025, the agency created a dedicated Emergency Preparedness and Response Team consisting of nine staff who handle preparedness and response activities across the State year-round. This team was established to ensure better training, organization and response during emergency events.

The Agency continually evaluates improvements to its response to storms and incorporates those changes into the HFRS system and overall emergency response procedures. An overall reevaluation of the reporting function is part of that evaluation, as well as ideas to increase facility response and reporting.

### **Agency Mitigation Assessment**

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.



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Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Agency for Health Care Administration	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Jamie Skipper Chief of Human Resources Agency for Health Care Administration 850-412-3872 <a href="mailto:Jamie.Skipper@ahca.myflorida.com">Jamie.Skipper@ahca.myflorida.com</a>	Chuck Merck General Services Manager Agency for Health Care Administration 850-412-3924 <a href="mailto:Chuck.Merck@ahca.myflorida.com">Chuck.Merck@ahca.myflorida.com</a>



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## ***AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES***

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD/Agency) serves nearly 62,000 Floridians with disabilities. 36,266 of these individuals are served on the iBudget Florida Home and Community-Based Services waiver (also known as the iBudget waiver).

The iBudget Florida Waiver and additional supplemental services provide numerous health and wellbeing supports such as therapeutic and wellness supports, supplies and equipment, life skills development, personal supports, and more. Individuals with a diagnosis of one or more of the following developmental disabilities may be eligible for services through this pathway.

- Severe forms of Autism
- Cerebral palsy
- Down syndrome
- Intellectual disability
- Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Spina bifida

The Agency operates statewide through six regions, two developmental disability centers (DDCs) licensed by AHCA, and the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP) which is a forensic facility on the grounds of Florida State Hospital. The agency is responsible for three major service delivery systems as described in Florida Statute (F.S.):

- Services provided in the least restrictive and most community-integrated setting available (chapter 393, F.S.)
- 24/7 care, habilitation, and rehabilitation provided by state-owned and operated facilities at Tacachale in Gainesville and Sunland in Marianna. There are 346 individuals who reside in these facilities. (chapter 400, Part VIII, F.S.)
- Competency restoration services at the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP) provided to individuals accused of a felony and deemed incompetent to stand trial, in a 146-bed secure facility on the grounds of Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee and a 34-bed secure satellite program, Pathways in Marianna. 121 individuals reside in these two facilities. (chapter 916, F.S.)

APD licenses 2,392 community-based residential facilities (also known as Group Homes) with 10,884 residents, (the total capacity is 13,980). 342 Adult Day Training (ADT) facilities are also licensed by the Agency. Individuals on the waiver must select a Waiver Support Coordinator (WSC) to assist them with managing their budget and services or enroll in a self-directed program called Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+). This program provides payroll management for certain Medicaid providers and has its own emergency payroll protocols during a disaster.



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There are 25,176 APD clients in pre-enrollment status.

All three APD-operated facilities, all APD-licensed residential facilities, and all ADTs are required to maintain Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs). APD has developed a CEMP template and guidance document to be used by providers of residential Group Homes and ADTs. The DDCs and DDDP must also maintain Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans, with the intention that staff will remain on site with clients during emergencies, and they will shelter in place.

APD meets regularly with the APD-operated and licensed facilities and their providers about emergency management practices including mitigation, and makes sure the facility, staff, and clients have their own disaster plans. APD’s website maintains a disaster and recovery toolkit [apd.myflorida.com/news/toolkit.htm](http://apd.myflorida.com/news/toolkit.htm) which links to [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org) and is updated regularly. APD Waiver Support Coordinators, clients, providers, stakeholders, and staff utilize this informational site.

The agency encourages all staff and clients to be personally prepared, provides annual training, and has provided a personal disaster plan template to be completed and updated annually. APD has found that utilizing the Everbridge emergency notification system to notify staff and providers of impending disasters has been beneficial. The Agency continues to refine the process protocols for use of this system. Working with FDEM and our own internal Client Data Management System, the agency has also identified the number of clients and licensed facilities that live or are located within flood zones.

### 2025 Update

During FY 2024-2025, utilizing available funding, APD conducted numerous preventative measures, repairs, renovations, and full replacements to agency-operated facility infrastructures. These efforts included replacing/repairing of emergency generators, boiler repairs, upgrades to high voltage underground and overhead electrical grid feeds, underground piping improvement, asbestos abatement, updated HVAC systems, roof repairs, and roof replacements. Many of the facilities implemented life safety equipment upgrades to include fire sprinkler and fire panel replacements across the center. While renovations and repairs continue at APD facilities, equipment like dehumidifiers, air scrubbers, generators, coolers, and upgrades to security doors were provided to assist the facilities in maintaining the safety and well-being of facility residents and staff.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	2	2	1	5
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 5 – Above Standard</b>				



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## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Karen Hagan Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) Agency Persons with Disabilities 850-545-7724 <a href="mailto:Karen.Hagan@apdcares.org">Karen.Hagan@apdcares.org</a>	Eddie Kay Harris Alternate ECO Agency Persons with Disabilities 850-274-1458 <a href="mailto:Eddie.Harris@apdcares.org">Eddie.Harris@apdcares.org</a>



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## ***DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION***

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR or Department) licenses and regulates approximately 1.7 million businesses and professionals across more than 30 fields of industry throughout the State of Florida. DBPR has 13 offices throughout the state and works with businesses to ensure safe quality services are provided to Florida's millions of residents and visitors.

DBPR is organized in two sectors that cover both business and professional industries. The business sector includes divisions that license and regulate the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages and tobacco; ensure the state's restaurants, hotels, and apartment complexes with five or more units provide clean and safe food service and public lodging facilities to Floridians and visitors; regulate the manufacturing and distribution of drugs, devices, and cosmetics in the state; and provide education, complaint resolution, and mediation for Florida residents living in condominiums, timeshares, and mobile homes.

The professions sector includes divisions that license and regulate various professions which include accountants, architects and interior designers, asbestos consultants, athlete agents, auctioneers, barbers, building code administrators and inspectors, community association managers, construction contractors, cosmetologists, electrical contractors, employee leasing companies, engineers, geologists, home inspectors, landscape architects, mold assessors and remediators, harbor pilots, real estate appraisers and brokers, and veterinarians. Additionally, the Division of Regulation is the enforcement authority for the professional boards and programs, including the Florida Building Commission. Such Division also monitors each of the professions and related businesses to ensure that laws, rules and standards are followed by the licensed professionals and likewise educates Floridians about the harm of unlicensed activity.

Additionally, the Department facilitates the processes related to the adoption and advancement of state building codes and standards through the Florida Building Commission (Commission), which is a regulatory body administered under the jurisdiction of DBPR. Section 553.77(1)(b), Florida Statutes, requires the Commission to make a continual study of the operation of the Florida Building Code or laws relating to the design, construction, erection, alteration, modification, repair, or demolition of public or private buildings, structures, and facilities to determine the effect upon the cost of construction and the effectiveness of their provisions. Under this requirement and corresponding annual appropriations, the Commission funds research studies on specific Florida Building Code issues and topics for the purpose of providing solutions to a specific problem or guidance on future Code changes. These technical studies are used as informative references for broader mitigation planning relating to the impacts of natural hazards on various structures.

DBPR facilitates the above-described broad business and professional licensing functions through thirteen statewide field offices, which are leased from the state Department of Management Services, from counties, or from private companies. DBPR does not own the buildings where these offices are located, and accordingly, does not manage the mitigation responsibilities associated with these structures. However, the agency maintains active planning for Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations to ensure the continuity of regulatory services following a natural disaster.



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## ***Disaster Response***

Following a natural disaster, DBPR assists Floridians and their businesses in several ways, with each main category of activity overviewed below.

The Division of Hotels & Restaurants mitigates post-disaster risks associated with food safety at impacted commercial food service locations. This is accomplished by way of significant communication to licensees on best practices, ranging from attention to boil water notices to assessment of food storage and susceptibility to spoilage in the absence of electricity and ability to refrigerate and/or heat. This can also include the inspection of apartment complexes with five or more units as well as the lodging facilities when appropriate.

The Division of Regulation seeks to ensure consumer protection and deter unlicensed activity through a number of public-facing engagements in impacted disaster zones: (1) multi-agency resource centers, disaster recovery centers, and business resource centers; (2) public education regarding unlicensed contractors/bad actors/fraud; (3) neighborhood sweeps; and (4) investigation and prosecution of increased complaints and nefarious activity in partnership with the Department of Financial Services, Office of the Attorney General, the Department's Office of the General Counsel, and local law enforcement agencies. During hurricane season 2024, the Division provided staff for Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC). Additionally, the Division conducted sweeps in the impacted areas to ensure that licensed contractors are performing work that require a state license.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement under the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco aids with law enforcement assignments, often including deployments of sworn officers throughout impacted communities to provide guidance and security during the response and recovery phases of a disaster. In addition to security, the Bureau makes calls and completes site visits of our licensees within impacted areas. In coordination with ESF 16, the Bureau has a State Response Team (STR) trained to deploy for cut and toss operations, provide support for various missions and other law enforcement agencies.

The Department also provides support for response and recovery efforts of the private businesses through (ESF 18). The Department coordinates and problem-solves unique challenges and needs presented among the regulated industries and professions overseen by the Department. Supporting ESF18 and having constant engagement with stakeholder associations as well as other state agencies supporting the private sector, the Department is able to amplify disaster response messaging across the state.

Lastly, the Department continues to support other aspects of disaster response and recovery through ESF 8, 14,16 and 18 by providing trained staff for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), who assist with the coordination and allocation of state resources.

## **2025 Update**

The Florida Building Commission (Commission), is primarily focused on the maintenance of existing processes and programs but continues its efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Florida Building Code by continuously monitoring, evaluating, and refining the Code using its stakeholder-driven and consensus-building processes. During



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Fiscal Year 2024-25, two research studies were completed. The first research project was required under HB 1021 (2020) and titled, Reviewing the Standards for Wind-Driven Rain (WDR): Intrusion through Tracks of Sliding Glass Door Systems During Hurricanes. This research project was due by December 1, 2024, and required the consideration of such devices designed to further prevent water intrusion.

The second research project was due December 31, 2024, and was based on new statutory requirements from HB 267 (2024). This research project, titled Review and Consider Possible Technical Changes to section 553.9065, Florida Statutes required the Commission to review statutory requirements as it relates to the impact of thermal efficiency standards for attic ventilation. The Commission evaluated the potential impact of the new thermal efficiency standards on moisture levels and energy use in Florida homes, relative to the existing provisions of the Prescriptive Compliance Method of the Florida Building Code and reported its findings and any technical changes related to moisture in sealed attics.

Additionally, the Commission continued its support for energy code compliance and research through the approval of compliance software and oversight of energy-related projects. On October 15, 2024, the Commission voted to approve the IESE software program for demonstrating compliance with the 2023 Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation (8th Edition).

Continuing its commitment to resilience following the landfall of Hurricanes Helene (Category 4) and Milton (Category 3) in the fall of 2024, the Commission authorized the University of Florida (UF) to conduct a damage assessment survey. In the survey, UF investigated and analyzed the impacts of Hurricane Ian, which demonstrated that houses built to the Florida Building Code performed better than those not built to the Code. The findings were presented at the Commission's June 2025 meeting and reaffirmed that structures built in accordance with the Florida Building Code sustained less damage than older or non-compliant buildings. The Commission will continue to review UF's final findings to inform future Florida Building Code development and research priorities.

As a result of the 2025 Legislative session, HB 551 clarified certain aspects of the simplified permitting process for certain fire alarm system projects and fire sprinkler system projects. The bill also adds the replacement of an existing fire alarm panel to the type of projects that can use the simplified permitting process and requires local enforcement agencies to establish a simplified permitting process by October 1, 2025. The bill provides that a county or municipality may only enforce an ordinance providing for a local amendment to the Fire Prevention Code if the ordinance was transmitted to the Florida Building Commission and the State Fire Marshal before the date the permit was submitted.

HB 683 (2025) created a definition of "synthetic turf" and requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt minimum standards and rules for the installation of synthetic turf, mandates that at least one support rail must adhere to specific standards in elevators, adds "single-trade plans review" to the existing definition of "single-trade inspection", requires that a notice of private inspection services specify whether a scheduled inspection will be conducted virtually or in person, and authorizes a private provider to use an automated or software-based plans review for code compliance. Also, an exemption from the provisions of the Florida Building Code was added for any system or equipment, whether affixed or movable, located on the property of a spaceport which is used for the production, erection, alteration, modification, repair, launch, processing, recovery, transport, integration, fueling, conditioning, or equipping of a space launch vehicle, payload, or spacecraft.



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HB 913 (2025) narrowed the scope of the milestone inspection program to apply only to residential condominium and cooperative buildings that are three or more habitable stories in height, rather than any building three or more stories in height. Additionally, local governments are required to adopt ordinances mandating that associations commence repairs for substantial structural deterioration within 365 days of receiving a phase two milestone inspection report. Lastly, local enforcement agencies are now required to submit electronic reports to DBPR annually by December 31, 2025, which must include detailed data on milestone inspection activity, building safety status, and permitting. DBPR is conducting outreach efforts and submitting eblasts to building officials to ensure this data is submitted timely through their online license accounts. DBPR will submit this data to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability so it can be analyzed and compiled into a report for the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Lastly, SB 180 (2025) added a new section titled, Regulation of Hoisting Equipment Used in Construction, Demolition, or Excavation During a Hurricane, to provide specific provisions regarding hoisting equipment used in construction, demolition, or excavation work during a hurricane. This new law tasked the Commission with establishing best practices for the utilization of tower cranes and hoisting equipment on construction job sites during hurricane season and reporting its findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2026. The law requiring this research project did not provide any appropriation funds to complete it, so DBPR reprioritized the Commission’s existing research funds so that \$120,000 can be reserved for UF to get this project underway and completed this fiscal year.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Business and Professional Regulation	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Patricia Broadway Emergency Coordinating Officer Department of Business and Professional Regulation 850-717-1522 <a href="mailto:patricia.broadway@myfloridalicense.com">patricia.broadway@myfloridalicense.com</a>	Dylan Ganey Alternate EM Coordination Officer Department of Business and Professional Regulation 850-717-1145 <a href="mailto:Dylan.Ganey@myfloridalicense.com">Dylan.Ganey@myfloridalicense.com</a>



# STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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## DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

DCF is tasked with protecting the vulnerable, promoting strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advancing personal and family recovery and resiliency. There are three primary program areas, Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and Economic Self-Sufficiency, and five Assistance Secretaries, which are each responsible for several programs. Additionally, there are six operational regions where most program delivery occurs. There are also three state mental health treatment facilities, as well as five contracted treatment facilities. DCF owns, operates, and maintains the three mental health treatment facilities. There is aging infrastructure on these campuses, and more than general maintenance is needed to truly mitigate the facilities. Additionally, DCF has various Emergency Management (EM) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans in place for the various programs they implement to ensure continuity of services post-disaster.

### 2025 Update

The Department does not typically require extensive mitigation activities as part of its mission and normal course of business.

Related to hardening of buildings to improve resilience to natural disasters, the Department has been appropriated Fixed Capital Outlay funds for all 3 DCF operated mental health treatment facilities from American Rescue Plan funds and from State General Revenue. Many of the projects funded with this appropriation include mitigation measures such as life safety generators, roofs, and emergency notification systems. These projects are ongoing.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Children and Families	1	2	1	4
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 4 – Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Matt Howard General Services Director Dept. of Children and Families 850-717-4017 <a href="mailto:Matthew.Howard@myflfamilies.com">Matthew.Howard@myflfamilies.com</a>	Josh Register General Services Manager Department of Children and Families 850-778-4033 <a href="mailto:Joshua.register@myflfamilies.com">Joshua.register@myflfamilies.com</a>



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## DEPARTMENT OF CITRUS

The Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) is an executive agency of the Florida government charged with the marketing, research, and regulation of the Florida Citrus industry. Its activities are funded by an assessment paid by growers on each box of citrus that moves through commercial channels. FDOC also has extensive regulatory responsibilities, covering every aspect of the industry, including research, production, maturity standards, licensing, transportation, labeling, packing, and processing. FDOC conducts a wide variety of programs involving industry regulation, scientific, market and economic research, advertising, merchandising, public and industry relations, and consumer promotions.

FDOC is governed by the Florida Citrus Commission (FCC), an eleven-member board appointed by the Governor of Florida to represent citrus growers, processors, and packers. The Commission is dedicated to overseeing and guiding the activities of the Florida Department of Citrus, conducting a variety of industry programs, and regulating the quality standards of citrus grown in Florida. It is responsible for setting the annual amount of the assessment tax as well as quality standards for all citruses grown, packed, or processed in Florida.

### 2025 Update

The Florida Citrus industry continues to face significant challenges to production since the introduction of Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening disease. The disease has affected tens of thousands of citrus acres around the state since it was first detected in Florida Citrus crops in 2005. The industry is still recovering from losses incurred from Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Ian, and the freeze experienced during the winter of 2022. The industry is fighting for its survival with hundreds of millions of industry, state, and federal dollars going toward research to find a cure for the devastating greening disease.

While FDOC does not have a direct responsibility for mitigating hazards such as disease and weather, the agency does provide whatever support is necessary to assist industry stakeholders in securing funding for both disease research and disaster relief.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Citrus	1	1	1	3
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 3 - Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison



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Rosa Walsh Dpt. Executive Director of Admin and Research Department of Citrus 863-537-3969 <a href="mailto:rwalsh@citrus.myflorida.com">rwalsh@citrus.myflorida.com</a>	Sharon McLeod Purchasing Manager Department of Citrus 863-537-3964 <a href="mailto:smcleod@citrus.myflorida.com">smcleod@citrus.myflorida.com</a>
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## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Department of Corrections (FDC) is tasked with providing a continuum of services to meet the needs of those entrusted to our care, creating a safe and professional environment with the outcome of reduced victimization, safer communities, and an emphasis on the premium of life. FDC has two programmatic areas: Institutions and Community Corrections. As of January 2025, there are 135 facilities (state-operated & private partners) statewide that incarcerate approximately 89,000 inmates sentenced to more than one year. Community Corrections is responsible for providing supervision of roughly 144,000 offenders on probation.

FDC has comprehensive Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations (COOP) programs to perform essential functions during an emergency or other situation that disrupts normal operations. Additionally, FDC places significant emphasis on facility infrastructure by making major repairs and renovations statewide.

## 2025 Update

Facilities Management & Building Construction team completed 113 roof replacements across the institutional footprint, including inmate housing units, and support buildings. Additionally, window replacements were completed in three inmate housing units in the southern Region.

## Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Corrections	2	3	2	7
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 7 - Above Standard</b>				

## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Christopher Brannon Director of Institutional Operations & Intelligence (ECO) Florida Department of Corrections 850-717-9729 <a href="mailto:christopher.brannon@fdc.myflorida.com">christopher.brannon@fdc.myflorida.com</a>	Todd Sharpe Assistant Bureau Chief (Emergency Management) Florida Department of Corrections 850-717-3330 <a href="mailto:Todd.Sharpe@fdc.myflorida.com">Todd.Sharpe@fdc.myflorida.com</a>



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## ***FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (FLORIDACOMMERCE)***

FloridaCommerce is tasked with advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help residents, communities, businesses and visitors thrive. These programs and activities directly and indirectly mitigate disasters, and they serve as connective threads between mitigation, response, recovery and Florida communities' long-term economic resiliency and opportunity. The following are the ongoing community development mitigation activities within FloridaCommerce.

### ***Comprehensive Plan Review***

Florida Commerce's Division of Community Development manages several mitigation activities and programs, including the review of Comprehensive Plans and plan amendments to ensure peril of flood planning requirements are included, per section 163.3178(2)(f) (1-6), Florida Statutes. Specifically required is the inclusion of development and redevelopment principles as well as strategies and engineering solutions that reduce flood risk in coastal areas from high tide events, storm surge, flash floods and storm water runoff.

These amendments also include references to the Community Rating System and Local Mitigation Strategies. The Division's Community Resilience Planner provides one-on-one technical assistance to local communities in meeting these statutory requirements.

Staff also assist with other planning elements such as:

- Coastal management planning, including coastal high hazard areas, adaptation planning and coastal redevelopment to reduce the risks of coastal flooding.
- Evacuation planning to ensure development within a county evacuation zone accounts for the time it takes those additional people to evacuate.
- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning.
- Military installation coordination with local governments to prevent encroachment.

### ***Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant Program***

The Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) grant program provides counties, municipalities, and regional planning councils the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, vibrant rural and suburban areas and meet statutory requirements for planning, while also protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Understanding that many Florida communities have been impacted by hurricanes, CPTA grants may also be used to assist with disaster recovery, resiliency and economic development planning.

### ***Areas of Critical State Concern***

This program provides oversight and assistance to Florida's identified areas of critical state concern. Program oversight includes the review and approval of amendments to comprehensive plans, land development regulations and development orders adopted or issued by local governments within the designated areas. An area of critical state concern is an area containing, or having a significant impact upon, environmental or natural resources of regional or statewide importance pursuant to section 380.05(2)(a), Florida Statutes. These areas may include state or federal parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, aquatic preserves, major rivers and estuaries, state environmentally



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endangered lands, Outstanding Florida Waters and aquifer recharge areas. The uncontrolled private or public development of these areas would cause substantial deterioration of such resources. The current designated areas of critical state concern are the Big Cypress Area, Green Swamp Area, the Florida Keys and City of Key West, the Brevard Barrier Island and Apalachicola Bay Area.

### ***Weatherization Assistance Program***

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is an income-qualified program that provides grant funds to community action agencies, local governments and non-profit agencies to weatherize homes, which reduces energy costs associated with cooling and heating the home throughout the seasons.

The weatherization of homes, which may include mitigation measures, reduces the monthly energy burden on low-income households by improving the energy efficiency of a home.

### ***Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program***

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program that helps income-qualified families with home heating and cooling costs. FloridaCommerce administers LIHEAP and allocates funding directly to a network of community action agencies, also known as local agency providers, located throughout the state of Florida. LIHEAP funds can be used to support energy needs of low-income families impacted by natural disasters by providing a wide range of services addressing temporary housing, utility payments and assistance with electrical power reconnection.

### ***Community Services Block Grant Program***

The Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) provides federal funds to designated local governments and nonprofit agencies called community action agencies, also known as local agency providers, to assist eligible income-qualified households with attaining the skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The agencies may provide a variety of antipoverty services such as emergency health, food, housing, day care, transportation assistance, housing counseling, financial management assistance, nutrition programs including federal surplus food distribution, community gardening projects, food banks, job counseling, placement and training services and homeless prevention programs.

### ***Office of Long-Term Resiliency***

FloridaCommerce manages the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grant programs through its Office of Long-Term Resiliency (OLTR). CDBG-DR/MIT funding becomes available post-disaster through a congressional allocation and includes consideration for mitigation actions, such as retrofitting, hardening and resiliency projects.

### ***Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program***

*Rebuild Florida* was launched in September 2018 to aid Florida's long-term disaster recovery efforts from the impacts of hurricanes. The Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program (HRRP) assists eligible homeowners impacted by hurricanes by repairing, rebuilding or replacing damaged homes across the most impacted and distressed



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(MID) communities. All repairs or reconstruction must meet or exceed Florida Building Code and applicable local building standards, including meeting Florida's hurricane protection and "wind-borne debris region" standards, ensuring resilience against future storms.

### ***Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program***

The Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Program encourages flood-risk reduction through the purchase of residential property from low to moderate-income citizens in high flood-risk areas. Residents are then assisted in relocating outside of flood-prone areas. Land acquired must be deed-restricted, after acquisition, to green space that makes it resilient to impacts from future storms. Approved local governments may receive 100% funding for voluntary home buyouts or leverage match funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program's (HMGP) land acquisition program.

### ***Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program***

The Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program is focused on creating more resilient communities through critical infrastructure hardening, mitigation planning and general infrastructure projects designed to reduce or eliminate risks attributable to natural disasters. Since 2021, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program has awarded funds to community and regional projects that address resilience-building needs associated with presidentially declared disasters for 2016, 2017 and 2018 storms. These declarations encompass areas that were impacted by Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma and Michael.

### ***Rebuild Florida Hazard Mitigation Grant Match Program***

The Rebuild Florida Hazard Mitigation Grant Match Program (HMGMP) is designed to fund the local match portion of awards through the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM's) Hazard Mitigation Grant program. These funds represent a unique and significant opportunity for the state, in the areas most impacted by recent disasters, to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to rebuild and harden infrastructure to prevent or reduce losses in future disasters.

### ***Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program***

The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a federal grant program administered by FloridaCommerce to provide funding for housing and community development activities. Congress created the Small Cities CDBG program when it passed the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Small Cities CDBG program is administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### ***Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant Program***

The Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) facilitates the planning, preparing and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities to encourage job creation, capital investment and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies. RIF funds are often used by rural communities as a match for other infrastructure funding programs, such as those offered by the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development and the United States Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration.



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## ***Disaster Unemployment Assistance***

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides temporary income replacement for individuals whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to a federally declared disaster and who are not eligible for regular reemployment/unemployment benefits. DUA covers weeks beginning after the disaster onset for qualifying individuals, subject to state/FEMA declarations and program rules. DUA is easily accessible through FloridaJobs.org, the state DUA claims portal.

## ***Dislocated Worker Grants***

Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) are federally funded (Department of Labor) grants administered via FloridaCommerce to provide federally declared emergency or disaster relief in the form of temporary employment, as well as training and placement services for workers impacted by major dislocations such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations. Disaster DWG funds provide temporary jobs on projects offering food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims, as well as demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, facilities, and lands within the disaster area. Case accounts include hiring temporary crews for cleanup and providing on-the-job training and classroom training tied to recovery needs.

## ***Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan***

The Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan Program is managed by FloridaCommerce and provides interest-free loans to local governments throughout Florida that were impacted by federally declared disasters. More than \$40 million is available to fund governmental operations within these Florida counties and municipalities and bridge the gap between the time of the disaster and the time additional funding sources or revenues are secured. "Governmental Operations" are costs associated with continuing, expanding, or modifying local governmental operations to meet disaster-related needs, and includes costs such as, yet not limited to, staff salaries and payroll. Since 2023, more than \$76.4 million has been awarded through the program.

## ***The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program***

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program provides short-term, zero-interest working capital loans that are intended to "bridge the gap" between the time a disaster impacts a business and when a business has secured longer term recovery funding such as federally or commercially available loans, insurance claims or other resources. Since 2019, more than \$203 million has been awarded to Florida small businesses through the program.

## ***Rebuild Florida Loan Fund***

The Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund is a program created to provide financing to assist businesses with resiliency efforts. The funds will address the current gap in available, affordable capital for businesses that can be used for inventory purchases, construction, working capital, equipment financing and more. Since 2019, more than \$54.4 million has been awarded through the program.



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## 2025 Update

During State Fiscal Year 24-25, FloridaCommerce provided more than \$1M in LIHEAP disaster flexibilities to vulnerable Floridians during the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

As of August 28, 2025, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program has awarded more than \$585 million in funds across 40 counties in response to nearly 1,300 requests for assistance. Over the past year, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation Program has made significant progress in implementing, monitoring and completing resilience enhancement projects throughout the state.

The Rebuild Florida Hurricane Michael HMGMP has awarded approximately \$47 million in funds in response to 86 requests for assistance. The HMGMP is currently serving communities in nine of the 10 HUD-designated “Most Impacted and Distressed Counties” impacted by Hurricane Michael. In 2025, significant progress has been made in implementing grantee agreements, with many having reached conclusion and/or completion of their project(s), with almost three dozen additional projects having entered into the Closeout Phase with both the FDEM and FloridaCommerce.

Beginning in October 2024, the Rebuild Florida Hurricane Ian HMGMP began making initial awards on the \$82 million program allocation. To date, FloridaCommerce has coordinated with FDEM and issued awards to 42 communities, totaling more than \$17 million in assistance to entities impacted by Hurricane Ian. In the coming year, FloridaCommerce expects to maintain HMGMP award efforts and make continued progress in implementing disaster recovery Subrecipient Agreements.

In the coming year, FloridaCommerce will launch the application cycle for the Rebuild Florida 2023 and 2024 Storms HMGMP. With an available \$25 million, this Program will serve as the local match for communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia (Category 4, August 2023), Hurricane Debby (Category 1, August 2024), Hurricane Helene (Category 4, September 2024), Hurricane Milton (Category 5, October 2024) and the North Florida Tornadoes (May 2024). Program staff remain committed to working closely with colleagues at FDEM to coordinate the launch of this application cycle and provide benefits to those still recovering from these storms.

## Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Florida Department of Commerce	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				



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## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Yazmin Valdez Regional Planning Administrator Florida Department of Commerce 850-717-8524 <a href="mailto:Yazmin.Valdez@Commerce.fl.gov">Yazmin.Valdez@Commerce.fl.gov</a>	Lecia Behenna Office of Long-Term Resiliency Bureau Chief Florida Department of Commerce 850-717-8436 <a href="mailto:Lecia.Behenna@commerce.fl.gov">Lecia.Behenna@commerce.fl.gov</a>



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## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

DOE works to increase the proficiency of all students and to maintain an accountability system to measure student progress. DOE is comprised of several divisions and offices including the State Board of Education, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services, the Board of Governors, and the Office of Early Learning. The Office of Early Learning has a dedicated liaison to the group, in addition to the DOE liaison.

DOE works closely with the Domestic Security Coordinating Group (DSCG) Executive Board & Critical Infrastructure-Education Focus Group to evaluate measures to identify and develop initiatives building upon the safety and security of all the state's educational institutions. The Critical Infrastructure-Education Focus Group evaluates measures to improve security and response to crisis situations on campuses. In addition, they strive to help improve communication and collaboration among education, mental health, law enforcement, and emergency management agencies. Finally, they will recommend policies, procedures, and actions related to campus security to the DSCG. DOE has a dedicated Interagency Fusion Liaison (IFL) and two Executive Advisory Board (EAB) members embedded in the Florida Fusion Center (FFC), which provides the department situational awareness. DOE encourages school districts to participate in their Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF).

The Office of Safe Schools (OSS) was created as a new division within DOE after the tragic event in Parkland, Florida in 2018. The OSS serves as a central repository for best practices, training standards and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security. The mission of OSS is to support districts in providing a safe learning environment for students and educators through prevention, intervention, grants, and emergency preparedness planning efforts. Furthermore, Florida law requires schools and school districts to complete vulnerability and security assessments and report the findings and local school board actions to OSS.

DOE rents most of their offices from DMS, counties, or private owners. However, the agency does own the Daytona School for the Deaf and Blind, which is a critical facility. DOE conducted a vulnerability assessment for this facility, which has resulted in additional security measures.

In the event of an imminent threat, K-12 schools are often used as shelters, as required by 252, Florida Statutes. The DOE Facilities Office, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management, assisted the Division of Emergency Management with its bi-annual Statewide Shelter Plan update, providing information and recommendations.

Ensuring vulnerability assessments occur at the local level and conducting assessments on DOE facilities is important and helps to identify opportunities for future mitigation. DOE is also able to provide limited state and federal funding to school districts for such opportunities.

### **2025 Update**

DOE did not have any significant mitigation-related activities take place in 2025 due to staff turnover and Emergency Response efforts.

### **Agency Mitigation Assessment**

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.



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Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Education	1	2	1	4
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 4 – Standard</b>				

## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Dexter Harris Director of the Office of EM Department of Education 850-245-9989 <a href="mailto:Dexter.Harris@fldoe.org">Dexter.Harris@fldoe.org</a>	Louanne Standley Alternate Emergency Coordinating Officer Department of Education 850-245-1983 <a href="mailto:Louanne.Standley@fldoe.org">Louanne.Standley@fldoe.org</a>



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## **DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS**

During an emergency event, needs and resources are managed at the local level and state emergency operations assist as and when needed – all emergencies are local. This locally focused operational structure required of DOEA and the community providers of the Aging Network in an emergency is essentially the same as the day-to-day operational structure of the Aging Network. So, although disasters bring their own unique set of challenges, this structure provides a solid platform for successfully dealing with the varying degrees of impacts that a disaster can have on a community. It should be noted that the Aging Network providers are also responsible for identifying all elders, not just the clients they serve but elders located in the general population, who may be at risk due to disruption of services caused by a disaster (e.g., lack of food, power, water, sewer, medicine, fire protection, emergency medical service, law enforcement, and/or continuity of care). Since it is critical that the number of elders who may be affected by a disaster/emergency in any given area is known, DOEA developed a set of geographic maps that are overlaid with demographic information to display those populations who might be at risk when a disaster strikes – including geographically vulnerable areas like flood zones or storm surge risks. It is important that this information be available before an emergency, so that when an event occurs or is about to occur, roles and tasks are clearly defined and understood to provide optimal care for older Floridians.

Additionally, DOEA produces an annual [Disaster Resource Guide](#) for seniors, families, and emergency management offices and organizations regarding disaster preparedness. Within this guide, there is information about mitigation, such as hurricane readiness, making evacuation plans, protecting valuable documents, and other important preparations to take before an emergency event. DOEA supports all 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) throughout the state. The AAA provides local information and resources to the states aging population including local mitigation efforts that are specific to their counties and region.

## **2025 Update**

DOEA has continued to provide support to Florida’s Aging population throughout 2025 by working in concert with federal, state, local, and community-based partners, and the 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to increase impacts from local disasters mitigation. DOEA has coordinated with the AAAs regularly to make sure mitigation is taking place at the local level.

Florida’s Aging Network has shown incredible resourcefulness during its most challenging times. The Aging Network continued to ensure basic needs for older adults were met by continuing home-delivered meals, safely recruiting, and mobilizing volunteers when needed.

The 11 Area Agencies on Aging have provided millions of home-delivered meals, including meals through the restaurant meal initiative, since the COVID-19 pandemic. Home-delivered meals continue to be an option in place for those who are still uncomfortable in a congregate setting.

DOEA is still maximizing its partnership with Scent Evidence K9 to distribute Scent Preservation Kits® to caregivers of those living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). They were distributed through Memory Disorder Clinics throughout the state. Older adults with ADRD may have an increased tendency to wander and become lost. If that happens, proactive family safety measures, such as the Scent Preservation Kit®, provide effective



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response systems to locate missing people and return them to safety. These kits provide K9 responders with uncontaminated scent articles that significantly reduce the time it takes to locate someone.

Another solution to breaking social isolation is through the therapeutic robotic companion pet’s initiative. DOEA continues to partner with Ageless Innovation’s Joy for All® Companion Pets to enhance meaningful interactions among older adults, their caregivers, and family members. The interactive companion pets help combat loneliness or depression by improving overall mood and quality of life. Robotic pets remain available through DOEA’s online application and are available for any older adult.

DOEA has and will continue to recruit volunteers for Hope for when emergencies/disasters arise.

Throughout 2025, DOEA has remained committed to proactive information sharing because it can help older adults cope with social isolation and any accompanying sense of grief or stress. The innovations and new programs provided by DOEA have provided outreach and links to helpful resources that can reduce feelings of loneliness and replace them with a sense of inclusion.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Elder Affairs	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Carl Epperson General Services Manager/ECO Department of Elder Affairs 850-414-2148 <a href="mailto:eppersonc@elderaffairs.org">eppersonc@elderaffairs.org</a>	Josh Hinshaw Property Consultant/Alt-ECO Department of Elder Affairs 850-414-2067 <a href="mailto:hinshawj@elderaffairs.org">hinshawj@elderaffairs.org</a>



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## ***DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***

DEP is responsible for environmental management and stewardship, protecting our air, water, and land. There are three primary areas including land and recreation, regulatory, and ecosystem restoration.

The Land and Recreation program area has two Divisions: Recreation and Parks, and State Lands. The Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources, under the Division of Recreation and Parks, is responsible for providing technical and professional services to preserve and manage natural and cultural resources in state parks. Another program under the Division of Recreation and Parks is the Land Acquisition and Administration program which identifies, evaluates, and establishes priorities for the land acquisition program. The Division of State Lands is responsible for the acquisition of new land and administration of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) owned lands which includes approximately 3,000,000 acres of BOT uplands; 6,000,000 acres of territorial waters; 1,235,000 acres of lakes and 260,000 acres of rivers.

There are six regulatory programs: Division of Air Resource Management, Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM), Division of Waste Management, Florida Geological Survey, Division of Law Enforcement and six regulatory district offices. The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection also perform regulatory functions.

Many DEP mitigation-related programs are within DWRM. The Program and Technical Services Program (PTSP) is composed of several areas of practice, including dam safety, hydrology and hydraulics support, mining and mitigation technical support and stormwater management support.

The State Dam Safety Officer oversees the Florida Dam Safety Program (FDSP), which consists of staff in DEP and Florida's five water management districts who perform dam safety activities, such as permitting, inspection, compliance, construction, operation and maintenance, Emergency Action Plan (EAP) development, and rulemaking. FDSP is integral in statewide mitigation because dams are critical infrastructure with water control structures that provide protection to large numbers of people from flooding.

The hydrology and hydraulics support staff reviews hydrologic modeling and hydrographic assessments submitted in support of Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs). These studies are important to estimate changes in water flows and storage to evaluate proposed permit designs for flooding impacts.

The mining and mitigation technical support staff assist the Mining and Mitigation Program (MMP) with completeness reviews regarding the technical aspects of stormwater management systems proposed for mine and reclamation projects to ensure that water quality and quantity meet state statutes and rules. The MMP regulates mining and reviews environmental resource permit applications and reclamation plans for mines. In this program the term "mitigation" refers to compensation for impacts to wetlands, not general risk reduction actions.

The stormwater management support staff serves as a reference for statewide consistency in review of the stormwater management portions of ERPs and provides stormwater and engineering expertise for rulemaking efforts, Basin Management Action Plans, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program, and the Non-Point Source Section 319(h) and Total Maximum Daily Load grant selections. Staff assists the district offices on complex projects seeking ERP authorizations.



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The NPDES Stormwater Program regulates point source discharges from three potential sources: municipal separate storm sewer systems, construction activities, and industrial activities. The program also develops policies to minimize and prevent pollutants in stormwater discharges.

The Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) is also responsible for implementing state laws providing for the protection of the quality of Florida's drinking water, groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuaries and wetlands. It is comprised of several programs that perform water facilities regulation, and operational support services and functions. Many division staff are located in Tallahassee; however, its Mining & Mitigation and Oil & Gas programs have staff operating in satellite offices throughout the state. The division also serves as Florida's central point of contact for federally delegated water programs, such as NPDES Stormwater, Drinking Water and Underground Injection Control (UIC), and has regulatory oversight of certain functions of water and wastewater facilities throughout Florida. Additionally, the division regulates mitigation banks.

The Division of Waste Management implements state and federal laws to protect the environment from improper handling and disposal of solid and hazardous waste, manages programs for waste facilities and pollutant storage systems, and conducts non-regulatory activities like financial and technical assistance for recycling and waste reduction.

The Florida Geological Survey (FGS) focuses on proactive environmental problem solving for geologic hazards as they relate to public health and safety. For example, FGS maps topographic depressions across the state. FGS partnered with FDEM under a mitigation grant to conduct a study to determine the geologic favorability to sinkhole development across the state. That study was used to complete the Sinkhole Risk Assessment in the SHMP and is included as an appendix to the plan. Staff at the FGS regularly respond to State Warning Point reports supplied by the FDEM's State Watch Office. Additionally, the FGS responds to and provides active support to FDEM assigned missions involving geological hazards. The FGS also led a project to assess economic benefits of statewide LiDAR data collection. The report informed elected officials during the state budgetary process. Funds were authorized and the data has been made publicly available. The FGS is currently working with the USGS to get Quality Level 1 Lidar for the western panhandle of Florida. The FGS is an active participant in the Florida Coastal Mapping Project (FCMaP), whose mission is "Accessible, high resolution seabed data of Florida's coastal waters to support infrastructure, habitat mapping, restoration projects, resource management, emergency response, and coastal resiliency and hazard studies for the citizens of Florida." The goal of FCMaP is to facilitate acquisition and availability of high-resolution bathymetry from Florida's shoreline to the edge of the continental shelf. Such data can improve coastal flooding, hydrologic, and transport models.

The Ecosystem Restoration program area has several divisions described below. The Office of Ecosystem Projects has a key role in restoring America's Everglades, which is the largest environmental restoration project in the world. The Office also ensures implementation of Everglades Forever Act, and focuses on improving water quality, and restoring hydrology and ecology of Florida's ecosystems.

The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection coordinates the protection of Florida's coastal resources, including submerged lands and coastal uplands, aquatic preserves and national estuarine research reserves, and coral reef resources. The State Buffer Preserve Program works to conserve and preserve the natural values of ecosystems. The Coastal Management Program also developed the Adaptation Guidebook to assist communities in sea level rise and



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adaptation planning. The Coastal Engineering and Geology Program prepares annual reports on critically eroded beaches, which are Appendices to the SHMP; develops inlet management plans; conducts post-storm erosion and damage assessments; provides technical expertise regarding coastal engineering, coastal hydrodynamics and morphology, beach erosion control, coastal sediment processes, coastal structures design and construction, and coastal geology and sedimentology. The Beaches, Inlets, and Ports Program processes Joint Coastal permit applications and environmental resource permit applications. The Coastal Construction Control Line Program regulates structures and activities which can cause beach erosion, destabilize dunes, damage upland properties, or interfere with public access.

The Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration has several purposes including surface water and groundwater quality standards; assesses bodies of water to identify pollution problems; adopts water quality restoration targets known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); develops and implements Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), Reasonable Assurance Plans, and Nutrient Reduction Plans; provides training on stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation control inspections; and works to protect and restore springs. The Division compiles reports from the Water Management Districts to develop an annual report on TMDLs, BMAPs, recovery, and prevention strategies. Projects to restore basins and water quality often include mitigation projects.

The Division of Water Restoration Assistance provides grants and loans for projects to improve the state's water quality, quantity, and which define the benefit to the environment and local communities. There are three funding programs: Springs Restoration Funding, Nonpoint Source Funds, and the Revolving Funds which are divided into the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Projects from the Nonpoint Source Funds are those that reduce water pollution from sources like Stormwater, which may also be mitigation projects. The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds programs are designed to plan, design, build, or upgrade wastewater, stormwater, or drinking water facilities. The Office of Water Policy addresses statewide water management issues in coordination with the Water Management Districts.

The Sustainable Initiatives Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program in DEP to assist Florida industry and residents to protect Florida's environment and promote sustainability.

## 2025 Update

On June 28, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed [Senate Bill 7040](#) into law, which updates Florida's stormwater rules and design criteria to protect the state's waterways.

On June 30, 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 2506 in law, which modified scoring criteria related to the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection's Resilient Florida Program's Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan. More specifically, this legislation incorporated the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System into the review and evaluation of submitted proposals. Resilient Florida is currently undergoing rulemaking effort to integrate the new criterion into the evaluation process.

This year's application portal for both the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan and the Resilient Florida Grant Program, which funds planning grants, closed in September. Over 300 proposals were submitted between both grant programs. Resilient Florida staff have been reviewing, evaluating, and ranking submitted proposals. The Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan receives a minimum of \$100 million, and the



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Resilient Florida Grant Program has \$20 million allocated, to fund high-ranking, eligible proposals. Awarded proposals will be the continuation of over 450 grants totaling over \$1.7 billion that the Resilient Florida Program administers to focus efforts to protect the state’s inland waterways, coastlines, and shores to prepare communities for the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms, and flooding.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Environmental Protection	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Samuel Graves Environmental Administrator Department of Environmental Protection 850-245-2875 <a href="mailto:Samuel.A.Graves@floridadep.gov">Samuel.A.Graves@floridadep.gov</a>	Heather Perkins Environmental Specialist III – Alt. ECO Department of Environmental Protection 850-245-2869 <a href="mailto:Heather.A.Perkins@FloridaDEP.gov">Heather.A.Perkins@FloridaDEP.gov</a>



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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The mission of the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida, through integrated state, county, and community efforts. FDOH actively works to achieve its mission through the activities and functions of its various Divisions.

The Divisions in FDOH include Children’s Medical Services, Public Health Statistics and Performance Management, Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Community Health Promotion, Disease Control and Health Protection, Medical Quality Assurance, Disability Determinations, and Administration.

The Department’s Office of County Health Systems provides oversight for 67 county health departments, which are responsible for creating and maintaining conditions that contribute to their community’s health. Each county health department office investigates health problems and health threats and leads planning and response activities for public health emergencies. Local county health department offices prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health effects from communicable diseases, disease outbreaks from unsafe food and water, chronic diseases, environmental hazards, injuries, and risky health behaviors.

Through the actions of its Divisions, several FDOH programs are administered that directly support the overall health of Florida’s communities.

In the Emergency Preparedness and Community Support Division, the Healthcare System Preparedness program ensures there is capacity and capability for the provision of critical public health and medical services to reduce the potential for adverse health outcomes during a disaster. In this Division, the Bureau of Preparedness and Response provides departmental expertise and leadership in the public health and medical component of all-hazards planning; preparation (including training and exercises); coordination; and the provision of funding, staff and material support for potential catastrophic incidents that may threaten the health of our communities and compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver needed health care services. During activation of the State Emergency Response Team, the Bureau provides the Department’s primary support for Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical), and the Division Office provides the agency’s emergency coordinating officer (ECO). The Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight creates and sustains a continuum of care that integrates community paramedicine, injury prevention, emergency medical services, trauma, rehabilitation, rural health, and community reintegration into an inclusive health care system that engages all stakeholders and partners as part of a cohesive healthcare and injury prevention community.

The Division of Community Health Promotion implements the Built Environment Program. The built environment includes all buildings, spaces, and products that are created or modified by people. The built environment impacts our physical and social environments and subsequently our health and quality of life. The State Health Improvement Plan includes Environmental Public Health objectives including integrating health-related language into local government Comprehensive Plans, increasing the number of jurisdictions with Complete Streets policies to provide for safe travel irrespective of the mode of transportation, and share best practices to promote biking, walking, and using public transportation. These objectives are related to risk and vulnerability reduction. Another program in the Division of Community Health Promotion, Community Resilience, works to develop informed, empowered, and resilient healthcare systems and residents. Resilient healthcare systems incorporate mitigation techniques and approaches.



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The Division of Disease Control and Health Protection implements the Environmental Public Health program, which works to prevent disease of environmental origin. Within this programmatic area, the Climate and Health program assesses the impacts of climate on human health; for example, Florida faces natural hazards such as severe storms, flooding, and tropical cyclones. Additionally, the Environmental Public Health program partners with Florida State University to help Build Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) to improve the ability of the public health sector to respond to health effects related to climate variability. This is a form of vulnerability reduction.

## 2025 Update

### DOH-JACKSONVILLE LABORATORY:

The FDOH Design and Construction Section is currently renovating the Jacksonville Laboratory Campus. The work includes specific material upgrades and system updates to harden the building.

- Sowder Building Elevator Modernization: The work includes waterproofing the elevator pit and installing new sump pumps to mitigate flood water damage from Hogans Creek which is directly adjacent to the building.
- Porter Building 1st Floor Renovation: The work includes infilling several exterior openings, installing flood resistant exterior doors, replacing gypsum wallboard with fiberglass resin wallboard, and elevating all electrical systems above the 100-year flood elevation.
- Shop Replacement Building: The existing building that was below the 100-year flood elevation was demolished and a new building was built in another location that is well above the 100-year flood plain.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Health	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
<b>Jeff Bielling</b> ESF-8 Operations and Planning Administrator, Bureau of Preparedness and Response Department of Health 850-294-0190 <a href="mailto:Jeffery.Bielling@flhealth.gov">Jeffery.Bielling@flhealth.gov</a>	<b>Christina Stenberg</b> ESF-8 Planning Unit Manager, Bureau of Preparedness and Response Department of Health 850-544-1697 <a href="mailto:Christina.Stenberg@flhealth.gov">Christina.Stenberg@flhealth.gov</a>



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## **DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is tasked with increasing public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth. The Bureau of General Services is responsible for facility management. There are 45 Residential and Correctional Facilities and 21 Juvenile Detention Centers. The Bureau of General Services takes an active role in the emergency management and mitigation of the facilities. For example, in 2017 Hurricane Irma caused flooding at a DJJ facility. Damages were repaired, and DJJ has completed engineering to mitigate future flooding through the design of a 30-inch flood wall around the exterior of the facility and the design and engineering of the underground drainage of the facility to be delivered outside of the flood wall capturing all rainwater. DJJ and this facility are engaged and have permitted with the water management district and working with the Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Furthermore, DJJ has completed other mitigation type projects on their facilities using maintenance funds, and all new construction projects consider mitigation options.

### **2025 Update**

#### ***Deep Creek (Hastings Youth Academy) Flood Mitigation Project***

Flood Mitigation at all Building Entrances: After reviewing with the contractors, the perimeter flood wall was determined to have too many unforeseen existing underground issues, which adds tremendous costs to the project. The feasible option was to protect just the five buildings from flooding instead of encompassing the entire campus with a wall. It was determined the best option was to remove the storefront entrance curtain walls with glazing to the ground and replace it with a new forty-inch-high CMU walls and install new storefront curtainwall on top of the 40" CMU wall with impact glazing, new doors, frames and hardware at the entrances. This was completed on five buildings with nineteen openings mitigated. Flood doors were reinstalled at each location.

#### ***Impact Resistant Windows***

DJJ is phasing in a window replacement program that will convert present glass windows to fixed glass impact resistant windows for facilities on the coast. All windows at DJJ facilities (Broward RJDC, Jacksonville YA and Palm Beach JDC) have been completed. DJJ will continue to move forward with the window replacement program for other facilities in the following years as funding permits.

### **Agency Mitigation Assessment**

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Juvenile Justice	1	2	2	5
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 5 - Above Standard</b>				



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## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
<p>Alnysa Bisbee Emergency Coordinating Officer Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 850-717-2764 <a href="mailto:Alnysa.Bisbee@fldjj.gov">Alnysa.Bisbee@fldjj.gov</a></p>	<p>Pamela White Deputy Bureau Chief of General Services Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 850-717-2740 <a href="mailto:pamela.white@fldjj.gov">pamela.white@fldjj.gov</a></p>



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## DEPARTMENT OF LOTTERY

The Florida Lottery was created in 1988 with the purpose of generating additional revenue for education while providing residents with access to high-quality lottery games. Its mission is to maximize contributions to education in a manner that upholds the integrity of the State of Florida and enhances the well-being of its citizens.

Lottery revenues have been instrumental in advancing education across the state. These funds have supported School Recognition and Merit Programs, rewarded schools demonstrating measurable improvement, and provided critical resources for the construction and renovation of educational facilities through initiatives such as Classrooms First and Classrooms for Kids.

Since its inception, the Florida Lottery has contributed billions of dollars to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF), underscoring its enduring commitment to Florida’s students. These consistent investments have strengthened schools, colleges, and universities, expanded scholarship opportunities, and helped create a brighter future for generations of learners.

### 2025 Update

For the 23rd consecutive fiscal year, the Florida Lottery transferred more than \$1 billion to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF), reinforcing its role as a critical funding source for education in the state. Since its inception in 1988, the Lottery has generated over \$48.93 billion in transfers to the EETF.

These contributions continue to deliver substantial benefits across Florida’s public education system. Public schools (K–12 programs and school construction) have received more than \$17 billion overall, including more than \$252 million in FY 2024–25. The state’s colleges and universities have also been significantly supported, with a combined total exceeding \$12 billion since the Lottery began, including more than \$934 million in FY 2024–25.

The Lottery has further advanced higher education opportunities through its support of the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. To date, it has contributed more than \$9.2 billion, including over \$606 million in FY 2024–25, helping more than one million students pursue their college education.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Lottery	1	1	1	3
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 3 – Standard</b>				



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## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Loren Lowers Deputy Director of Security Florida Lottery 850-487-7777 <a href="mailto:LowersL@flalottery.com">LowersL@flalottery.com</a>	Cory Williams Special Agency Supervisor Florida Lottery 850-487-7777 <a href="mailto:WilliamsCo@flalottery.com">WilliamsCo@flalottery.com</a>



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## **DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The Department of Management Services (DMS) supports sister agencies as well as current and former state employees with workforce and business-related functions so that agencies can focus on their core missions. The Division of Real Estate Development and Management (REDM) is responsible for overall management of the Florida Facilities Pool (FFP), as well as other facilities and structures DMS has been given the responsibility to manage, which totals 123 structures. REDM also manages the Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) fund appropriated by the Florida Legislature and oversees repairs and renovations of DMS-managed facilities with those funds. These projects involve mitigation in the form of code compliance. The Building Construction Bureau oversees construction of public buildings statewide. The Operations and Management Bureau is responsible for the daily operations of DMS managed facilities. When requested and funded by sister agencies, DMS may assist with code compliance for other state facilities.

The Florida State Owned Lands and Records Information System (FL-SOLARIS) is a database owned by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to maintain an inventory of all real property and facilities owned by the State. DEP is responsible for the maintenance of all real property records (land). State agencies, water management districts, Board of Governors of Universities, Florida College System colleges (FCS), and the judicial branch, not including the Department of Transportation facilities, are responsible for maintaining respective facility data within FL-SOLARIS. The database includes more than 20,000 facilities owned and maintained by sixty-five different entities. Each of these entities is responsible for maintenance and mitigation efforts for its facilities. The FL-SOLARIS database was used to complete the Risk Assessment within the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The locations of the 20,000 facilities were overlaid with risk and vulnerability maps to determine whether the facilities may be vulnerable or at risk. The mitigation efforts conducted by DMS are in the form of code compliance for facilities in the FFP, which could impact the continuity of operations and continuity of government at each of these facilities. Through general operations and maintenance, as well as the FCO projects, DMS completes mitigation projects annually for 123 structures. Additionally, the FL-SOLARIS database is crucial to accurate risk and vulnerability mapping and analysis in the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## **2025 Update**

DMS continues to strengthen the resilience of Florida's state facilities through proactive planning, mitigation, and coordinated response to severe weather events. In 2024, DMS demonstrated its ability to rapidly mobilize resources and restore operations following multiple storms, while also advancing long-term resilience strategies across the FFP.

When two EF-2 tornadoes struck Tallahassee in May, DMS quickly engaged vendors for large-scale debris clearance, coordinated utility restoration, and stabilized impacted facilities. These actions enabled state agencies to resume operations swiftly, even as damages approached \$1 million. Hurricane Debby further tested facilities, yet DMS ensured continuity of operations by deploying emergency generators, conducting debris removal, and providing critical supplies at affected sites.

The hurricane season presented additional challenges but also highlighted DMS's strong partnerships. Following Hurricane Helene's Category 4 landfall in the Big Bend, DMS collaborated with the City of Tallahassee to accelerate debris removal and secure state facilities, preventing secondary damages. Weeks later, Hurricane Milton's surge and flooding caused envelope issues at FDLE's Tampa facility. DMS initiated immediate remediation, coordinated with



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contractors for long-term replacement valued at \$6 million, and continued to oversee design and construction of resilient upgrades.

Beyond storm response, DMS is advancing a portfolio of mitigation initiatives. Recent projects have included roof and window replacements, structural hardening, and elevation and flood-proofing measures to protect critical assets. The Department continues to integrate resilience into its planning processes.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Management Services	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Ashley Massey Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) Department of Management Services 850-559-0340 <a href="mailto:Ashley.Massey@dms.fl.gov">Ashley.Massey@dms.fl.gov</a>	Hank Stephens Alternate ECO – ESF-2 Department of Management Services 850-294-5620 <a href="mailto:Hank.Stephens@dms.fl.gov">Hank.Stephens@dms.fl.gov</a>



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## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS/FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD

DMA provides management oversight of the Florida National Guard (FLNG) and provides units and personnel ready to support national security objectives, protect the public, and contribute to national, state, and community programs. The Department and Guard are headquartered at St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Florida and operate together within policy guidance and fiscal framework of federal and state authorities. The joint headquarters is responsible for more than one billion dollars in state property, armories in 55 communities in Florida, and more than 73,000 acres in training lands. DMA/FLNG is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of over 800 buildings, which often includes retrofitting, energy efficiency, life safety, and hardening projects.

### 2025 Update

During renovation projects, facilities are equipped with either manual or automatic transfer switches to ensure power redundancy during disasters or power outages. This setup allows the organization to maintain critical operations. While our generators are typically not full-building units or below the major subordinate command level, we continue to develop plans to upgrade battalion readiness centers and, in some cases, critical company readiness centers located in key areas.

For the 2024-2025 budget year, the agency submitted a request and received funding for a generator at one of our new locations in Zephyrhills, FL. Additionally, we have completed numerous roof replacements throughout our facilities over the past few years to prevent water intrusion, which can lead to mold, mildew, and interior damage.

Recent storms over the past three years have highlighted the need to reassess the life expectancy of our roofs. This evaluation has prompted us to create a priority list based on the remaining serviceable life of the roofs. This will help us effectively allocate state and federal funding for repairs or full replacements, ensuring that our facilities remain dry and protected.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Military Affairs/Florida National Guard	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

<b>Primary Liaison</b>	<b>Alternate Liaison</b>
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## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

The mission of DOS is to improve the quality of life for all Floridians through the agency’s critical functions and programs. The Division of Historic Resources (DHR) is responsible for identifying, evaluating, preserving, and interpreting historic and cultural resources. DHR has several programs to accomplish this objective, including the Florida Main Street program, housed within DHR’s Bureau of Historic Preservation, and the Compliance and Review program.

Florida Main Street provides technical assistance to revitalize historic downtowns and encourage economic development. DHR also conducts compliance reviews for all project types and provides technical assistance to ensure compliance with state and federal preservation laws which mandate consideration of a project’s impact on historic and archaeological properties. DHR assists communities with disaster planning and mitigation for historic properties through written documents and individual guidance, improving coordination between emergency management and historic preservation efforts, as well as identifying funding sources and providing best practices for mitigation. DHR’s Bureau of Archaeological Research conducts surveys and excavations and provides specialized damage assessments on state owned lands after hazards have impacted an area, such as flooding, high winds, and forest fires.

In addition to historic preservation, the Division of Library and Information Services oversees the Records Management Program, including the State Records Center. The State Records Center offers government agencies low-cost storage in a secure facility as well as vault storage for microfilm master and backup copies of vital records and 24/7/365 emergency access to system backups. The Records Management Program provides Disaster Recovery resources, including information on recovery techniques and handling guidance regarding records impacted by floods, fires, and other hazards.

## **2025 Update**

The Florida Main Street program, with 53 active Main Street communities, assisted communities impacted by both Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Coastal communities such as Palm Harbor, Deuces Live, and Crystal River experienced both wind and flood damage from the storms, while inland communities like Plant City, Zephyrhills, and Brooksville sustained impacts from high winds. At the state level, Florida Main Street coordinated with the Department of State’s Emergency Management Coordinator through the Division of Historical Resources. This helped communities by bringing knowledgeable personnel on the ground that could help with assessments and coordinating the FEMA process. The Main Street program areas were able to organize community assistance to clean up businesses that were impacted by the storms and to keep the community informed as businesses were able to reopen. Additionally, the Florida Main Street Coordinating Office partnered with other state agencies to obtain assistance from SBDC, and



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it acted as a resource hub for other state grants and loans to impacted businesses and communities as they became available.

DHR manages the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, which has 86 participating communities. As part of the program, DHR shared disaster planning, mitigation, response and recovery documentation with CLGs at the beginning of hurricane season and prior to major storms, including Hurricanes Helene and Milton. CLGs are prioritized in providing technical assistance following disasters, and staff works to connect CLG contacts with relevant federal agencies and funding sources. In an ongoing effort to aid disaster recovery and mitigate risk, DHR has been encouraging CLGs to update their historic resource surveys to expedite disaster relief efforts. The Main Street program works closely with the CLG program, providing similar resources to local businesses, while the CLG program focuses on government-to-government partnerships and assistance.

DHR is currently partnered with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) and FEMA to conduct a survey of regions impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in Pinellas, Sarasota, and Lee Counties in support of Elevate Florida, FDEM's Residential Mitigation Program. DHR's previous county-wide surveys of Dixie, Levy, and Taylor Counties have been key in providing baseline data for FEMA following Hurricane Helene. By documenting existing historic resources, survey projects like these facilitate federal, state, and local agency disaster planning and response. This information allows for expedited review of projects and identifies which properties merit special consideration when responding to a disaster. Surveys also help DHR rule out projects that do not need review, per DHR's programmatic agreement with FEMA, which further speeds up response time. Additionally, Florida Master Site File staff share information with FEMA, FDEM, FDOC, and HUD on a regular basis to assist in identifying damaged properties or those at-risk during response and recovery.

In 2025, DHR established preservation priorities for the Fiscal Year 2027 Special Category grant application solicitation that included preference for projects that fund hurricane recovery and disaster mitigation efforts. In addition, DHR continues to prioritize historic resource survey through its Small Matching grant program. In Fiscal Year 2024-25, DHR funded 15 grant-sponsored surveys. These surveys ranged from updating documentation for historic districts in Lakeland, to recording for the first time manufactured housing in Sarasota. Several surveys focused on hurricane impacted communities, including Sarasota and St. Pete Beach. These surveys are utilized by local governments in their disaster and flood mitigation planning.

The NPS awarded the Division disaster recovery grants for both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael in 2019 and 2020. This grant funding was sub-granted to non-profits and local governments for projects aimed at recovery and repair of historic properties in areas that received a major disaster declaration related to Hurricanes Irma and Michael, respectively. These subgrant projects must also substantially mitigate the threat and include steps to mitigate future damage. A total of \$4,959,699 of the Hurricane Irma Funding from the NPS was allocated to subgrants, and a total of \$8,054,000 of the Hurricane Michael Funding from the NPS was allocated to subgrants. All subgrants under the Hurricane Irma disaster grant program closed by September 30, 2024. DHR's grants section continues to manage 15 open Hurricane Michael subgrant projects.

DHR extended its 2014 Programmatic Agreement with FEMA and FDEM and provided final comments for a new version of the agreement to FEMA. The new agreement creates greater efficiency when coordination with DHR is required and provides new allowances for emergency actions that will not require consultation with DHR. In addition, DHR works



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daily with FEMA, FDEM, HUD, and FDOC staff and consultants to assess impacts to historical resources for projects that are listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, per Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In Fiscal Year 2024-25 Compliance Review staff provided technical assistance on an estimated 600 projects regarding proper treatment of historic structures and archaeological sites damaged during hurricanes and other disasters. Staff expedite the review of disaster related projects and provide comments in not more than 15 days, but usually within 48 hours or less.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of State	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 - Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)’s mission is to provide a safe statewide transportation system that promotes the efficient movement of people and goods, supports the state’s economic competitiveness, prioritizes Florida’s environment and natural resources, and preserves the quality of life and connectedness of the state’s communities.

The Office of Environmental Management (OEM) develops and ensures the implementation of quality environmental policies, procedures and practices in the development of transportation improvements through each of the Department’s core processes: plan, produce, deliver, and maintain. Integrates environmental and stewardship principles into all Department plans and programs by balancing natural, human, cultural, and physical considerations with sound engineering principles. This helps achieve the goal of preserving the quality of our environment and communities, while fulfilling the Department’s core mission. OEM provides statewide technical expertise in all areas related to physical environmental considerations and natural, cultural, and community resource in association with transportation actions in phases of project development, from planning through operation and maintenance. These considerations and program areas include air quality, highway noise, water quality and contamination, wildlife and habitat, wetlands and permitting, historic, archaeological, tribal, community impacts, and public involvement.

The Office of Design develops policy, procedures, criteria, and standards incorporating mitigation efforts for the design of roadways, bridges, and other structures. This includes drainage design procedures involving hydrology, hydraulics, pipe material selection, bridge scour, coastal engineering, stormwater management, and erosion and sediment control. It also developed the Drainage Manual as guidance for communities that want to conform their infrastructure to the same standards as FDOT.

The Office of Maintenance implements, through statewide oversight and in coordination with FDOT districts, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program, which seeks to address water quality issues and ensure FDOT compliance with all applicable permit requirements.

The Emergency Management Office coordinates and oversees disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for the Department. It also works closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the Department’s federal reimbursement for emergency response.

The Office of Policy Planning (OPP) develops and coordinates implementation of the Florida Transportation Plan. It is a single overarching statewide plan guiding Florida’s transportation future. The Plan includes several goals, objectives, and strategies related to mitigation and resilience that seek to promote the long-term capacity of the transportation infrastructure network. OPP also developed the Resilience Action Plan (RAP) as required by S. 339.157, Florida Statutes.

### **Related Goals and Action Areas:**

#### Goals

- Safety



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- Efficient and Reliable Movement of People and Freight
- Enhance and Preserve Communities and Natural Resources
- Support Robust Economic Competitiveness
- Secure and Agile Transportation System

### **Key Action Areas:**

- Increase the reliability and efficiency of moving people and freight through congestion relief and technology
- Enhance community connections while preserving Florida's natural environment
- Integrate land use and transportation planning
- Increase transportation options
- Strengthen transportation infrastructure and supply chains
- Prioritize timely and efficient response and recovery for disasters, threats, and hazards
- Prevent cybersecurity and other risks to travelers, assets, and supply chains
- Maintain transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair for all modes
- Develop and retain a skilled transportation workforce
- Eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries
- Reduce the number and severity of crashes and safety incidents

The Resilience Action Plan (RAP) recommends strategies to enhance infrastructure and operational resilience, design changes for existing and new facilities, and strategies to enhance partnerships to address multijurisdictional resilience needs. The RAP includes several elements, including an evaluation of past events and our current policies, procedures, processes, and manuals; a vulnerability assessment of the State Highway System; alternatives to retrofit existing infrastructure and systems; a database of vulnerable assets; and enhanced partnerships and technical assistance to address multijurisdictional resilience needs.

The Systems Implementation Office manages the Strategic Intermodal System, a network of high priority transportation facilities, through development of needs, cost feasibility, and Ten-Year Project Plans. The FDOT Research Center conducts research regarding transportation innovations.

### **2025 Update**

FDOT's Resiliency Policy focuses on sea level rise, flooding, and storm events and identifies implementation strategies through planning, project development, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of transportation facilities. The Department is continuing to implement the Resiliency Policy through updates to manuals and various business processes.



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FDOT is in the process of preparing a status report on the Resilience Action Plan, as required by Section 339.157, Florida Statutes. The status report will be completed by June 2026.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program, which provided funds for resilience improvements to vulnerable transportation infrastructure. FDOT has programmed \$364 million in federal PROTECT funds for planning and implementation to incorporate resilience into FDOT work program projects, including supply chain resiliency strategies, a study of low-member bridge strikes, development of infrastructure elevation data, and construction of buried seawalls and drainage improvements. FDOT is also collaborating with multiple agencies to support the USF/Florida Flood Hub’s development of a statewide regional flooding model.

Several resilience-related research projects are underway or have been completed, including projects addressing resiliency of rigid and asphalt pavements to flooding.

FDOT is continuing to develop and enhance tools and guidance to address flooding and other hazards, including enhancement of the Sketch Planning Tool and the Environmental Screening Tool Area of Interest Tool Resilience Report.

The Department coordinates closely with various local, state, and federal agencies, including the state’s Chief Resilience Officer/Florida Department of Environmental Protection, FloridaCommerce, Florida Division of Emergency Management, and others to promote a coordinated and consistent policymaking and project delivery framework.

FDOT is designing and building infrastructure to enhance readiness and respond to storm events through design and construction of a range of adaptation measures. The OneFDOT team remains ready to serve when Florida faces emergencies, clearing the way for safe passage of emergency responders, utility crews, & essential supplies to reach those in need.

### ***Storm Event Response and Recovery***

A great deal of pre-storm preservation and preparation takes place in advance of a storm event. FDOT conducts pre-event staging for early response from neighboring Districts, lowers high-mast lights, secures maintenance yards and construction sites, and checks and clears drainage areas, inlets and other locations that historically flood. Additional activities include staging generators at rest areas, locking-down movable bridges, and wind speed monitoring.

Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU), a strategy developed to increase traffic capacity during major hurricane evacuations, was a key tactic first implemented during Hurricane Irma evacuations along the I-75 and I-4 corridors and implemented on the I-4 corridor during Hurricane Ian evacuations. ESU plans have been developed for key corridors (I-4, I-10, I-75, I-95, and Florida’s Turnpike).

Advanced procurement for traffic signal generators and repairs, sign and roadway lighting repairs, debris monitoring, and cut-and-toss operations help residents return to their homes and businesses and allow for critical repairs to utilities, aiding a quicker and comprehensive community and economic recovery.

Over the years, FDOT has developed a refined process for responding to emergencies that continues to improve with each lesson learned. Some of our major response efforts over the last few years include:



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- Tallahassee Tornadoes – 2024: With many FDOT staff themselves impacted, efforts focused on heavy debris removal throughout the area & extensive traffic signal outages.
- Hurricane Debby – 2024: Efforts focused on clearing nearly 6,600 miles of state roads in less than 24 hours, pumping floodwaters from I-10, and inspecting over 2,000 bridges.
- Hurricane Helene – 2024: FDOT’s efforts focused on a wide area, including clearing I-10, 3 causeways in the Greater Tampa Bay region, temporary repairs to state facilities, and debris removal on local facilities.
- Hurricane Milton – 2024: Highlights include implementing ESU to assist in evacuations, cleared 12,000 miles of state roads in 24 hours, completing bridge inspections on over 2,400 state-owned and locally-owned bridges.
- Winter Storm Enzo – 2025: Highlights include pre-treating 600+ bridges across North Florida and clearing nearly 400 miles of ice/snow from I-10, reopening in just 25 hours.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Department of Transportation	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Irene Cabral Emergency Coordination Officer Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) 850-445-7111 <a href="mailto:Irene.Cabral@dot.state.fl.us">Irene.Cabral@dot.state.fl.us</a>	Brian Richardson Emergency Management Coordinator – Planning Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) 850-544-8359 <a href="mailto:Brian.Richardson@dot.state.fl.us">Brian.Richardson@dot.state.fl.us</a>



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## ***DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT***

The Mitigation Bureau within the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is the lead agency for mitigation efforts in the State of Florida. FDEM is designated as the coordinator of the Natural Hazards Interagency Working Group per Section 252.3655, Florida Statutes.

The Mitigation Bureau within FDEM is responsible for developing, updating, maintaining, and implementing the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). The SHMP is reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years and is required to meet standard criteria per CFR 44 Part 201.4 to be eligible to receive federal mitigation grant funding. The State of Florida has an Enhanced SHMP because the plan meets additional requirements, per CFR 44 Part 201.5, which authorizes Florida to receive additional funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This has resulted in nearly an additional \$298 million in mitigation funding since 2007. The Mitigation Bureau is also responsible for implementing the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) program. Each county is required to develop, maintain, update, and implement a county mitigation plan to be eligible for federal mitigation funds. These plans must include specific criteria according to 44 CFR Part 201 and Florida Administrative Code 27P-22. Florida has been authorized to review and approve LMS plans on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) behalf, under the Program Administration by States (PAS) program.

The Mitigation Bureau provides three mitigation grants from FEMA, including HMGP, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program, and the FMA Swift Current grant program. HMGP is managed by the Bureau under the FEMA PAS program, which allows increased oversight over mitigation projects and shortens the standard 24-month grant obligation timeline. FDEM also developed a first-of-its-kind agreement with FEMA to allow FDEM employees to serve as non-federal representatives to conduct environmental and historic preservation (EHP) reviews at the federal level. This has also shortened the length of application reviews.

The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund allocates funding for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program, which is managed by the Bureau. The program conducts mitigation projects on mostly residential and community properties.

The Florida Office of Floodplain Management is within the Mitigation Bureau and implements the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by ensuring communities adopt and adhere to various codes and ordinances through conducting Community Assistance Visits (CAVs).

The Technical Unit provides support to the four grant programs by reviewing local project applications before they are approved and funded, for criteria such as cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, and environmental and historical compliance.

FDEM is also responsible for disaster and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, which are managed by the Preparedness Bureau, Response Bureau, and Recovery Bureau, respectively.

## **2025 Update**

The Mitigation Bureau continued to focus on outreach and education in the various units throughout 2024. In addition to these efforts, the Bureau explored new ways to provide technical assistance to the local communities impacted by natural disasters. Some of these efforts were providing direct mitigation and floodplain assistance to fiscally constrained counties. These efforts were seen through a statewide briefing on DRRA Section 1206 Category I



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regarding reimbursement for floodplain activities and in-person assistance with further substantial damage assessment activities. Several Mitigation staff members were moved from the State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) to the Florida Central Operations and Coordination Office (FLCOCO) in Auburndale. FLCOCO is a newly constructed facility for post-disaster warehouse operations that has greatly expanded FDEM's capacity to store food and water and includes upgraded features like expanded trailer spaces and sleeping quarters, as well as hazardous materials closets. FL COCO is strategically located in central Florida to enhance the State's response and recovery capabilities, creating greater long-term community resilience in the wake of disaster events.

The Planning Unit started the next LMS 5-year update cycle. Ahead of counties' 18-month expiration dates, the Unit conducted FL-391 LMS Update Manual Workshops, which will continue a quarterly basis in 2026. The Planning Unit also instructed eight G-/FL-393 courses across the state, presented at several LMS Working Group meetings, and coordinated projects with the partnership of the Florida Silver Jackets program within the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Planning Unit in coordination with USACE, closed out three Silver Jackets projects during FY25 including the Coral Reefs in HMGP, Florida Flood Hub Inventory, Big Bend CRS Outreach, and the Jacksonville Design Charrette projects. For FY25, the team is working on the Community Guidebook to Flood Modeling, Flood Observations Guidebook, and Post-Flood Hazard Awareness projects. The Community Guidebook to Flood Modeling is a continuation of the Florida Flood Hub Inventory project, which builds upon that project by creating a guidebook for localities to help assist communities model their flood zones. The Flood Observations Guidebook will build upon the Flood Hub efforts in FY24 by determining a set of tools for collecting food data necessary for supporting modeling and validation in understudied communities across Florida. The Post-Flood Hazard Awareness project focuses on creating educational tools and new outreach materials to support local communities to support their planning and preparedness efforts for the response and recovery after flooding events.

In 2025, the Office of Floodplain Management (OFM) completed several activities to continue assisting local communities. These included closing 12 Legacy CAVs and conducting eight community one-on-one sessions. OFM also approved 48 ordinances adopted by local communities. In addition, they completed 1,628 requests for General Technical Assistance. Training continued in 2025. OFM attended 16 community trainings, two risk map meetings, and helped instruct three L273s with FEMA. As of April 9, 2025, OFM wrapped up the 180-day period for assistance from DRRRA Section 1206, Category I. Through these efforts, OFM completed 118 missions in 11 counties and 27 municipalities. This helped communities complete 119,868 Substantial Damage Estimations, requiring \$54,200,586 in total funding. OFM also finalized eight guidance pieces addressing needs from communities following the 2025 legislative session and Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton from the 2024 season.

This year, HLMP staff held an application period for FY 2025-2026 and awarded contracts for 13 selected subrecipients. Staff also attended the Florida International University Wall of Wind Challenge and the Eye of the Storm event for 2025. Additionally, the Mitigation Bureau has closed and/or requested closeout of 12 Non-Disaster mitigation projects during FY 2024-2025, while working to fulfill FEMA requests for information (RFIs) for 103 FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024 FMA/BRIC projects (89 FMA, 14 BRIC) selected for further review. In April 2025, the BRIC program was cancelled. In preparation for the anticipated FY 2025 FMA application cycle, the Non-Disaster Unit received 117 Notice of Interest forms, which assist potential applicants in determining eligibility of proposed projects ahead of submission to the state.



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In 2025, HMGP staff continued reviewing applications for three open disasters (Hurricane Debby, Helene, Milton, and May Severe Storms/Tornadoes). Additionally, staff opened and closed a subapplication period for Hurricane May Florida Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds and Tornadoes and Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton. Planning Unit staff visited nine fiscally constrained counties focusing on LMS assistance following the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. This assistance, along with HMGP subapplication development technical assistance provided by FDEM, resulted in over 600 applications submitted for Hurricane Debby, Helene, Milton HMGP.

This year the Mitigation Bureau also started a statewide residential mitigation program known as Elevate Florida. This program allows residents to apply to the state directly for residential projects, decreasing the burden on local government in implementing these complex residential projects. The Elevate Florida Program aims to protect homes and communities by reducing damage caused by natural disasters like hurricanes and floods. Elevate Florida is designed to expedite the hazard mitigation process and complete a resident’s mitigation project more quickly than other initiatives. In its first year, over 12,000 applicants applied from 64 counties around Florida. Around 2,000 homes were selected for funding under the program using more than \$400 million in federal funding.

The Mitigation Bureau has made great strides in implementing the Watershed Planning Initiative. This year, the Bureau was able to fully execute contracts for all 35 projects, representing 22 counties and 22 unique communities. The Bureau will continue to process deliverables into 2026.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Division of Emergency Management	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Mitchell Budihas Mitigation Bureau, Planning Unit Manager Division of Emergency Management 850-524-4195 <a href="mailto:Mitchell.Budihas@em.myflorida.com">Mitchell.Budihas@em.myflorida.com</a>	Laura Dhuwe Mitigation Bureau Chief Division of Emergency Management 850-815-4512 <a href="mailto:Laura.Dhuwe@em.myflorida.com">Laura.Dhuwe@em.myflorida.com</a>



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## ***FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION***

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) mission is managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people. With headquarters in Tallahassee and five regional offices across the state, the FWC conserves, protects and manages more than 575 species of wildlife, 200 species of native freshwater fish, and 500 species of native saltwater fish. The FWC also balances the needs of these species with the needs of Florida residents and visitors who share the land and water with Florida wildlife. In addition to the five regional offices, the FWC also has 76 field offices and facilities. The FWC is comprised of six divisions and nine offices. The divisions applicable to natural hazards and mitigation are the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Hunting and Game Management, Freshwater Fisheries Management, Law Enforcement, Habitat and Species Conservation, and Marine Fisheries Management.

### **2025 Update**

#### ***State Wildlife Action Plan***

The FWC has developed and implemented a comprehensive, continuously updated State Wildlife Action Plan for conserving the state's wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations. It focuses on native wildlife and habitats, particularly species of greatest conservation need; why they are in need; and most importantly, actions for conserving and protecting them. The Action Plan is available on the FWC website at <https://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/swap/action-plan>.

#### ***Landscape Conservation***

To address the challenges of habitat loss, invasive species, water quality issues, the FWC is promoting efforts to bring people together across places, sectors, and cultures to collaborate on connecting and conserving important landscapes at a larger ecosystem scale. Landscape conservation works to protect ecosystems while promoting communities, viable agriculture and working lands. Balancing these landscape-level conservation and management goals is achieved through collaborating with partners and stakeholders, pooling resources and forward-thinking that goes beyond geographical boundaries for maximum, long-term impact.

#### ***Manatee Unusual Mortality Event***

The Unusual Mortality Event (UME) from starvation due to seagrass loss affecting manatees along Florida's East Coast was administratively closed on March 14, 2025. The elevated manatee mortality numbers associated with this UME decreased three years ago and researchers have not documented a manatee death from starvation linked to a lack of forage for two years.

#### ***Red Tide***

The FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) is a national leader in red tide research and response. The FWRI processes dozens of water samples every week and reports its findings to the public and remains in constant contact with local governments, health officials, and partner agencies. The FWRI maintains a hotline through a federally funded project to survey fish-related diseases and mortalities. In addition, the FWRI and Mote Marine Laboratory work together to monitor *Karenia brevis*. This cooperative effort is designed to help mitigate the adverse impacts of red



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tide through monitoring, research, public outreach, and education. This collaboration has resulted in better tools and ongoing monitoring for red tides along the Gulf Coast.

Mote Marine Laboratory's Beach Conditions Report provides up-to-date information about the effects of red tide on Florida Gulf Coast beaches, including reports of dead fish, respiratory irritation among beachgoers, water color, and wind direction. The site also provides information on red drift algae and rip currents.

The FWRI's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) group closely monitors the status of *K. brevis* on Florida's coasts, providing technical support to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the agency that regulates approved shellfish harvesting areas.

### ***Fisheries Services***

Uses disaster funds to strengthen the long-term economic sustainability of our fisheries, and in the case of seafood dealers can pay for loss of product or to create resilient infrastructure at these facilities. Hurricanes, for example, can cause a range of losses for seafood dealers depending on their size and location. They are impacted during storms by a decline in fish product, loss of power and product, facility damage and a decline in clientele. Highly impacted areas can take weeks to months for them to get back to the point of reopening their doors for business.

### ***Derelict and At-risk Vessels***

Derelict and at-risk vessels can endanger marine life and habitat, pose threats to public safety, and cause property damage as they drift on or beneath the water's surface. Derelict vessels that block navigable waterways can also pose a navigational hazard. Law enforcement officers with the FWC as well as state, county, and local officers conduct inspections and take appropriate actions to prevent and remove derelict vessels from Florida waters.

The FWC administers a state-funded Derelict Vessel Removal Grant program, funded through Legislative appropriations, to reimburse local governments for removing derelict vessels from the public waters of the state.

The Florida Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) allows owners who have received a written citation or warning for their at-risk vessel to apply to have their unwanted vessel removed from Florida waters and destroyed at no cost to the owner. The costs of removing, destroying and disposing of eligible VTIP vessels are 100% funded by this program. Unwanted, at-risk vessels are more likely to become derelict and thus pose a risk to public safety and the environment. In addition, a derelict vessel is more expensive to remove and incurs criminal liability for the owner. The Florida VTIP allows for vessels to be removed before reaching this critical point.

### ***Aquatic Habitat Restoration***

FWC's aquatic habitat restoration work involves projects aimed at restoring, enhancing, and managing publicly owned aquatic resources. These projects are designed not only to improve habitat conditions, but to enhance coastal and inland systems. Projects include construction of living shorelines, restoration and enhancement of coastal marshes, mangroves, seagrass, and oyster reefs. These projects can help protect the safety and well-being of coastal communities by buffering shorelines from erosion and by providing natural flood protection. Other projects conducted include hydrological re-connection projects to improve resiliency and prevent flooding, eelgrass plantings and spring run restoration for manatee access; removal of accumulated organic material; harvesting nuisance aquatic plants and



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vegetative plantings to improve fish and wildlife habitat; and restoring degraded and eroding river/stream banks to reduce sedimentation. These projects increase the ability of our ecosystems to absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events such as extreme weather or long-term environmental changes.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 - Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Dustin Bonds Law Enforcement Chief of Staff Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 850-617-9543 <a href="mailto:James.Bonds@myfwc.com">James.Bonds@myfwc.com</a>	Brian Smith Colonel Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 850-488-6251 <a href="mailto:Brian.Smith@myfwc.com">Brian.Smith@myfwc.com</a>



# STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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## ***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION***

The Florida Public Service Commission's (FPSC) mission is to facilitate the efficient provision of safe and reliable utility services at fair prices. FPSC achieves this through economic regulation, regulatory oversight, service regulation, and consumer assistance.

FPSC regulates the retail rates and service territories of investor-owned electric utilities, gas utilities, and water and wastewater utilities. The regulation of utilities is commonly referred to as rate base or rate-of-return regulation, which includes rate setting responsibility, earnings oversight, quality of service, and consumer complaints. A characteristic unique to Florida's water and wastewater industry is that counties have the option to elect to regulate the investor-owned water and wastewater companies in their county pursuant to chapter 367, Florida Statutes, or transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. Currently 40 of 67 counties cede regulatory authority to the FPSC.

For telecommunications companies, the Commission has jurisdiction over company-to-company matters, such as disputes over interconnection agreements, along with numbering issues such as determining the appropriate form of area code relief when telephone numbers exhaust within an area code. The Commission also provides oversight for the Lifeline program for low-income customers, established under the federal Universal Service Program, and Telephone Relay Services for the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired. The FPSC has oversight over pay phone services as well.

FPSC's jurisdiction over municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives is limited to rate structure, safety, and territorial boundaries. Rate structure refers to the classification system used in justifying differing rates between various customer classes. To assure an adequate and reliable supply of electricity in Florida, FPSC has jurisdiction over the generation and bulk transmission planning of all electric utilities. The Commission is responsible for reviewing electric utility Ten-Year Site Plans and determining the need for major new power plant and transmission line additions under the Florida Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Acts. Finally, FPSC also has authority to set conservation goals for Florida's investor-owned electric utilities, the two largest municipal electric utilities, and the largest investor-owned natural gas utility.

In addition to the activities described above, FPSC provides information to consumers regarding storm preparedness, such as hurricane survival kits, portable generator safety, and ways to prepare your home before a storm. In the event of a storm, links to current FDEM information are highlighted on the FPSC website ([www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com)), as well as links to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Hurricane Center. All this information is distributed via the FPSC's Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/floridapsc>) at appropriate times throughout the year.

## **2025 Update**

In support of sharing individual hurricane preparation activities among IOUs, Municipals, and Cooperatives, FPSC has held annual Hurricane Season Preparation Workshops since 2006. The workshops provide an opportunity for electric utilities to discuss their storm preparation and restoration processes, including the following FPSC-mandated initiatives:

- Facility inspections, maintenance, and repairs
- Vegetation management



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- Flooding and storm surge mitigation
- Wooden pole inspections
- Coordination with other utilities, government, and community groups

The 2025 Hurricane Preparedness Workshop was held on May 13, 2025. Other topics of discussion at the Workshop included lessons learned from the previous hurricane season.

Following legislation passed in 2019, FPSC created rules requiring Florida’s investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to file 10-year Storm Protection Plans outlining initiatives to strengthen infrastructure to withstand extreme weather for FPSC approval. Florida’s IOUs already have storm hardening programs financed through utility base rates. The new rules establish a separate cost recovery mechanism for storm protection activities. On October 4, 2022, the Commission approved Storm Protection Plans for Florida’s IOUs. The FPSC conducts a hearing annually to address cost recovery for storm protection activities.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Public Service Commission	2	2	2	6
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 6 – Above Standard</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Todd Brown Bureau Chief Public Service Commission 850.413.6550 <a href="mailto:TBrown@psc.state.fl.us">TBrown@psc.state.fl.us</a>	Robert Simpson US Engineering Spec Supervisor Public Service Commission 850.413.7001 <a href="mailto:RSimpson@psc.state.fl.us">RSimpson@psc.state.fl.us</a>



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## ***WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS***

### **History of Water Management Districts in Florida**

Due to extreme drought and shifting public focus on resource protection and conservation, legislators passed four major laws in 1972: the Environmental Land and Water Management Act, the Comprehensive Planning Act, the Land Conservation Act, and the Water Resources Act. Collectively, these policy initiatives reflected the philosophy that land use, growth management and water management should be joined. Florida's institutional arrangement for water management is unique. The Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 (WRA) (chapter 373, F.S.) granted Florida's five water management districts broad authority and responsibility. Two of the five districts existed prior to the passage of the WRA (South Florida and Southwest Florida), primarily as flood control agencies. Today, however, the responsibilities of all five districts encompass four broad categories: water supply (including water allocation and conservation), water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

The five regional water management districts, established by the Legislature and recognized in the Florida Constitution, are set up largely on hydrologic boundaries. Water management districts are funded by ad valorem taxes normally reserved for local governments using taxing authority which emanates from a constitutional amendment passed by Floridians in 1976. The water management districts are governed regionally by boards appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. There is also general oversight at the state level by the Department of Environmental Protection.

In Florida, water is a resource of the state, owned by no one individual, with the use of water overseen by water management districts acting in the public interest. Florida law recognizes the importance of balancing human needs for water with those of Florida's natural systems.



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## ***NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT***

The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD or District) works to implement chapter 373, F.S., with four areas of responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection and Floodplain Management, and Natural Systems. There are three applicable divisions at the NFWFMD: Regulatory Services, Resource Management, and Asset Management.

The Division of Regulatory Services implements regulatory programs to protect and manage the region's water resources. This is achieved through permitting for water use, environmental resources, dam safety, well construction, agricultural surface water projects, and minor forestry works. Some of these permits are applicable to mitigation projects. Environmental Resource Permitting limits flooding risks associated with new development, and it protects wetlands and water quality.

The Division of Resource Management implements programs that span all the District's areas of responsibility. For example, this division develops minimum flows and minimum water levels to prevent harm to the water resources or the ecology of an area. The Surface Water Improvement and Management program provides a planning framework for watershed protection and restoration based on major riverine-estuarine watersheds. This is achieved through cooperative projects, such as wetland and aquatic habitat restoration, stormwater retrofits to improve water quality and flood protection, and septic-to-sewer and other projects to protect water quality in priority springs. Through the Precision Agriculture Systems and Solutions program, the District provides cost-share funding to help farmers implement best management practices that improve water use efficiency and reduce nutrient application to protect springs and other water resources.

The regional wetland mitigation program provides wetland mitigation services to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for transportation projects with unavoidable wetland impacts in areas not currently served by private mitigation banks. Some of the FDOT mitigation projects restore hydrology to restore connectivity of wetlands and floodplains, helping reduce flood risks within affected basins.

The NFWFMD works closely with FEMA and affected communities to update floodplain maps, called Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), through FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program. This effort includes collaboration with state and local agencies to deliver detailed data to foster informed risk management decisions through the development of DFIRMs. The Risk MAP program and DFIRMs are a consistent approach to assess potential vulnerability and losses and helps to increase public awareness of and support for actions that reduce flood-related risks. Additionally, the District provides technical assistance to state agencies and local governments to help respond to waterbody impacts and flooding associated with major storms and natural disasters.

The Division of Asset Management is responsible for acquisition and management of water management lands and facilities. The District manages conservation lands to maintain and protect vital water functions and natural systems, such as floodplains. The District's protection of floodplains and other lands important for water resources help to maintain floodplain functions and natural hydrology and, in so doing, reduces risks to human communities associated with flooding.



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## 2025 Update

The District continues to help local governments identify funding resources that will advance regional and local resilience to threats of coastal and inland flooding. The District also conducts resource evaluations and provides technical assistance to further support this objective.

Assessments and modeling have been completed to identify concentrations of woody debris within hurricane-affected streams and evaluate how floodplain dimensions have changed because of debris to identify areas at a higher risk of flooding. Waterbodies assessed and modeled include Bear, Bayou George, and Cedar creeks in Bay County; Wetappo Creek in Gulf County; upper and lower Econfina Creek in Washington and Bay counties; and the lower Chipola River in Calhoun County. Stream debris removal projects within Bear Creek and Bayou George are underway.

Ongoing Hurricane Michael recovery efforts associated with NFWMD lands include the removal of 272 acres of vegetative debris within the primary and secondary Hurricane Michael impact zones as well as the repair of 16.5 miles of District access roads. More than 109,000 trees were planted on the Fitzhugh Carter Mitigation site, across approximately 150 acres for restoration and protection of vital water functions and natural systems.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are being updated across several watersheds in Florida as part of ongoing efforts to improve flood risk management and public safety. As of August 19, 2025, updated FIRMs have officially gone into effect for Escambia County. These maps are now being used for floodplain management, insurance, and development planning in the area. Looking ahead, new FIRMs for the Apalachicola River/Bay, New River, and Chipola River watersheds are scheduled to become effective on November 14, 2025. Once effective, these maps will guide local floodplain regulations and determine flood insurance requirements. In addition, preliminary FIRMs were released for the Pea River watershed on June 30, 2025. These preliminary maps are currently under review and will be subject to a public comment and appeal period before becoming final.

Flood map updates are also actively underway for several other key watersheds across the region. These include:

- Apalachee Bay/St. Marks River
- Lower Choctawhatchee River
- Escambia River
- St. Andrew/St. Joseph Bay
- Choctawhatchee Bay
- Yellow River
- Blackwater River

These updates are part of a broader initiative to ensure communities have access to accurate, up-to-date flood risk information to support resilience planning, emergency preparedness, and responsible development.



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### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Northwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
John Crowe, CFM Program Manager, Flood Management & Technical Services Northwest Florida WMD 850-539-2617 <a href="mailto:John.Crowe@nfwwater.com">John.Crowe@nfwwater.com</a>	Jerrick Saquibal, PE, CFM Chief, Bureau of Resource Projects & Planning Northwest Florida WMD 850-539-2619 <a href="mailto:Jerrick.Saquibal@nfwwater.com">Jerrick.Saquibal@nfwwater.com</a>



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## ***SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT***

South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) mission is to safeguard and restore South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, protect our communities from flooding, and meet the region's water needs while connecting with the public and stakeholders.

The SFWMD is a regional governmental agency that manages the water resources in the southern half of the state, covering 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys and serving a population of above 9.3 million residents. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Created in 1949, the agency is responsible for managing and protecting water resources of South Florida by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems. The Florida Legislature established the SFWMD to manage and protect water resources in our region. The SFWMD's work fits broadly into five categories.

Flood control has been part of the SFWMD's mission since it was created by the Legislature as the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Control District in 1949. The SFWMD operates and maintains the regional water management system known as the C&SF Project, which was authorized by Congress more than 70 years ago to protect residents and businesses from floods and droughts. This primary system of canals and natural waterways connects to community drainage districts and hundreds of smaller neighborhood systems to effectively manage floodwaters during heavy rain. Throughout the year, Field Operations and Maintenance staff oversee approximately 2,175 miles of canals, 2,130 miles of levees/berms, 936 water control structures, 620 project culverts and 98 pump stations.

To fulfill the need of long-term flood protection for basins throughout the 16-county region, a flood protection level of service (FPLOS) program has been established. This program identifies and prioritizes long-term infrastructure improvement needs. The program goals are to assess flood vulnerability (Phase I Study) and to identify adaptation strategies and to develop a project implementation strategy (Phase II Study) to assure that each basin can maintain and improve its designated FPLOS in response to population growth, land development, sea level rise and extreme rainfall events. SFWMD has developed a methodology and suite of modeling tools for evaluating structures and canals in priority basins, and a framework for establishing the level of service. The FPLOS is being implemented in a phased approach in an 8- to 10-year cycle. Each basin is being evaluated and actions taken as necessary to ensure that the level of service is maintained. In 2016, SFWMD completed Phase I of the FPLOS study (Flood Vulnerability Assessment) in the C-4 Basin in Miami-Dade County. In 2017 and 2018, Phase I and Phase II Pilot Study (Adaptation Planning) of the C-7 Basin and the Big Cypress Basin were completed. FPLOS Phase I studies were completed in 2020 at the C-8 and C-9 Basins in Broward and Miami Dade Counties and in 2021 for all the remaining Broward County Basins. In 2022 and 2023, FPLOS Phase I Studies were completed for C1, C100, C102, and C103 Basins; C-2, C-3W, C-5 and C-6 Basins; and C-111, Model Lands, and L-31NS Basins. In 2023, Phase II Studies were completed for the C-9 and C-8 Basins in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, with C-7 Pilot Phase II Study under initiation. In 2024 and 2025, the FPLOS Program completed Phase I studies for Eastern Palm Beach County and Upper Kissimmee Basins.

Water supply planning is essential to meet the growing demand for limited water resources of 9.3 million residents, millions of visitors, businesses, and the environment. SFWMD proactively develops long-term water supply plans to monitor, evaluate and identify water sources and projects to meet the future water needs. Water supply planning, water conservation and the use of alternative water supplies are essential to meet the growing demand for limited water resources. SFWMD staff works with SFWMD's partners, stakeholders, and members of the public to develop



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regional water supply plans for five planning areas encompassing the SFWMD that evaluate current and future water demands and identify water sources for all of South Florida's needs while protecting the water resources and the environment. Water supply plans look at least 20 years into the future and are updated every five years to stay current with growth trends. In collaboration with FDEP, SFWMD implemented the Alternative Water Supply Cooperative Funding Program. The objective of this program is to assist local governments, public and private water providers, and other entities with construction and/or implementation of alternative water supply and water conservation projects that support or complement the SFWMD's mission.

Water quality improvement efforts are removing excess nutrients that have altered South Florida's ecosystems. Vast constructed wetlands known as Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), combined with agricultural and urban Best Management Practices, and creating surface or groundwater storage for seasonal water surpluses, have dramatically reduced phosphorus levels in the Everglades over the last two decades. All of these solutions for improving water quality are required elements of federal/state legislation for restoring the Greater Everglades (which includes the Kissimmee, Okeechobee and Everglades watersheds). They are also mandated by separate state legislation for water quality improvements in Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, as well as in the Everglades systems south of Lake Okeechobee.

Numerous ecosystem restoration projects are being planned, built and operated to protect and preserve South Florida's unique ecosystems, including the Everglades, the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and a diverse array of coastal watersheds. The most prominent of these efforts is the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) which is the largest aquatic ecosystem restoration effort in the nation, spanning over 18,000 square miles, and is designed to improve the health of more than 2.4 million acres. This is a 50-50 partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government to restore, protect and preserve the greater Everglades ecosystem with projects like the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) and Indian River Lagoon South (IRL-S) projects. Along with state initiatives such as the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), Restoration Strategies Program, and Dispersed Water Management (DWM) Projects are a comprehensive effort to restore and protect America's Everglades – now and for future generations.

Finally, the SFWMD's resiliency efforts focus on advancing scientific data and research needs to ensure the SFWMD's resilience planning and projects are founded on the best available science, as well as developing and implementing comprehensive SFWMD-wide resiliency goals to mitigate and adapt to the challenges facing the SFWMD's infrastructure and core functions from sea level rise and other water and climate related impacts. In the context of Chapter 380.093, F.S., which established the Resilient Florida Plan, the SFWMD developed its first Plan in 2021. The plan, updated annually until 2025, compiles a list of priority projects and strategies to ensure our water management infrastructure and water resources can effectively adapt to sea level rise and flooding, while increasing community, economic and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida. Plan implementation will enhance water management infrastructure and result in effective, resilient, innovative, and integrated basin-wide solutions. This list of projects was compiled based upon the FPLOS assessments that have been ongoing for the past decade. These assessments utilize extensive data observations and robust technical hydrologic and hydraulic model simulations to characterize current and future conditions, and associated risks. In addition, capital improvement plan projects and post-storm or event response projects are also integrated into the Resiliency Plan. Water and Climate Resilience Metrics are being published to track and document trends in its relevant water and climate observed data. These efforts support the

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assessment of current and future climate condition scenarios, operational decisions, and SFWMD resiliency priorities. As part of these efforts, the SFWMD is collecting flood elevations and high-water marks, including high tide and extreme storm events, by deploying environmental conditions teams, and working with field station and regional representative staff, in support of modeling, planning, and mitigation efforts.

SFWMD is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) and Federal Emergency Management administration (FEMA), along with local, and other state and federal agencies, to advance the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study, alongside other planning efforts and implementation of priority projects. In 2021, in collaboration with USACE, SFWMD initiated the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study, under Section 216 Authority. SFWMD and USACE have been working to finalize the study to achieve benefits for the southeast Florida communities. An overall integrated strategy has been developed, allowing the project teams to pursue parallel efforts for each of the four original C&SF Flood Resiliency Study planning reaches. This integrated strategy allows the partners to advance these urgent feasibility assessments at a faster pace, and maintain consistency in scenario formulation, study assumptions, and regional planning standards. In Reach A, SFWMD is advancing a feasibility assessment and initial engineering designs on C&SF coastal water control structures in portions of Broward County, Florida, respective to Reach A of the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study. SFWMD will be utilizing Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended, to advance the flood risk management study with support from FDEP and Broward County, and technical assistance from USACE, aiming for inclusion in WRDA 2026. In Reach B, the SFWMD is working with FDEP, FDEM, FEMA, and Miami-Dade County to advance the implementation of awarded grants under the FDEM/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Resilient Florida Program. As the design for these projects is being completed and construction is estimated to start in 2026, the USACE is providing review services as part of the 408 Review. SFWMD and USACE continue to partner on the ongoing C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) study, which will focus on advancing the feasibility and engineering studies for four coastal structures within Reach C, in Miami-Dade County, aiming for inclusion in WRDA 2030.

The SFWMD is committed to making significant infrastructure adaptation investments that are needed to continue to successfully implement its mission of safeguarding and restoring South Florida’s water resources and ecosystems, protecting communities from flooding, and ensuring an adequate water supply for all South Florida’s needs.

## 2025 Update

Current planning projects include:

### ***Data Analysis / Scenario Formulation:***

Advance the development of risk informed input data – long-term drought scenarios, land use, and population projections per utility service area for the modeling effort that will support the Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment (WSVA) is scheduled to begin late Fall 2025 (after the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan model runs are completed). This is being coordinated with USGS and Florida International University for the development of drought indices and long-term drought scenarios to support SFWMD’s water supply vulnerability assessments. This project is nearing completion and is expected to be completed in Q4 of FY25.



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SFWMD executed funding, vendor, and cost-share contracts with FDEP, University of Miami (UM), and Florida Flood Hub for Applied Science and Innovation at the University of South Florida (USF) for the development of the Statewide Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere Regional Climate Model. Funding is being provided by FDEP, SFWMD and FDOT.

SFWMD implemented a weekly Tidal Outlook providing locally relevant tide forecasts throughout the 2025 King Tide Season. This forecast incorporates site-specific sea level rise adjustments and conditions such as sea surface temperature and wind strength and direction, which can cause tides to occur higher or lower than predicted, at six NOAA tide gauge locations. These enhanced tide predictions were automated and published to the [Resilience Metrics Hub](#) ahead of the 2024 King Tide Season. Completed enhancements to the Flood Observation Survey ([www.sfwmd.gov/FloodingApp](http://www.sfwmd.gov/FloodingApp)) and Flood Repository on the South Florida Flood Information Resource ([www.sfwmd.gov/floodresource](http://www.sfwmd.gov/floodresource)) in preparation for the Wet Season.

The District successfully delivered training sessions focused on data collection, viewing, and downloading for SFWMD Field Staff, External Affairs, and additional staff which were open to and attended by local government partners and other interested parties (150+ participants). Communications and public engagement efforts were advanced with stakeholder and partner agencies in coordination with SFWMD Operations and Communications during extreme events.

SFWMD initiated an interagency project *Flood Observations – Regional Coordination and Community Engagement* funded by USACE's Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program in coordination with the Florida Silver Jackets, FFH, FDEM, other WMDs, NOAA, and many other participating agencies to delineate processes, identify existing tools flood data collection tools being used, and promote community engagement for the collection and compilation of flood observations that is uniform and consistent as possible across the state.

The [Resilience Metrics Hub](#) was updated and maintained, which hosts the latest Water and Climate Resilience Metrics information and data analysis results, to support risk informed decision making. These science-based metrics are being implemented with the goal of tracking and documenting shifts and trends in SFWMD-managed water and climate observed data, supporting the assessment of current and future climate condition scenarios and related operational decisions, and informing SFWMD resiliency investment priorities.

The District also completed development of automated trend analysis visualization tools of eight of the metrics in DBHYDRO Insights and linked for public access via the Hub.

Both [Chapter 2A of the 2025 South Florida Environmental Report \(SFER\)](#) and [Chapter 2B of the 2025 SFER](#) were completed, reporting on South Florida Hydrology and Water Management and the latest technical analyses of the [Water and Climate Resilience Metrics](#) for regional evapotranspiration correlations and seasonal salinity trend analysis in Florida Bay.

Phase II of SFWMD's [Water and Climate Resilience Metrics](#) was advanced, which focuses on refining and expanding the assessment of changing water and climate conditions. It includes three primary efforts: New Data Analysis, Enhanced Analysis, and Metric Updates. Drafted Chapter 2B of the 2026 SFER, which will be published on March 1, 2026, contains the result of the following data analysis: rainfall, drought, high tide events and saltwater intrusion.

The Agency formally established the Future Water and Climate Scenarios Workgroup as part of the Water and Climate Metrics Phase II effort. The workgroup focuses on comprehensively analyzing, evaluating, and determining future



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climate datasets, models, and related resources to advance the understanding of implications to water resource management within the SFWMD's operational region and to support scenario formulation for adaptation planning.

Finally, the District organized and successfully delivered quarterly meetings of the [South Florida Resiliency Coordination Forum](#) promoting collaboration between the SFWMD, federal, state, local and tribal partners on water management initiatives related to resiliency. An average of 175 participants attend in person and online, representing at least 10 counties from within the SFWMD region.

### ***Technical Studies to characterize risks and Planning efforts to adapt and mitigate risks:***

SFWMD Completed the following Flood Vulnerability Assessments, using advanced H&H tools representing major flood drivers that allows for proper characterization of flood risks): The Joint FPLOS Phase I and Phase II Study, covering thirteen (13) watersheds within the Martin, St. Lucie/Indian River, and Loxahatchee systems (including C-23, C-24, C-25, C-44, S-153, Ten Mile Creek, Pal Mar, Jupiter Farms, Historical Cypress Creek, Grove, Loxahatchee Wild and Scenic Area—Riverine Corridor and Reese Property, Kitching Creek, and C-18/Corbett), is currently advancing with funding support from Resilient Florida. The Phase I Western Basins Study, covering four watersheds (C-139, the Feeder Canal Basin, and L-28, including the C-139 Annex), is also in the calibration and validation stage.

The Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Phase I Study for six (6) watersheds (S-191, S-154, S-133, S-135, Basin 8, and S-154C) is in the early data collection phase. Previous studies include Phase I of the C-4 Basin in Miami-Dade (completed in 2016); Phase I and pilot Phase II (Adaptation Planning) studies for the C-7 and Big Cypress Basins (2017–2018); Phase I studies for C-8 and C-9 Basins (2020) and all remaining Broward County basins (2021). In FY22 and FY23, studies were completed for the C-1, C-100, C-102, C-103, C-2, C-3W, C-5, and C-6 basins. In FY24, the Phase I Study was completed for South Miami-Dade (C-111 Coastal, C-111 South, C-111 Ag, Model Land, and L-31N). In FY25, two Phase I studies were completed: one for 36 lake management watersheds in the Upper Kissimmee Basin and one for seven (7) watersheds in Eastern Palm Beach County (L-8, C-51 East, C-51 West, C-17, C-16, C-15, and West Palm Beach Watersheds).

The district completed the following Adaptation Planning Efforts to address identified flood risks: The FPLOS Adaptation and Mitigation Planning (Phase II) Study for the C-7 Basin in Miami-Dade County is currently underway and nearing completion, with flood damage assessments completed and mitigation strategies identified. In FY23, Phase II Studies were completed for the C-8 and C-9 Basins in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. A new Phase II Study for Martin and St. Lucie Counties is being initiated concurrently with the Phase I effort, as outlined above. SFWMD completed updates to the [2025 Plan](#) summarizing an inventory of vulnerable infrastructure and best recommendations to address flood risks (priority infrastructure investments). The Plan compiles a list of priority projects and strategies to ensure our water management infrastructure and water resources can effectively adapt to sea level rise and flooding, while increasing community, economic and ecosystem resiliency.

Beginning in 2025, the [Plan](#) will be updated and published every five years. Over the past five years, more than twenty counties, local governments, tribal partners, and stakeholders across the region have reviewed and provided technical input and comments on the Plan. In 2025, additional input was gathered through public meetings and workshops. The latest update highlights the tangible progress that can be achieved through coordinated planning, sound science, and strong partnerships. The priority projects identified in the Plan support applications submitted to the [Resilient Florida Grant Program](#), along with other funding opportunities, and were submitted to the FDEP Resilient Florida Program on September 1, 2025. SFWMD also completed its consolidated report to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker



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of the House of Representatives., regarding the status of the USACE and SFWMD's C&SF Flood Resiliency Study, including a summary of the findings in the SFWMD's annual [Plan](#) (attached) in accordance with [Section 373.1501\(10\)\(a\), Florida Statutes](#). Contents in the report describe the SFWMD's implementation strategies for the refurbishment and replacement of C&SF structures, a list of structures that are expected to fall below the expected service level, along with estimated project costs and current available funds to implement the recommendations.

The District has executed a cost share agreement with the USACE to initiate the [C&SF Flood Resiliency Study](#) to plan for flood mitigation/adaptation infrastructure investments needed for the Central and Southern Florida Project. The study is justified by the changed physical conditions already impacting the original project purposes, including land development, population increase, sea level rise and climate change. The study will assess which infrastructure is at the highest risk of impact from a changing climate and address flood vulnerabilities. In 2024, the study completed the Future Without Scenario runs for the entire project area – 3 planning reaches (map of future vulnerabilities based on advance H&H modeling scenarios) and advanced the performance measure that will be used for the determination of comprehensive project benefits (under the four USACE benefit accounts: a) national economic development which represents flood damage to properties; b) regional economic development; c) environmental quality; d) other social economic benefits. The final performance metrics will determine the alternatives benefits and the selection of at Tentative Selected Plan – currently focusing on Reach C of the original project scope, expected to occur in 2029.

The District is continuing to advance the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study – Broward Basins an amended Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 with authorization from the Assistance Secretary of the Army (ASA). This effort is supported by the FDEP, Broward County, and technical and federal assistance from the USACE, for inclusion in WRDA 2026. This study serves as a spin-off from the original C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (below – focusing on Reach A planning area). Completion of the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins will support feasibility assessments and initial engineering designs for the critical water control structures in the most vulnerable portions of Broward County Florida. Efforts are underway, including the proposal of a draft tentatively selected plan (TSP) and a final recommended plan for submission to the ASA for authorization. Initiated review of the feasibility study cost share agreement with USACE for the upcoming C&SF Comprehensive Study. In addition, initiated coordination with SJRWMD, the second local sponsor for the study (pending final budget appropriation from USACE, not confirmed in FY26.).

Building upon efforts in the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study, initial feasibility assessments and scopes of work were designed for the initiation of Basis of Design for eight (8) projects to serve as the foundational blueprint guiding final design recommendations: C-9 Canal Enhancement; C-12 Canal Enhancement; C-8 Basin Storage; C-29, C-29A, C29B and C-29C Conveyance Improvement; Lake Mary Jane Pump Station; S-57 Resiliency, S-60 Resiliency, S-63 Resiliency. A total of eight (8) grant applications were submitted to FDEM for Post-Disaster funding available for Hurricane Milton (FEMA-4834-DR-FL) on July 25, 2025: C-9 Basin Resiliency (Construction), C-7 Basin Resiliency (Construction), C-8 Basin Resiliency (Construction), C-29, C-29A, C29B and C-29C Conveyance Improvement, Lake Mary Jane Pump Station, S-57 Resiliency, S-60 Resiliency, S-63 Resiliency.

A total of seven (7) implementation grant applications were submitted to FDEP for 2026-2027 Resilient Florida Grant Program funding on September 1, 2025: STA & C&SF Control Panel Upgrades, Water Control Structures Gate Hoist Conversion, S-25B & S-26 Forward PS Generator Replacements, G-150, G-151W, G-136E Structure Automation, S-49 Structure Replacements, STA-1W Structure Refurbishments, Coastal Structure Enhancement & Self Preservation (additional funding request submitted to install back up controller upgrades at six (6) water control structures in the



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Big Cypress Basin (BCB), and to install self-preservation mode at a total of twelve (12) water control structures located in both Miami Dade County and the BCB.) In addition, two (2) planning grant applications were submitted: Nested Coastal-Inland Forecasting System for Lee County & Parts of Northern Collier and Southern Charlotte County, [FPLOS Resilience Adaptation Studies](#) for Miami Dade County, Osceola County and Palm Beach County.

The District also received initial approval for the project “Aligning Hydrologic, Hydraulic and Hydrodynamic Tools to Assess Unique Aspects of Compound Flooding from Inland and Coastal Hazards in South Florida,” submitted under the [Engineer Research and Development Center \(ERDC\) Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\) \(W912HZ-23-BAA-01\)](#), [CHL-20 Next Generation Water Management](#). The project was submitted in partnership with USACE, University of Central Florida, Tulane University and Deltares USA. This effort will support the upcoming C&SF Comprehensive Study. (pending final budget from USACE – not confirmed in FY26). For CERP – Western Everglades Restoration Project (Authorized in WRDA 2024), Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration, and Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (Authorized in WRDA 2024) projects and Allapattah Restoration Phase II. For NEEPP – C-23/24 District Lands Hydrologic Enhancement, Berry Groves District Hydrologic Enhancement.

### ***Current Implementation Projects Include:***

The C-7 Basin Resiliency, C-8 Basin Resiliency, C-9 Basin Resiliency projects – These projects, which include replacement of existing spillway structures and construction of new Forward Pump Stations and integration of nature-based solutions were designed with partial funding support from FEMA BRIC Program and FDEP Resilient Florida Grant. Agreements with the grant agencies and interlocal agreements with local partners have been carried out. Environmental and Historic Preservation packages for design, survey and permitting (Phase 1) were submitted to FEMA/FDEM for grant compliance review. In addition to the design packages the District received confirmation of awards for three Resilient Florida grants to pursue construction: C-7 Basin Resiliency, C-9 Basin Resiliency, L-8 FEB/G-539 Pump Resiliency and initiated coordination of the execution of grant agreements with FDEP. Following the receipt of three FDEP Resilient Florida Grant Awards in August 2024 – for the S-169W Structure Improvements, Homestead Field Station Improvements, and C-8 Basin Resilience Project - the District has entered into agreements with FDEP to advance these projects using the awarded grant funding.

Ongoing resiliency implementation projects with Resilient Florida Grant Funding include Corbett Levee Phase II, Coastal Structure Enhancement and Self Preservation, Hardening S-2, S-3, S-4, S7 & S-8 Engine Control Panels and the Preliminary Design of C&SF Study for the Broward Basins. There is ongoing construction of 3-miles of improvements of Corbett Levee Resilient Florida funded project and the formal implementation of SFWMD’s Resilient Florida Grant award, as well as ongoing construction / implementation of Coastal Structure Enhancement and Self Preservation Project and the formal implementation of SFWMD’s Resilient Florida Grant award. The District has progressed the implementation of S-2, S-3, S-4, S7 & S-8 Engine Control Panels Project and the formal implementation of SFWMD’s Resilient Florida Grant award.

In 2025, the District also initiated preliminary design of C&SF Study for Broward Basins, formally initiating work under the SFWMD’s Resilient Florida Grant Award and funding from Broward County. Additionally, the District initiated construction of S-169W Structure Improvements, representing the formal execution of the SFWMD’s Resilient Florida Grant Award. There is ongoing construction of Homestead Field Station Improvements with grant support from Resilient Florida Program, as well as the initiation of real estate negotiations and acquisition with adjacent landowners for S-29, S-27, S-28, S-26 and S-25B for ongoing and proposed resiliency projects. SFWMD has an executed Grant Agreement and is currently finalizing design to pilot three (3) WIPE Out technologies at improving water quality in the



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C-9 Canal and, ultimately, Biscayne Bay, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County under the [DEP Innovative Technologies Grant Award](#). The District continues managing and maintaining water control structures that provide flood control during the wet season and water supply during the dry season in the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control System and Big Cypress Basin.

District Foundation Projects for 2025 include C-111 South Dade Hydrologic Improvements, Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization and Tamiami Trail Next Steps - Bridge and Road Raising. The CERP projects are the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir, Indian River Lagoon – South, Picayune Strand Restoration, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Broward County Water Preserve Areas, Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration. CERP – CEPP EAA Components projects include the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, Seepage Pump Station and Canal, Inflow Pump Station, Foundation and Cutoff Wall, Embankment, Outlet Works, Inline Spillway, and North New River and Miami Canal Conveyance Improvements. CERP - CEPP New Water Components projects: Seepage Barrier Wall completed in 2024. CERP - CEPP South Components: S-356 Pump Station Replacement, L-67A Culverts, L-67C Gaps, L-29 Levee Removal, S-355W Gated Spillway, S-631, S-632, S-633, L-67A Spoils Removal, L-67C Removal, L-67D Construction, and L-67 Extension Backfill. CERP - CEPP North Components: L-4 Degrade, S-630 Pump Station, S-8 Pump Station Modifications, L-6 Diversion, L-5 Canal Improvements, and Miami Canal Backfill. The Western Everglades Restoration Project: Region 4 - L-28 Gated Culverts, 11-Mile Road Culverts, Loop Road Culverts, and US-41 Bridges.

NEPP projects for 2025 include Lake Hicpochee Expansion Phase II, Boma Flow Equalization Basin (FEB), C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Testing Phase 2 – Test Cells, C-43 West Basin Reservoir Water Quality Component, Roadrunner C-43 Nutrient Load Reduction, Lower Kissimmee Basin STA, TCNS 214 Storage and Treatment, Basinger Dairy Legacy Phosphorus Removal, Grassy Island FEB, Brady Ranch FEB & STA, and DWM projects. Four Corners Rapid Infiltration, Aguaculture – Lake Istokpoga, Partin Family Ranch, and El Maximo are in operation. S-191 Basin Innovative Water Technologies project was terminated.

Restoration Strategies Projects include STA-1W Expansion #2 and C-139 FEB is in operation. C-139 Annex Wetland Restoration, STA-1W Structure Refurbishments, STA-1E Central Flowway Refurbishments, STA-1W Expansion 1 Outflow Generators, STA-2 Cell 1 Inflow Canal Repairs, and STA-5/6 Connection to Lake Okeechobee. STA-2 Cell 8 Improvements were completed. The Feeder Canal Basin Water Quality Program is in progress for 2025. The Big Cypress Basin Canal Enhancements include vegetation and tree removal projects along canal rights of way to prevent future impacts of flooding and to maintain and further comply with federal standards. SFWMD has an annual work plan for prioritized tree removal along C&SF canals based on hazard severity and funding availability.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
South Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons



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Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaisons	
Richard Fimbel Director of EM - ECO South Florida WMD 561-682-2268 <a href="mailto:rfimbel@sfwmd.gov">rfimbel@sfwmd.gov</a>	Lucine Dadrian Engineering, Construction & Modeling Director South Florida WMD 561-682-2685 <a href="mailto:ldadrian@sfwmd.gov">ldadrian@sfwmd.gov</a>	Carolina Maran Chief of District Resiliency South Florida WMD 561-682-6868 <a href="mailto:cmaran@sfwmd.gov">cmaran@sfwmd.gov</a>

### ***SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT***

SWFWMD mission is to protect water resources, minimize flood risks, and ensure the public’s water needs are met. This is achieved by focusing on the four core mission areas: water supply, water quality, natural systems protection, and flood protection.

The Environmental Resource Permitting Program, per § 373.403 – 373.468, Fla. Stat. (2020), is responsible for permitting construction and operation of surface water management systems. This permitting effort mitigates risks associated with stormwater runoff, flash floods, inland flooding, and coastal flooding. Additionally, SWFWMD administers a Water Use Permitting Program, per § 373.403 – 373.468, Fla. Stat. (2020), which regulates the consumptive use of water for public supply, agriculture, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. This permitting effort mitigates risks associated with drought. Similarly, SWFWMD administers a Water Shortage Plan, per § 373.246, Fla. Stat. (2020), which protects waters of the District from serious harm, prevents undue hardship, and ensures equitable distribution of available water resources during times of shortages. This plan contributes to mitigation of risks from drought.

The District has adopted a process to create and maintain an Asset Management Program consisting of four main components: Capital Improvements and Planning (CIP), Maintenance Management, Life Cycle Management, and Breakdown & Repair Management for its water control structures. This strategy will mitigate flood risks associated with these facilities and ensure they continue to function and protect life and property, as designed. SWFWMD has eleven water control structures classified by the Florida Dam Safety Program (FDSP) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as High-Hazard Potential Dams. Although there is no state requirement, the District has and maintains Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) to mitigate flood risk associated with five of its highest priority facilities and is working with FDSP to prepare EAPs for the remainder. The SWFWMD also operates and maintains two structures (Ingles Main & Bypass structures) rated as High-Hazard Potential for the State and the SWFWMD possesses, maintains, and exercises an EAP for those structures. The SWFWMD also operates two additional water control structures for Polk County and the City of Lakeland (Lake Gibson and Lake Parker structures) that are ranked as High-Hazard Potential which do not currently have EAPs. The SWFWMD maintains all its dams, levees, and canals in alignment with state and federal standards to mitigate flood risks associated with these facilities and to ensure they continue to function to protect life and property, as designed. The District’s eleven High-Hazard Potential facilities are S-155/L-112, S-163/L-112, S-159, S-161, Medard Dam, G-90, Lake Arietta (P-3), Flint Creek, Lake Hamilton (P-8), Lake Lena (P-1), and Scott Lake.

SWFWMD, along with the US Army Corps of Engineers, continues to evaluate, and maintain water control manuals for 13 flood control structures. Additionally, the District has 7 Operational Guidelines for 28 water conservation



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structures. These documents provide general guidelines for the routine operation of the structures to ensure the environmental health, recreational, and aesthetic value of the lakes, and response to specific weather events or conditions. Operational guidelines are updated every 10 years and include input from the public and other agencies and municipalities.

SWFWMD has a proactive prescribed burning program that applies fire to over 30,000 acres of conservation land annually. This land management approach is an efficient and effective way to maintain and restore natural systems but also contributes significantly to the mitigation of wildfire risks.

The District takes a watershed approach to managing water and related resources through the Watershed Management Program. The program evaluates the capacity of the watershed to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural systems, while also achieving flood protection. The Cooperative Funding Initiative program works with local governments to implement flood protection and water quality projects to reduce the risk of flooding and improve water quality. SWFWMD partners with FEMA to provide information to update federal floodplain maps through the RiskMAP program.

The Minimum Flows and Levels program establishes minimum flows and levels to prevent damage to water resources, including effects of saltwater intrusion. SWFWMD has a minimum aquifer level in the most impacted area, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties, of the Southern Water Use Caution Area specifically to slow down the rate of saltwater intrusion that has been observed in this region.

The Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program focuses on water quality and natural systems restoration projects. Many SWIM projects restore natural shorelines, such as Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project, which restored more than sixteen miles of Tampa Bay Shoreline along with creating artificial reefs, intertidal marshes and tidal channels and lagoons. These coastal restoration projects contribute to mitigating risks associated with sea level change, high tides, storm surge, and flooding.

## **2025 Update**

Four Watershed Management Plans (WMP) were completed or updated and are now considered as the best available data for surface water flow and base flood elevations. Those watersheds include Highlands Hammock in Highlands County; Starkey Road, Madeira Beach, and Coastal Zone 5 in Pinellas County.

Improvements to Structure S-160 along the Tampa Bypass Canal were completed to include installation of a cathodic protection system, and concrete repairs.

Debris removal projects from the 2024 hurricane season were completed with financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the Peace Creek Canal and Flint Creek.

## **Agency Mitigation Assessment**



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This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Southwest Florida Water Management District	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Tim Fallon Hydrogeologist & ECO Southwest Florida WMD 813-343-1836 <a href="mailto:Tim.Fallon@swfwmd.state.fl.us">Tim.Fallon@swfwmd.state.fl.us</a>	Jerry Mallams Operations Bureau Chief & Emergency Manager Southwest Florida WMD 727-457-1628 <a href="mailto:Jerry.Mallams@swfwmd.state.fl.us">Jerry.Mallams@swfwmd.state.fl.us</a>



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## ***ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT***

The mission of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is to protect natural resources and support Florida's growth by ensuring sustainable use of Florida's water for the benefit of the people of the District and the State. To meet that mission statement, the District's work is focused on four core missions: water quality, water supply, flood protection and natural systems protection. In addition, the District implements core business processes to support its core missions, programs, and regional priorities.

**Water Quality:** The District works to address water quality issues through a variety of activities, including cost-share projects with local governments, aquatic systems restoration and protection projects; permitting; and land acquisition and management activities. Strategies to protect and restore water quality include a commitment to comprehensive monitoring to guide impairment determinations, manage restoration projects, and evaluate effectiveness. These efforts are closely coordinated with many partners, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's total maximum daily load (TMDL) and basin management action plan (BMAP) programs.

**Water Supply:** The District works with the state's other water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, local governments and stakeholders to address water supply on a regional basis. Using detailed hydrologic data, the District sets minimum flows and levels for rivers, lakes and springs to ensure that water use does not cause significant harm to these important resources. The District and partners investigate, develop, and implement supplemental (alternative) water supply projects. The District's planning process is ongoing, and plans are continually updated to reflect current and projected conditions, such as changes in anticipated population growth or decline that may result in changes to how much water a region will need and where the water may come from to meet those needs. Water conservation is a key component of ensuring an adequate water supply.

**Flood Protection:** The District employs both structural and non-structural techniques to provide flood protection. Structural flood protection includes constructed levees, water control structures and pump stations to physically hold back potential floodwaters from downstream areas and control the water levels in the areas behind these structures. A key element in the District's structural flood protection is our role as local sponsor of two federal flood control projects: The Upper St. Johns River Basin Project and the Ocklawaha River Basin portion of the Four River Basins, Florida Project. Non-structural flood protection is achieved through management of water control structures to ensure compliance with regulation schedules and to minimize upstream and downstream flooding, implementation of stormwater management rules, purchase and conservation of floodplain wetlands to provide floodwater storage, and the collection and dissemination of hydrologic data to guide flood preparedness and responses.

**Natural Systems:** The District's stewardship of natural systems is divided between lands it has acquired as well as the natural lands and waters within its boundaries. Most of the natural systems benefits to the lands not owned by the District come from effective permitting, water quality improvement projects, minimum flows and levels and cost-share projects. The District is the lead manager of more than 425,000 acres of public land it has purchased, while it manages another 335,000 acres through a variety of partnerships with numerous agencies and local governments. Important activities include hydrologic restoration of altered drainage, invasive species management, use of prescribed fire for restoration and wildfire prevention, and providing resource-based recreation opportunities.

The SJRWMD Division of Regulatory Services works to protect and manage water resources by permitting in a manner that will prevent adverse flooding, manage surface water, and protect water quality, wetlands, and other surface



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waters. SJRWMD partners with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop the annual FDOT Mitigation Plan, pursuant to section 373.4137(4), Florida Statutes, for wetland impacts associated with FDOT roadway projects.

The Real Estate Services Program acquires lands for flood control, water quality protection, and natural resource conservation. Similarly, the Bureau of Land Resources provides oversight for many District lands for water resource protection. Important activities include hydrologic restoration of altered drainage, protection of floodplains, and the use of prescribed fire for restoration and wildfire prevention.

The Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources has oversight for District-led projects that help to meet the core missions. For example, the division is responsible for operating and maintaining nearly 100 major and minor flood control structures, 15 weirs, three navigational locks, approximately 300 miles of levees, and 12 pump stations. The division is also responsible for the construction of projects aimed at protecting water supplies, improving water quality, and restoring natural systems, as well as providing flood protection through practices such as improved stormwater drainage or storage.

## 2025 Update

Land Management: Mitigation of wildfire risk through 26 prescribed burns totaling 27,805 acres on 13 conservation areas. Over 1,000 acres received wildland fuels mitigation mowing.

## *Flood Protection Partnerships*

Flood protection is one of the District's four core missions and the District has assisted local governments with cost-share funding toward the construction of beneficial flood protection projects. The District continued partnership projects with several counties, including Duval, Volusia, and Indian River counties to improve stormwater retention and flood protection in their communities. These projects included floodplain enhancement, stormwater outfall improvements, and increased stormwater attenuation capacity.

Flood control structure improvements: Completed the design and began the rehabilitation of the Burrell Lock, completed the design of the Burrell dam, inspected all federal and district flood control levees and structures, regraded and capped over 12 miles of levees including L75 and L77E, completed the design for seepage repairs on C231, refurbished three pumps at the Sawgrass Lake WMA North Pump Station, completed erosion and rutting repairs to L74N, C231, C54 and M-levee, constructed concrete overflows at Tiger Bay State Forest and Micco WMA to minimize roadway/levee from washing out during heavy rain events and cleaned several miles of canals for increased conveyance within the Lake Apopka North Shore property Water supply planning: The District prepares regional water supply plans (RWSPs). RWSPs include assessments of water bodies with minimum flows and minimum levels (MFLs), wetlands, saltwater intrusion and methods to mitigate impacts. The District completed the Central Springs/East Coast RWSP in February 2022 and the 2023 North Florida RWSP in December of 2023. In addition, the District, in partnership with others, continues to work on the development of the 2025 Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) RWSP.

Resilience: The District continues to emphasize and support resiliency efforts that incorporate multiple core missions, especially flood protection and natural systems. In 2025, the District applied for a Resilient Florida grant funding for developing a flood modeling inventory within the District. The District also completed a flood protection and natural



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systems restoration project for the Mosquito Lagoon in Volusia County and continued the restoration of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Impoundment and Wetland. Lastly, the District continued developing a real-time flood forecasting model in the Upper St. Johns River Basin and Middle St. Johns River Basin.

### Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
St. Johns River Water Management District	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

### Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Chris Kinslow, CF Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) Bureau of Land Resources (386) 643-1939 <a href="mailto:CKinslow@sjrwmd.com">CKinslow@sjrwmd.com</a>	Gregory Rawson Risk Management Coordinator Office of Chief of Staff (386) 643-1177 <a href="mailto:GRawson@sjrwmd.com">GRawson@sjrwmd.com</a>



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## ***SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT***

The purpose of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is to manage the water and water-related resources within its boundaries. The District's mission is to maintain the balance between the water needs of current and future users as well as protecting and preserving natural systems. The District was established in 1972 with four core mission areas: water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural systems. The District carries out its mission through a combination of regulatory measures, water resource projects, community education and outreach, acquisition and management of conservation lands, research, data collection, and monitoring. The District territory includes the 15-county region of North Central Florida with over 7,640 square miles, 13 river basins, and an estimated population of 340,000.

The Governing Board of the District is the agency head. As outlined in section 373.073, F.S., the Board members are appointed by the Governor, must be confirmed by the Florida Senate, and serve staggered four-year terms.

The Executive Office contains the Executive Director and Governing Board Coordinator. In addition to the Executive Director, the Executive Leadership team includes the Assistant Executive Director of Business and Community Services, Deputy Executive Director of Water Resources, Director of Resource Management and Projects, and Director of Outreach and Operations. The Executive Office is responsible for coordinating Governing Board activities, as well as the overall management of the District and implementation of District policy, rules, plans, studies, and programs. The Executive Office also offers support to all departments, information services to the public, and communication with federal, state, and local governmental entities, community organizations, and the public.

The Division of Outreach and Operations includes the Office of Communications and Outreach, Office of Land Management, and the Office of Hydrologic Data Services. Staff in the division oversees the District operations for communication, education and outreach, land management activities such as recreation, invasive and exotic control, road maintenance, timber management, and conservation easements, as well as monitoring and data collection for water use and river/lake levels. The Division also supports operations and maintenance of District projects in routine and emergency response scenarios.

The Water Resources Division includes the Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels, Office of Water Resources, and Office of Water Supply. Staff in the Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels develop and maintain regional groundwater flow models and establish thresholds to prevent significant harm to the area's natural resources by setting scientifically based minimum flows and levels for priority waterbodies. Staff in the Office of Water Supply compile water use data, prepare regional water use estimates, project future water demands, and prepare water use assessments and plans that evaluate the impact of projected demands on thresholds established for natural systems. Staff in the Water Resources office collect, review, manage, and report water quality and flow data to support District missions.

The Business and Community Services Division has two sections, the Business section and the Community Services section. The Business section includes the Office of Administration, Office of Finance, Office of Information Technology, and Office of Human Resources. The Community Services section includes the Division of Resource Management and Projects. The Resource Management and Projects Division includes the Office of Environmental Permitting, Office of Environmental Assessments, Office of Water Use Services and the Office of Environmental Projects. Staff in the permitting section of the Division processes Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) applications,



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Works of the District (WOD) permit applications, Water Use Permit (WUP) applications, and Water Well Construction (WWC) permit applications. Staff ensure compliance with permit conditions and District rules. In addition, staff duties include monitoring permitted activities, maintaining regulatory records, participating in statewide regulatory consistency efforts, and rulemaking. Staff protect and manage water resources through permitting in a manner that will prevent adverse flooding, manage surface water runoff, and protect water quality, wetlands, and other surface waters. Staff also partner with agencies such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, US Army Corp of Engineers and the other four Water Management Districts to ensure consistency and the reduction of duplicate efforts. Staff in this section partner with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and communities to develop the annual FDOT Mitigation plans for wetland impacts associated with FDOT roadway projects and implement the ETAT program. Staff in the Office of Environmental Projects have oversight for projects, whether District-led or through partnerships, which help protect water supplies, improve water quality, and restore natural systems, as well as providing flood protection through practices such as improved stormwater drainage or storage.

### 2025 Update

District staff in the Office of Environmental Projects have been working diligently to complete projects this year, including feasibility studies for alternative water supply projects, and two infrastructure construction projects. Work continues for one septic-to-sewer project, three wastewater treatment projects, four water conservation projects, two infrastructure projects, one land acquisition project, multiple aquifer recharge studies, and four flood protection/stormwater treatment projects. In addition, individual contracts under the agricultural program continue to support reductions in nutrients and groundwater pumping.

Below are the natural hazards projects that were completed during the year:

Project Name	Mission	Hazard Mitigation Risk
Brooker AMR water meter installation	Water Supply	Drought
Haines St Drainage Improvements	Flood Protection	Stormwater runoff
Houston Ave Drainage Well Replacement	Flood Protection	Stormwater runoff
Irvin Ave Drainage Well Replacement	Flood Protection	Stormwater runoff
North Florida Mega Industrial Park	Water Quality	Water Resources

As a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP), District staff have been actively implementing the Risk MAP program through mapping and outreach activities and attending FEMA meetings such as the CTP Community of Practice bi-annual meeting, the CTP Engagement Working Group, and the FDEM-FEMA Mitigation Program Consultation. District staff in this program held multiple meetings for the Wacasassa Flood Risk Review, and Resilience as well as Discovery meeting for the Alapaha and the Aucilla Watersheds. District staff continue to provide project management services for active FEMA grants, which are in various stages of completion (see map below).

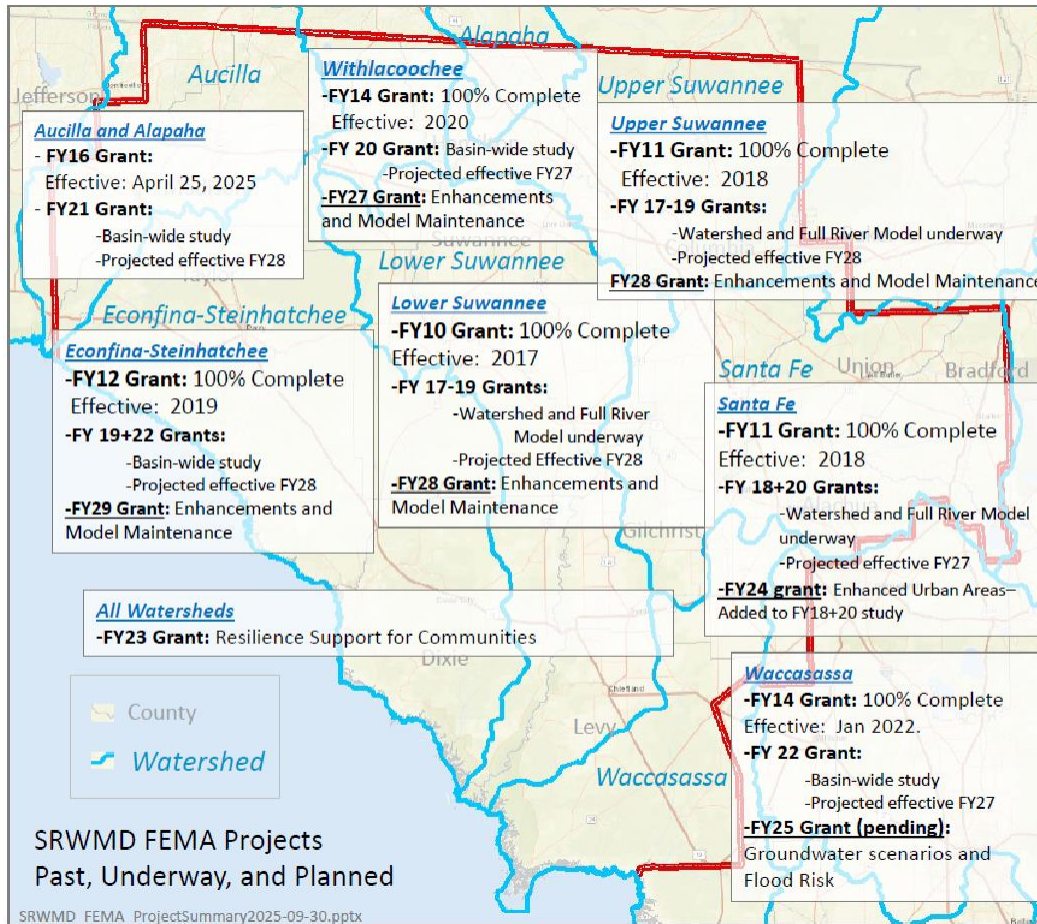


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District staff have also attended meetings such as One Water Commission, Mitigate Florida, Silver Jackets, Monthly WMD Resilience Call, Resilient Florida Program webinars, Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting, and Inter-District meetings for conservation and reuse. Other meetings and conferences District staff attended or hosted include:

- Florida Floodplain Managers Association Annual Conference, June 2025
- Florida Environmental Permitting Summer School, July 2025
- Florida Resilience Conference, September 2025
- Hosted - 2025 SRWMD Water Resource Symposium
- Hosted - L-273 Certified Floodplain Manager Class



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## Agency Mitigation Assessment

This score is based upon an analysis of the relevance, level, and significance of the mitigation efforts of the agency as described below.

Agency	Relevance	Level	Significance	Total Mitigation Score
Suwannee River Water Management District	3	3	3	9
<b>Mitigation Implementation Rating: 9 – Exceptional</b>				

## Liaisons

Primary Liaison	Alternate Liaison
Leroy Marshall, P.E., PMP, CFM Chief Professional Engineer Suwannee River WMD 386-647-3124 <a href="mailto:Leroy.Marshall@srwmd.org">Leroy.Marshall@srwmd.org</a>	Tim Alexander Deputy Executive Director Suwannee River WMD 386-647-3127 <a href="mailto:Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org">Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org</a>



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## CONCLUSION

In 2026, FDEM will continue hosting quarterly Mitigate FL meetings pursuant to section 252.3655, Florida Statutes, with a primary focus on the following areas:

- Increasing awareness of the mitigation and resilience activities of FDEM and other agencies
- Seek opportunities to diversify Workgroup involvement and expand meeting topics and presenters
- Identify unmet needs of local government and other partner agencies and opportunities for future education and technical assistance

In addition, FDEM and other state agencies will continue our ongoing mitigation efforts outlined earlier in this report, including but not limited to maintaining the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Part 201.5.