

**FLORIDA NATURAL HAZARDS
INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP
F.S. 252.3655
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

January 1, 2019

Prepared by
Florida Division of Emergency Management

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

STATUTE REVIEW 3

FLORIDA ENHANCED STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2018 UPDATE 3

ANNUAL ACTIONS 4

AGENCY ASSESSMENTS 8

 Agency for Healthcare Administration 8

 Agency for Persons with Disabilities 9

 Agency for State Technology 10

 Department of Business and Professional Regulation 11

 Department of Children and Families 12

 Department of Corrections 13

 Department of Economic Opportunity 14

 Department of Education 15

 Department of Elder Affairs 16

 Department of Environmental Protection 17

 Department of Health 20

 Department of Juvenile Justice 21

 Department of Management Services 22

 Department of Military Affairs/Florida National Guard 23

 Department of State 24

 Department of Transportation 25

 Department of Lottery 27

 Division of Emergency Management 28

 Public Service Commission 29

 Northwest Florida Water Management District 30

 Suwannee River Water Management District 32

 St. Johns River Water Management District 33

 Southwest Florida Water Management District 34

 South Florida Water Management District 36

ONGOING EFFORTS 37

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document satisfies subsection 252.3655(2)(a) Florida Statutes (F.S.), by providing an annual progress report on the implementation of the state’s hazard mitigation plan including an assessment of agency efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards and to strategize and prioritize ongoing efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards. This report refers to activities occurring between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

STATUTE REVIEW

In July 2017, Florida Statute 252.3655 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 DEM or designee will serve as the liaison and coordinator of the workgroup. Each liaison is required to provide information from his or her 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. DEM is also required to submit an annual progress report regarding the implementation of the 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 decided to combine the three groups into one, and title it Mitigate FL. This was done to avoid duplication of efforts and to leverage resources more effectively.

FLORIDA ENHANCED STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2018 UPDATE

The Mitigation Bureau is responsible for updating, maintaining, and implementing the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Part 201 and 42 U.S.C. 5165. The SHMP was updated and submitted for approval to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on February 23, 2018 and was subsequently approved by FEMA on June 11, 2018. The 2018 Enhanced SHMP went into effect on August 24, 2018 and will expire on August 23, 2023. 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. Furthermore, 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 increased control and oversight over mitigation projects and shortens the standard 24-month grant obligation timeline.

ANNUAL ACTIONS

The Director of DEM designated a workgroup coordinator in the Mitigation Bureau. The coordinator sent a memo to all state agencies, water management districts, and the Public Service Commission, explaining agency responsibilities due to the requirements of the new statute.

The workgroup coordinator at DEM scheduled quarterly meetings, which were announced in the Florida Administrative Register and on the DEM website. Below are the dates of the meetings.

- March 13, 2018
- June 12, 2018
- September 11, 2018
- December 11, 2018

Meeting materials, including the meeting presentation and meeting minutes are posted on the website and are available on the DEM website.¹ Additionally, the table below provides an outline of topics discussed at each meeting.

March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHMP Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SHMP Draft was on website for two weeks for Public Comment period ○ Has been submitted to FEMA for review • LiDAR Funding • Individual State Agency Meetings • New ideas for Mitigate FL group • Hurricane Irma Recovery and Mitigation • Environmental Review MOU with FEMA • Silver Jackets • Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Update • LMS Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LMS Update Manual published to website ○ Course FL-391 LMS Update Manual Workshop available
June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHMP Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enhanced SHMP was approved by FEMA • Individual State Agency Meetings • New committee discussion • State Floodplain Management Office Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Disaster Toolkit for Floodplain Administrators developed by staff and available on website ○ Floodplain Management in Florida Quick Guide, 2017 edition, also available on website ○ CRS/CAV Pilot Program report is complete and available on website • Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinating with Preparedness Bureau to better align THIRA and HIRA/Risk Assessment from the SHMP • LiDAR Funding Update

¹ <https://portal.floridadisaster.org/mitigation/MitigateFL/External/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed LiDAR mapping plan ● Silver Jackets ● HMGP Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application deadline is August 6, 2018 ○ Private Non-Profit Houses of Worship are now able to be their own sub-applicant ● LMS Update
<p>September 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LiDAR Acquisition Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flights will be conducted between December 2018 and April 2019 ● New staff in Mitigation Bureau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To facilitate grant application reviews ● Insurance Specialist Position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added to Bureau to focus on insurance issues, develop market intelligence reports, etc. ● State Floodplain Management Office Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New CAV process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will hold eight all day Regional Engagement Meetings which will be attended by 18-20 communities, followed by 90 minute individual community meetings, which will allow all communities to receive a CAV over the next three years, which is nationally unprecedented ○ Public Restroom below the Base Flood Elevation in Special Flood Hazard Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal to amend the International Building Code, Section 3114 ● Hurricane Irma Loss Avoidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report will be released this fall ● Mitigation Grant Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HMGP: please respond to Requests for Information as soon as possible to facilitate quick reviews ○ PDM and FMA: federal application period will be from October 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019 ● Florida Resilient Coastlines Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sea level rise is an issue impacting Florida communities ○ Resources include Florida Adaptation Planning Guidebook and Addressing Adaption During Long Term Recovery 2nd Edition ○ Resilience Planning Grants available ○ Quarterly Coastal Resilience Forum meetings ● Historic Preservation and Mitigation, Florida Department of State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical assistance for historical preservation projects and planning ○ Currently developing guidance to integrate disaster planning and recovery ○ Assist with compliance reviews for grant applications ○ Historic Preservation Grant Program: grants for preservation and protection of historic and archaeological sites and properties

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certified Local Government Program: preservation partnership for identification, evaluation, and protection of historic and archaeological resources ● FEPA Mitigation Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion of federal requirement from 2 CFR Part 200 procurement requirements ● NEMA Mitigation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FDEM Director, Wes Maul, is now the Chair of the committee ● Silver Jackets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be updating the Charter to be more specific, relevant, actionable, by target date of Spring 2019 ○ Will focus on three topics: project specific activities, disaster and post-disaster response, and resiliency actions for the future ● Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President and CEO of FLASH gave an overview of the agency including discussion resources, the #HurricaneStrong program, and the National Disaster Resilience Conference
<p>December 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Floodplain Management post-Hurricane Michael <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Estimate Trainings ● HMGP Update: Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Estimates of allocations and the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be issued in late January or early February ○ Once the NOFA is released, Applicant Briefings will be scheduled ○ Post Fire FM-5178 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FEMA allocated HMGP funds for Fire Management declarations to address wildfire mitigation ▪ Application deadline is February 2019 ● Annual Report process review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinator will draft and send to agencies for review before submittal ● Watershed Master Planning Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved for \$20 million HMGP grant to create and update Watershed Plans for all 29 watersheds in Florida ○ Will help communities to reach CRS Class 4 and will help guide mitigation planning and future mitigation projects ● LiDAR Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data acquisition began December 1, 2018 and will continue through early April 2019 ○ Full data set will be available in December 2020 ○ Will result in GIS building footprint, updated digital elevation models, updated floodplain mapping, updated storm surge models, etc. ● Wildfire Mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mitigation Bureau is coordinating with Florida Forest Service to use updated LiDAR data to update the GIS fuel layer, which will be used to update risk mapping and the Wildfire Mitigation Plan, an annex to the SHMP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LMS Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Annual Updates to county Local Mitigation Strategy plans, per F.A.C. 27P-22, are due by January 21, 2019
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The workgroup coordinator also met individually with the liaison from each agency to establish a strong working relationship and to acquire information about each agency. This information included identifying program areas and processes that involve mitigation, identifying opportunities to integrate mitigation into programs and processes, and identifying which facilities the agency believes is most vulnerable or most at risk. The coordinator also requested information about any successful mitigation measures taken.

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. There is a summary for each agency that discusses the applicable programs, as well as a section to assess the relevance, level, and significance of agency mitigation efforts, per F.S. 252.3655.

Agency for Healthcare Administration

Liaisons	Brian Kenyon and Chuck Merck
Agency Summary	<p>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.</p> <p>Florida Administrative Code 58A-5.036 and Florida Administrative Code 59A-4.1265 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.</p>
Relevance	The Division of Health Quality Assurance, within AHCA, is the most relevant to statewide mitigation efforts. By enforcing the requirements above, AHCA ensures that nursing homes and ALFs are capable of continuing services for their clients. This reduces vulnerability to power outages, which are often caused by natural hazards.
Level	The level of effort to mitigate the risk of loss of life due to power outages in nursing homes and ALFs has increased in recent years and is an important step towards reducing vulnerability and making our state more resilient.
Significance	AHCA's efforts to mitigate power loss due to natural hazards within nursing homes and ALFs is significant because many clients within those facilities are power dependent or are vulnerable to high temperatures. AHCA works to mitigate the risk of loss of life due to power outages, which ultimately saves lives.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Liaisons	Eddie K. Harris and Beth Pace
Agency Summary	<p>APD serves the needs of those with developmental disabilities. There are three Divisions and five Offices. There are six regions across the state, as well as two developmental disability centers (DDCs), and the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program. Within the Division of Operations, there are two bureaus. The Bureau of Regional Supports provides oversight and assistance to the six regional offices. The Bureau of Provider Supports is a liaison to APDs many providers and waiver support coordinators in the Regions. The Bureau of Community Supports is the liaison for various initiatives which benefit the clients. The Division of Programs houses the DDCs and the Bureau of Consumer Directed Care, which provides payroll management for certain Medicaid providers, and has its own emergency payroll protocols during a disaster.</p> <p>The DDCs are located in Marianna, Florida and Gainesville, Florida. Both DDCs have been retrofitted and APD is planning the next steps for improvement. For example, the Gainesville DDC completed a project to install a new water pump because of problems during a power outage due to Hurricane Irma, and both DDCs will be receiving new generators. The Marianna DDC is in the process of planning to mitigate its electrical structure to protect it during future hurricanes. Additionally, each facility has utilized Energy Service Company (ESCO) projects, these ESCO retrofits are audited to ensure a return on investment. The DDCs have Emergency Management (EM) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans, with the intention that staff will remain on site with clients and they will shelter in place.</p> <p>APD also licenses residential facilities throughout the state. Some require EM plans and some work closely with their respective county EM departments. APD meets regularly with their providers to discuss EM, including mitigation, and to make sure the facility, staff, and clients have their own EM plans. The APD Intranet site has several resources and links relating to EM, counties, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM). APD maintains a disaster and recovery toolkit. APD Waiver Support Coordinators, clients, providers, and staff utilize this system. The agency also encourages staff and clients to use a personal EM plan template. APD has found that utilizing an emergency notification system to notify staff of impending floods or wildfires has been beneficial and will continue to refine this process. The agency has also identified the number of clients that live within flood zones.</p>
Relevance	<p>Since APD houses many clients in the DDCs, the agency is relevant in the discussion of mitigation statewide. Completing retrofit projects, including generator installation, is an example of how one project can directly impact the public by reducing vulnerability to natural hazards.</p>
Level	<p>APD is engaged in encouraging and promoting personal preparedness and mitigation, as well as completing mitigation projects on their DDCs to reduce the risks that are associated with hazards such as high winds, flooding, and wildfire. The agency is committed to mitigation and works hard to reduce risk and vulnerability.</p>
Significance	<p>APD is tasked with servicing some of the most vulnerable people in the state of Florida in their licensed facilities and DDCs. Therefore, their efforts to mitigate risk and vulnerability at their licensed facilities, DDCs, providers, and for their employees and clients is significant.</p>

Agency for State Technology

Liaisons	Hans Cardenas and Kevin Dady
Agency Summary	The Agency for State Technology was created to provide state agencies with consistent and secure computing power, expert support, creative and innovative solutions, and continuity of service. The State Data Center and the backup facility are critical for the state to continue to provide services to Floridians. The Disaster Recovery (DR) program is necessary to ensure that the state can provide services in the event of a disaster that would affect the operations of the State Data Center. AST conducts vulnerability assessments for the State Data Center and other critical facilities. One assessment noted that while the structure itself is hardened, security around the facility is lacking. These assessments allow AST to continually identify and implement new mitigation and security opportunities.
Relevance	AST operations are relevant to statewide mitigation. The agency efforts, such as vulnerability assessments and the DR program are critical to continuity of operations for state agencies and continuity of government.
Level	The efforts taken by AST to harden the State Data Center and use a backup site are noteworthy. These efforts reduce vulnerability to natural hazards.
Significance	While AST only has a handful of facilities, they must be mitigated and secure to ensure the continuity of operations for the state agencies of Florida. The efforts they take to harden the State Data Center and use a backup site are significant.

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Liaisons	Peter Newman and Patti Broadway
Agency Summary	The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) has twelve Divisions and is responsible for licensing and regulating businesses and professionals.
Relevance	DBPR is less relevant to statewide mitigation than other agencies. DBPR has twenty seven facilities or structures across the state where employees are stationed, which are leased from the state Department of Management Services, from counties, or from private companies. Because DBPR doesn't own the structures they are not responsible for mitigation, but they do have Emergency Management (EM) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans in place to ensure continuity of services post-disaster. Participation from DBPR liaisons is valuable as it allows for awareness and education regarding mitigation principles which can be integrated into general DBPR planning and operations.
Level	As stated, mitigation is not specifically relevant to operations at DBPR so the mitigation actions the agency does conduct are appropriate with the agency mission. DBPR participation in the workgroup is valuable.
Significance	As stated, mitigation is not relevant to operations at DBPR and therefore the agency and efforts are less significant when considering statewide mitigation. DBPR participation in the workgroup is valuable.

Department of Children and Families

Liaisons	Matt Howard and Jimmie Padgett
Agency Summary	The 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.
Relevance	DCF is less relevant to statewide mitigation than other agencies. DCF leases buildings across the state from which their programs operate. However, participation from DCF liaisons is valuable. Additionally, including the DCF liaisons in the group allows for awareness and education regarding mitigation principles which can be integrated into general DCF planning and operations.
Level	As stated, mitigation is not specifically relevant to operations at DCF and therefore the agency has a lower level of effort than other agencies, which is appropriate with the mission of the agency. DCF participation in the workgroup is valuable.
Significance	As stated, mitigation is not specifically relevant to operations at DCF and therefore the agency is less significant when considering statewide mitigation. DCF participation in the workgroup is valuable.

Department of Corrections

Liaisons	Jason Hoskins and Darren Fancher
Agency Summary	There are two programmatic areas of the Department of Corrections (DOC), Institutions and Community Corrections. There are 144 institution facilities statewide which incarcerate approximately 96,000 inmates convicted and sentenced to more than one year. The Community Corrections mission is to protect the community by supervising approximately 166,000 offenders and reporting non-compliance to the sentencing or releasing authority. DOC has strong Emergency Management (EM) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) programs because they are responsible for the safety of inmates and offenders and because of the security threat within institutions and community corrections offices. Additionally, DOC conducts routine maintenance, including some basic mitigation measures. However, many of the facilities are in need of significant mitigation.
Relevance	Since DOC is responsible for housing 96,000 inmates, the agency is relevant in the discussion of mitigation statewide. DOC conducts routine maintenance, including some basic mitigation measures. DOC is currently in the process of evaluating potential mitigation measures.
Level	DOC is committed to mitigating their facilities and institutions to prevent the loss of life and structural damages and the agency level of mitigation efforts is appropriate with the agency mission.
Significance	The mitigation efforts of DOC are significant because the department is responsible for the safety of 96,000 inmates. Significant efforts include the active work to evaluate potential mitigation measures on facilities.

Department of Economic Opportunity

Liaisons	Dan Evans and Barbara Lenczewski
Agency Summary	<p>DEO 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 citizens, communities, businesses, and visitors. There are five programmatic divisions within DEO and the Division of Community Development is related to mitigation.</p> <p>Within the DCD is the Bureau of Community Planning and Growth which manages several programs, including reviews of Comprehensive Plans and amendments to ensure that peril of flood planning elements are included, per Florida Statute 163.3178(2)(f)(1-6). Specifically required is the inclusion of development and redevelopment principles, strategies, and engineering solutions that reduce flood risk in coastal areas from high tide events, storm surge, flash floods, storm water runoff, and related impacts of sea level rise. Staff also assists with other planning elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal management planning including coastal high hazard areas, adaptation planning, and coastal redevelopment to reduce the risks of coastal flooding and related impacts to sea level rise; • 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; and • Military installation coordination with local governments to prevent encroachment, particularly on air space because of sound concerns. <p>The Bureau of Community Planning and Growth provides a grant to assist municipalities and counties in creating economic development strategies, addressing critical local planning issues and promoting innovative planning solutions to local challenges. Oftentimes, the Comprehensive Plan and the Local Mitigation Strategy are closely linked and the people at the local level who participate in both efforts are often the same people. For FY 2018-2019 these grants have been provided to 30 communities and four regional planning councils to benefit 24 communities.</p> <p>Another program in this bureau is the Areas of Critical State Concern, which provides oversight and assistance to the four identified areas of critical state concern. An area of critical state concern is one that has resources that are of statewide significance. The four identified areas of critical state concern include Big Cypress Swamp, The Green Swamp, Apalachicola Bay, and the Florida Keys Area.</p> <p>The Bureau of Community Services also implements the Weatherization Assistance Program which provides grant funding to reduce the monthly energy burden on low-income households by improving the energy efficiency of a home. These improvements sometimes include mitigation measures.</p> <p>DEO also manages the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery (DR) grant program. This funding becomes available post-disaster and communities often use CDBG-DR funding as the local match required for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant. Additionally, some CDBG-DR projects include mitigation actions, such as retrofitting.</p>
Relevance	DEO provides technical assistance and ensures compliance with various state and federal requirements, including requirements that are mitigation related. For example, the coastal management, peril of flood, and evacuation planning requirements are all related to reducing risk and vulnerability to natural hazards.
Level	DEO provides technical assistance and reviews several planning elements related to mitigation. The agency is a major partner in statewide mitigation.
Significance	DEO provides needed assistance to ensure risk reduction for communities, which is significant.

Department of Education

Liaisons	Kimberly Sadler and Greg Davis (OEL Liaison Reginal Williams)
Agency Summary	<p>The Department of Education 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.</p> <p>DOE conducts an annual safety fair to promote and educate employees on best practices to utilize in the workplace. Past representatives have included Leon County Sheriff’s Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Cyber Security Unit, Tallahassee Police Department, Florida State Fire Marshal, Tallahassee Fire Department, Florida Department of Transportation, DOE Emergency Management, DOE Office of Safe Schools, DOE Safety Committee, and the Division of Risk Management. Event partners typically share free resources, information, and activities to promote situational awareness.</p> <p>DOE worked closely with the Domestic Security State Working Group Campus Security committee to promote the use of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funds to enhance emergency communication systems for several campuses across the state. 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 the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF). Schools are encouraged to incorporate the Statewide Policy for Strengthening Domestic Security in Florida Public Schools into their annual district self-assessments. DOE also promotes online Active Shooter training throughout the department making it a mandatory requirement.</p> <p>The Office of Safe Schools was created after the tragic event in Parkland, Florida in 2018. The Office of Safe Schools requires school districts to complete vulnerability and security assessments on each individual site, while district-wide assessments are optional.</p> <p>DOE rents the majority 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.</p> <p>Schools are often used as shelters in the event of an imminent threat, as required by Florida Statute 252. The DOE Facilities Office, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management conducts an annual review of the Statewide Shelter Plan and provides recommendations to school districts.</p> <p>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.</p>
Relevance	DOE is relevant in the discussion of statewide mitigation due to the fact that the facility in Daytona houses vulnerable populations. Additionally, requiring local vulnerability assessments ensures that school districts are considering mitigation regularly.
Level	The DOE agency mitigation efforts are appropriate for the DOE mission. DOE ensures schools have the resources to mitigate their own facilities by administering federal and state programs. Since DOE only owns one facility, the level of effort to mitigate may seem low, however, the agency has taken many steps to harden that facility, as well as promote mitigation to school districts.
Significance	While DOE completes fewer mitigation projects than other agencies, the mitigation that is completed is significant. Hardening the school that houses vulnerable populations was critical and ensuring vulnerability assessments are completed is the first step towards identifying mitigation measures to implement. The Office of Early Learning has a dedicated liaison to the workgroup which demonstrates the commitment to mitigation within that Office.

Department of Elder Affairs

Liaisons	Joshua Register
Agency Summary	The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) is required by the Older Americans Act to develop strategies to identify potentially vulnerable populations and neighborhoods. In response to this, the Department 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. Additionally, DOEA produces an annual Disaster Preparedness Guide for seniors, families, and emergency management offices and organizations regarding disaster preparedness. Within this guide, there is information about mitigation, such as encouraging the purchase of flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and other important preparations to take before an emergency event.
Relevance	DOEA conducts vulnerability assessments regarding the elder population, which provides valuable data for risk reduction purposes. Additionally, DOEA conducts outreach to one of the most vulnerable and difficult to reach demographics, the elderly. Thus, DOEA is relevant to statewide mitigation efforts.
Level	DOEA mitigation efforts are appropriate considering the agency mission. In particular, the effort to map the elderly population and conduct vulnerability assessments is noteworthy for an agency whose primary mission is not mitigation and emergency management.
Significance	It is noteworthy that DOEA conducts not only outreach to the elderly, but also conducts vulnerability assessments of the elderly. This information is valuable to initiatives working to reduce risk and vulnerability.

Department of Environmental Protection

Liaisons	Nick Roff and Brooke Kincaid
Agency Summary	<p>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.</p> <p>The Land and Recreation program area has two relevant 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 public protection and provides oversight for management of activities on more than 12 million acres of public lands. Also within the Division is the Office of Environmental Services which administers the Florida Forever program and oversees land management of all conservation lands owned by the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>The Regulatory Program has six divisions: Air Resource Management, Water Resource Management, Waste Management, Florida Geological Survey, Emergency Response, and Regulatory District Offices. Many DEP mitigation related programs are within the Division of Water Resource Management. The Engineering, Hydrology and Geology Program oversees relevant programs including Coastal Engineering and Geology Group, Dam Safety Program, Hydrology and Hydraulics Support, Mining and Mitigation Technical Support, Storm Water Support, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Program.</p> <p>The Coastal Engineering and Geology Group 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.</p> <p>The Dam Safety Program coordinates statewide dam safety activities and provides technical support for permitting, inspection, evaluation, condition assessment, and Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for dams. This program is critical in statewide mitigation because dams are water control structures and provide protection to large numbers of people from flooding.</p> <p>The Hydrology and Hydraulics Support staff reviews hydrographic assessments submitted in support of environmental resource permits.</p> <p>The Mining and Mitigation Program regulates mining and reviews environmental resource permit applications and reclamation plans for mines. In this program the term "mitigation" refers to mitigating mines, not general risk reduction actions.</p> <p>The Storm Water Support program provides stormwater and engineering expertise for rulemaking efforts, and basin management plans, as well as serves as a reference for statewide consistency in review of stormwater portion of environmental resource permits.</p> <p>The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Program regulates point water source discharges from three potential sources: municipal separate storm sewer systems, construction activities, and industrial activities. The program also develops policy to minimize and prevent pollutants in stormwater discharges.</p> <p>The Division of Water Resource Management has other relevant programs. The Aquifer Protection Program upholds the federal Underground Injection Control program standards. The Beach Field Services Program maintains a statewide geodetic control network, manages the historic shoreline database, and provides compliance support to ensure continuity of beach regulatory services. The Beaches Funding Program provides and manages grants to local entities for planning and implementation of beach and inlet management projects to protect upland structures and infrastructure. They also provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, provide recreation opportunities, and support local economies through tourism. The Beaches, Inlets, and Ports Program processes Joint Coastal permit applications and environmental resource permit applications. The Coastal Construction Control Line Program regulates</p>

	<p>structures and activities which can cause beach erosion, destabilize dunes, damage upland properties, or interfere with public access.</p> <p>The Division of Waste Management implements state and federal laws to protect the environment from improper handling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes, manages programs for waste facilities and pollutant storage systems, and conducts non-regulatory activities like financial and technical assistance for recycling and waste reduction.</p> <p>The Florida Geologic Survey (FGS) focuses on proactive environmental problem solving for geologic hazards as they relate to public health and safety. For example, FGS maps depressions across the state. FGS partnered with DEM 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Florida Coastal Office coordinates the protection of Florida’s coastal resource, 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 Florida Resilient Coastlines Program provides technical assistance to communities to develop coastal management strategies and plans. The Program achieves this through grant funding. The Coastal Management Office also developed the Adaptation Guidebook to assist communities in sea level rise and adaptation planning.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Sustainable Initiatives Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program in DEP to assist Florida industry and residents, in order to protect Florida’s environment and promote sustainability.</p>
<p>Relevance</p>	<p>DEP has many programs that are relevant to statewide mitigation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Acquisition • Critically Eroded Beaches • Dam Safety • Beaches Funding Program • Coastal Construction Control Line Program • Florida Geologic Survey • Florida Resilient Coastlines Program • Environmental Assessment and Restoration

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Restoration Assistance • Office of Water Policy and WMDs <p>Because of the many relevant programs and projects, DEP is a central and critical partner in the workgroup and in statewide mitigation as a whole.</p>
Level	DEP has many programs that are related to mitigation of multiple hazards, including flooding, tropical cyclones, coastal erosion, and sinkholes. The efforts by DEP range across the entire department and are critical to mitigation successes in Florida.
Significance	DEP implements many important programs and projects related to mitigation. Their efforts are significantly higher than other state agencies, due to their primary mission. Without these programs, the statewide mitigation program would have many gaps.

Department of Health

Liaisons	Jeff Bielling and Samantha Cooksey
Agency Summary	<p>The Florida Department of Health is intended to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida, through integrated state, county, and community efforts. There are several divisions within DOH including Children’s Medical Services; Public Health Labs; Public Health Statistics and Performance Management; Emergency Preparedness and Community Support; Community Health Promotion; Disease Control and Health Protection; Medical Quality Assurance; and Disability Determinations. Additionally, DOH provides oversight for the sixty seven county Health Departments. For example, DOH provides information and advice to county health departments before, during, and after disasters, such as information about boil water notices and mold prevention.</p> <p>In the Emergency Preparedness and Community Support Division, the Healthcare System Preparedness program ensures there is capacity and capability for provision of critical public health and medical services in order to reduce the potential for adverse health outcomes during a disaster. The Environmental Health Preparedness program provides guidance to county health departments regarding human health risks from environmental components, including accidental spills, waste disposal, and water contamination. This program also issues boil water notices, investigates illness outbreaks associated with food or water, monitors incidences of vector borne diseases, and monitors the population during radiation exposure incidents.</p> <p>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 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. All of these objectives are related to risk and vulnerability reduction. Another program in the Division, Community Resilience works to develop informed, empowered, and resilient healthcare systems and residents. Resilient healthcare systems incorporate mitigation techniques and approaches.</p> <p>The Division of Disease Control and Health Protection implements the Environmental Health program, which works to prevent disease of environmental origin. Within this programmatic area, the Climate and Health program assess the impacts of climate on human health; for example, Florida faces natural hazards such as severe storms, flooding, and tropical cyclones. Additionally, the Environmental 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.</p> <p>DOH has identified that the central office in Tallahassee is in need of a generator and the agency is working to acquire one. DOH has also identified that there is a Public Health Lab in Jacksonville that floods and is in need of mitigation. This type of identification demonstrates a commitment to vulnerability reduction and resiliency. Furthermore, DOH assists county health departments with acquiring generators to remain operational in the event of power outages. This demonstrates DOH efforts to make not only the agency resilient, but the entire public health system across the state more resilient. DOH also conducts general maintenance on their buildings, which sometimes includes structural mitigation efforts.</p>
Relevance	DOH programs address risk and vulnerability reduction through technical assistance to communities to improve the built environment through local government Comprehensive Plans. Other efforts include improving the ability of communities to build resilience against climate effects. Because of these programs, DOH is relevant to statewide mitigation.
Level	The many mitigation efforts conducted by DOH are important to help build resiliency across the state.
Significance	DOH mitigation efforts are significant because including these “whole community” type resilience programs ensures there are no gaps in the state mitigation efforts.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Liaisons	Naomi Screen and Roger Kesling
Agency Summary	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 General Services Bureau is responsible for facility management. There are 53 Residential and Correctional Facilities and 21 Juvenile Detention Centers. The General Services Bureau 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, but now DJJ is reviewing options to mitigate future flooding. DJJ and this facility are engaged with the water management district and DEM. Furthermore, DJJ has completed other mitigation type projects on their facilities using maintenance funds and any new construction considers mitigation options.
Relevance	DJJ is a relevant agency in discussions of statewide mitigation because the agency houses juveniles and is responsible for their safety. Mitigating their own facilities allows the agency, the state, and the community in which the facility is located to be more resilient.
Level	DJJ is committed to mitigation efforts and considers mitigation options in all new construction. The agency also has completed projects using maintenance funds. The agency is involved in the state mitigation work group, Mitigate FL. This type of commitment to mitigation is noteworthy.
Significance	DJJ mitigates their own facilities because the agency understands the value in reducing risk and vulnerability. These agency actions are significant.

Department of Management Services

Liaisons	Gene Buerkle
Agency Summary	<p>The Department of Management Services 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 111 structures. The Division 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.</p> <p>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 Universities, FCS colleges, and the judicial branch, not including 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 their facilities. The FL-SOLARIS database was used to complete the Risk Assessment within the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p> <p>The location of the 20,000 facilities were overlaid with risk and vulnerability maps to determine whether or not 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 111 structures. Additionally, the DMS database FL-SOLARIS is crucial to accurate risk and vulnerability mapping and analysis in the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p>
Relevance	The mitigation efforts conducted by DMS are mostly 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 Fixed Capital Outlay projects, DMS completes mitigation projects annually for 111 structures. These efforts demonstrate that DMS is relevant to statewide mitigation.
Level	DMS conducts many mitigation projects annually on the 111 agency managed facilities, funded by the maintenance budget and by the FCO.
Significance	DMS mitigation efforts are critical to the continuity of operations of 111 structures. Reducing this risk and vulnerability is critical to continuity of operations of state facilities.

Department of Military Affairs/Florida National Guard

Liaisons	CPT Melissa DeLeon and Lt. Stephen Stroud
Agency Summary	<p>The Florida Department of Military Affairs (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 DMA and FLNG operate together within policy guidance and fiscal framework of federal and state authorities. The DMA/FLNG is headquartered at St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Florida. The joint headquarters is responsible for more than one billion dollars in federal property, armories in fifty five communities in Florida, and more than 73,000 acres in training lands.</p> <p>The DMA/FLNG is responsible for the maintenance and repairs of several structures, which often includes retrofitting and hardening. For example, the DMA/FLNG partnered with other agencies, including the City of St. Augustine, to complete a mitigation project. An existing historic seawall runs along the coast, protecting historic districts, residential and commercial structures, and the DMA/FLNG headquarters. Over time, the historic seawall has deteriorated and no longer provides adequate protection. The project involved creating a new seawall, waterward of the historic seawall, to protect the area from Category 1 storm surge.</p>
Relevance	The DMA/FLNG is relevant to statewide mitigation because of mitigation projects on their own structures, such as retrofitting or hardening. An example of this is the seawall in St. Augustine, which reduced the risk of flooding and reduced the vulnerability of the headquarters facility.
Level	The DMA/FLNG level of mitigation efforts is appropriate considering the agency mission.
Significance	The significance of most DMA/FLNG mitigation actions is lower than other agencies. However, the seawall project in St. Augustine is very significant because it protects important infrastructure from flooding and because it demonstrates that a community and state agency can successfully partner to reduce risk and vulnerability.

Department of State

Liaisons	Wes Underwood and Jason Aldridge
Agency Summary	<p>The Department of State mission 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 and the Architectural Preservation Services program. The Florida Main Street Program provides technical assistance to revitalize historic downtowns and encourage economic development. The program developed a manual to assist communities with integrating historic preservation into disaster preparedness, called Disaster Mitigation for Historic Structures: Protection Strategies. 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 archeological properties. DHR also manages the Architectural Preservation Services program which provides architectural technical assistance to the public on historic rehabilitation projects, as well as architectural support for all programs and grant project applications reviews. The Architectural Preservation Services program developed the Disaster Mitigation and Recovery for Historic Properties guide which assists communities with improving coordination between emergency management and historic preservation efforts, as well as identifying funding sources and providing best practices for mitigation. These and other related guidebooks are provided to local emergency managers. DHRs Bureau of Archeological Research conducts surveys and excavations and provides specialized damage assessments after hazards have impacted an area, such as flooding, high winds, and forest fires.</p> <p>The Division of Library and Information Services implements the Records Management program, including the State Records Center. The State Records Center offers government agencies low cost storage in a state of the art and secure facility. The Records Management Program includes a Disaster Recovery program which provides recovery techniques and handling guidance regarding records that have been impacted by floods, fires, and other hazards.</p>
Relevance	<p>The Department of State is relevant to statewide mitigation due to the nature of the work of the Division of Historic Resources and the Division of Library and Information Services. Historic structures must be mitigated using different techniques and strategies due to age, building materials, and the need to protect and preserve important historical resources. The DOS provides technical assistance through the guidebooks developed to help communities integrate mitigation planning with historical preservation planning. The Records Management Program provides guidance regarding mitigation of damage to records from natural hazards. Additionally, the Division of Library and Information Services coordinates with local public library systems to provide disaster assistance before, during, and after incidents.</p>
Level	<p>The level of mitigation efforts of the DOS is appropriate based on the mission of the agency. Mitigation is incorporated in the historic preservation program, as well as the records management program.</p>
Significance	<p>It is significant that DOS Historic Resources has been engaged in providing assistance to communities to integrate mitigation planning and historic preservation planning, particularly because it is not a required action of the program. Rather the Division identified a need and has taken steps to eliminate identified vulnerabilities.</p>

Department of Transportation

Liaisons	Irene Cabral and Brian Richardson
Agency Summary	<p>The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provides a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhanced economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities.</p> <p>The Environmental Management Office, within the Engineering and Operations Office integrates environmental and stewardship principles into all Department plans and programs, and balance natural, human, cultural, and physical considerations with sound engineering principles, with the goal of preserving the quality of our environment and communities. This Office provides statewide technical expertise in all areas related to natural and community resource considerations in association with transportation actions in all phases of project development. These considerations include wildlife and habitat, wetlands and mitigation, historic, archeological, tribal, socio-cultural, and public involvement. Also within the Engineering and Operations section is the Chief Engineer, who oversees the Office of Design, Office of Maintenance, and the Office of Emergency Management.</p> <p>The Office of Design develops policy, procedures, criteria, and standards 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. The Office developed the Drainage Manual as guidance for communities that want their infrastructure to be built to the same standard as the Department’s. These design policies and procedures include mitigation efforts. The Office of Maintenance implements the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater program, which provides statewide oversight and coordination with FDOT Districts. The Office of Emergency Management coordinates and oversees disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for the Department.</p> <p>The Office of Chief Planner develops and implements the Florida Transportation Plan, a single overarching statewide plan guiding Florida’s transportation future. The Florida Transportation Plan includes several goals and strategies related to mitigation and ensuring resilient infrastructure is central to the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: Safety and security: a secure transportation system is prepared for effective emergency response. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategy: Coordinate transportation and land use decisions to ensure transportation corridor improvements intended to enhance emergency evacuation and response are not used to promote additional development in high hazardous areas or areas not planned for growth. • Goal: Agile, resilient, quality infrastructure: adapt infrastructure over time to be resilient enough to withstand and recover from impacts of extreme weather events and climate trends like sea level rise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategy: Coordinate with local governments making major infrastructure investments and develop decisions to consider risks of investing in areas vulnerable to extreme weather, flood risks, and other environmental conditions including consideration of areas identified as priorities for mitigation of risks or adaptation of infrastructure in regional and local plans. ○ Strategy: Incorporate the risks of extreme weather and other environmental conditions into long-range planning, project development, design, operations, and asset management decisions for all modes. ○ Strategy: Continue to support research to better understand potential impacts of extreme weather events, flood risk in coastal areas, and other climate trends on transportation infrastructure. • Goal: Transportation solutions that support Florida’s environment and conserve energy: sustainable infrastructure and investments to preserve and restore function and character of wildfire habitat, watersheds, and other natural systems; each investment is an opportunity to advance goals by not creating barriers to movement of wildlife and water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategy: Continue to coordinate with local governments to align transportation plans with land use plans. ○ Strategy: Continue coordination between transportation planning and environmental planning.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategy: Better align large scale transportation and conservation planning to maintain and restore and enhance the integrity and connectivity of regionally significant lands and waters to avoid negative impacts on these lands and waters. ○ Strategy: Encourage advanced large scale approaches to environmental mitigation that accomplish transportation and environmental stewardship goals together, like coordination on land purchases and easements and water storage, treatment, and drainage. <p>The Systems Implementation Office implements the Strategic Intermodal System, a network of high priority transportation facilities, through development of needs, cost feasibility, and Ten Year Project Plans. The Research Center at FDOT conducts research regarding hazards such as the Development of Sinkhole Risk Evaluation Program. FDOT is a partner in the current LiDAR data acquisition project, along with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and US Geological Survey.</p>
<p>Relevance</p>	<p>FDOT is very relevant to state mitigation efforts. FDOT transportation infrastructure is planned, designed, built, and maintained to be resilient to reduce risk and vulnerability. The FDOT Districts also develop the FDOT Mitigation Plan in partnership with the Water Management Districts and communities. These plans describe mitigation efforts that have been and will be taken to reduce risk and vulnerability caused by transportation projects.</p>
<p>Level</p>	<p>FDOT has many projects in progress at any given time across the state. These projects almost always include mitigation efforts, such as drainage, elevations, retrofitting, and hardening. FDOT is one of the most active agencies in terms of mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>Significance</p>	<p>The mitigation efforts that FDOT conducts impact all citizens across the state. FDOT infrastructure must be mitigated to be resilient so that citizens experience less significant impacts to the State’s roadways and bridges and recover quicker from natural disasters. Furthermore, it is important to note that FDOT considers environmental impacts on each project and works to restore wetlands, which is critical to flood risk reduction.</p>

Department of Lottery

Liaisons	Loren Lowers
Agency Summary	Lottery dollars have funded School Recognition and Merit Programs for improved schools, and have even helped build and renovate schools through the Classrooms First and Classrooms for Kids programs. Since 1997, the Florida Lottery has contributed \$3.9 billion for total construction from Lottery backed bonds.
Relevance	The Florida Lottery is relevant to statewide mitigation, because of the program to fund school construction. Schools are built to applicable codes and are often hardened further so they can serve as wind risk shelters. The funds from the Florida Lottery assist with this construction and hardening.
Level	The Florida Lottery contributes money for school construction, which is a unique and important mitigation capability. The level of agency mitigation efforts are appropriate considering the agency mission.
Significance	It is very significant that the Florida Lottery contributes to school construction because it addresses a need to build new schools, particularly when the school is the only risk shelter in the community.

Division of Emergency Management

Liaisons	Laura Waterman and Miles Anderson
Agency Summary	<p>The Mitigation Bureau within the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is the lead agency for mitigation efforts in the state of Florida. Florida Statute 252.3655 designates DEM as the coordinator of the Natural Hazards Interagency Working Group.</p> <p>The Mitigation Bureau is responsible for developing, updating, maintaining, and implementing the Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). The SHMP is approved as an Enhanced plan because criteria in addition to standard plan criteria have been met, which authorizes Florida to receive additional funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This has resulted in nearly an additional \$170 million. 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.</p> <p>The Mitigation Bureau provides three mitigation grants from FEMA, the HMGP, the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program. These grants are managed by the Bureau under the FEMA PAS program as well, which allows increased oversight over mitigation projects and shortens the standard 24-month grant obligation timeline.</p> <p>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 properties.</p> <p>The State Floodplain Management Office 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).</p> <p>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.</p>
Relevance	The efforts of the Mitigation Bureau are the most relevant to statewide mitigation. The Mitigation Bureau implements the three federal mitigation grants and implements the one state mitigation grant. The Mitigation Bureau also is responsible for state and local mitigation planning required by FEMA.
Level	The level of mitigation efforts of the Mitigation Bureau are important. Implementing three federal grants, one state grant, the floodplain management program, and the planning program is crucial to the success of mitigation statewide. The Mitigation Bureau allows counties to identify and complete large mitigation projects using grant funds. The Enhanced status of the SHMP, the county LMS approvals, and the PAS program for all allowable delegations shows that the Mitigation Bureau is committed to mitigation and takes full advantage of increasing capability at every opportunity.
Significance	Because the Mitigation Bureau is the coordinating agency for all mitigation in Florida, the Mitigation Bureau is very significant to statewide mitigation. It is also noteworthy that the SHMP is Enhanced, that all counties have approved LMS plans, and that the Bureau has the PAS designation for all allowable designations.

Public Service Commission

Liaisons	Rick Moses and Peter Queirolo
Agency Summary	<p>The Public Service Commission (PSC) mission is to facilitate the efficient provision of safe and reliable utility services at fair prices. The PSC achieves this through economic regulation, regulatory oversight, and service regulation and consumer assistance.</p> <p>The Engineering department, under the Technical department, provides recommendations pertaining to technical issues that come before the Commission. Technical issues include evaluation of capital cost estimates and utility plan expenditures, analysis of operating and maintenance costs, and cost effectiveness determinations. This department is also responsible for programs such as ten-year site plans and coordinates issue resolutions related to storm hardening, construction standards, emergency planning and operations, and water and wastewater margins of reserve. Additionally, per FAC 25-6.0342, utility companies submit storm hardening plans for Commission approval every three years. These plans include mitigation actions the company proposes to support the ten ongoing storm hardening initiatives established by the PSC such as hardening existing structures, vegetation management, auditing pole attachments, and natural disaster preparedness. The PSC reviews these plans to verify compliance with requirements and to ensure utility companies are maintaining quality service that is safe and reliable.</p> <p>In addition, the annual Distribution Reliability reports submitted to the PSC by utility companies are a wealth of information. The companies submit these reports to allow the Commission to monitor utility service reliability and ensure compliance with requirements, such as vegetation management and hardening of existing structures.</p>
Relevance	Many of the projects that the utility companies complete include mitigation, such as hardening existing structures and vegetation management. Utility service is critical to disaster response and recovery, so mitigating damage to utility infrastructure ensures fewer and shorter outages. This vulnerability and risk reduction is crucial to successful statewide mitigation. The PSC ensures the utility companies are completing these vulnerability and risk reduction projects.
Level	The PSC ensures utility companies complete mitigation projects through reviewing plans and annual reports which detail mitigation actions from the previous year. This shows a commitment to increasing resiliency statewide.
Significance	It is significant that the PSC requires and ensures utility companies are completing mitigation projects, such as storm hardening projects. These projects are critical and to develop ten initiatives that are related to mitigation and require annual reporting on how utility companies are supporting those initiatives is important.

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.

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Liaisons	Jerrick Sacquibal and Shawn Halphen
Agency Summary	<p>The Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) works to implement F.S. 373 with four core missions: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection and Floodplain Management, and Natural Systems Protection. There are three applicable divisions at NFWFMD, Division of Regulatory Services, Division of Resource Management, and Division of Asset Management.</p> <p>The Division of Regulatory Services implements regulatory programs to better 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. Many of these permits are involved in mitigation projects.</p> <p>The Division of Resource Management implements programs that focus on the core missions. For example, this division develops minimum flows and minimum levels of water to prevent harm to the water resources or the ecology of an area. The Surface Water Improvement and Management program provides the planning framework based on major riverine-estuarine watersheds for addressing watershed protection and restoration. This is achieved through implementation of cooperative projects, such as wetland and aquatic habitat restoration and stormwater retrofits to improve water quality and flood protection. The District's Springs program helps implement the State's priority for spring restoration and protection in northwest Florida through such projects as extension of central sewer service to connect areas served by septic systems, the agricultural cost share program, and spring bank habitat restoration, which may also reduce flood risk. Through the agricultural cost-share program, the District provides cost-share funding to help farmers implement best management practices that improve water use efficiency and reduce nutrient application in a manner that protects springs and other water resources.</p> <p>The Regional Wetland Mitigation Program provides wetland mitigation services to FDOT for road projects with unavoidable wetland impacts in areas not currently served by private mitigation banks. The NFWFMD</p>

	<p>also works with FEMA to develop floodplain maps, called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) through the RiskMAP program. Additionally, the District is currently working with state and federal agencies and local communities to address waterbody impacts and persistent flooding resulting from Hurricane Michael.</p> <p>The Division of Asset Management is responsible for acquisition and management of WMD lands and facilities. The NFWFMD manages conservation lands to maintain and protect vital water functions and natural systems, such as floodplains. This aids in flood risk reduction.</p>
Relevance	The NFWFMD completes several mitigation projects each year and is therefore relevant to state mitigation. Projects include stormwater retrofits, watershed restoration, floodplain mapping, and land conservation.
Level	The level of mitigation efforts of NFWFMD is high because almost every project includes mitigation, usually to reduce flood risk.
Significance	The mitigation efforts of the NFWFMD are significant because floodplain management must be coordinated not only locally, but also regionally, based on basins and watersheds, to be successful. The agency also completes many infrastructure mitigation projects to reduce flood risk.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Liaisons	Warren Zwanka and William McKinstry
Agency Summary	<p>The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) manages water and related natural resources in north central Florida, as set forth in Section 373, F.S., with four core missions: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems. These missions are the responsibilities of SRWMDs Water Resources Program, Business and Community Services Program, and Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects.</p> <p>In addition to water quantity and quality monitoring, the Water Resources Program implements the Land Management Program, which acquires lands for flood control, water quality protection, and natural resource conservation; and the Office of Minimum Flows and Levels/Water Supply Program, which ensure water availability and prevent significant harm to the area’s natural resources by setting Minimum Water Levels.</p> <p>The Business and Community Services Program includes Resource Management Division, which 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 waters.</p> <p>The Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects has oversight for district-led and partnership projects that 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.</p> <p>SRWMD partners with FDOT and communities to develop annual FDOT Mitigation plans, pursuant to F.S. 373.4137(4), for wetland impacts associated with FDOT roadway projects.</p>
Relevance	The SRWMD completes several mitigation projects each year and is therefore relevant to state mitigation. Projects include stormwater retrofits, watershed restoration, floodplain mapping, and land conservation.
Level	The level of mitigation efforts of SRWMD is high because almost every project includes some type of mitigation action, usually to reduce flood risk.
Significance	The mitigation efforts of the SRWMD are significant because floodplain management must be coordinated not only locally, but also regionally, based on basins and watersheds, to be successful. The agency also completes many infrastructure mitigation projects to reduce flood risk.

St. Johns River Water Management District

Liaisons	Dave Dickens and David Watt
Agency Summary	<p>The mission of 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.</p> <p>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 waters. SJRWMD partners with FDOT and communities to develop annual FDOT Mitigation Plans, pursuant to F.S. 373.4137(4), for wetland impacts associated with FDOT roadway projects.</p> <p>The Office of Real Estate Services acquires lands for flood control, water quality protection, and natural resource conservation. Similarly, the Bureau of Land Management 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.</p> <p>The Division of Projects has oversight for district-led and partnership projects that help to meet the core missions. For example, the Division is responsible for operating and maintaining more than 100 major and minor water control structures, including eleven spillways, three navigational locks, approximately 300 miles of levees, and thirty 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.</p>
Relevance	The SJRWMD completes several mitigation projects each year and is therefore relevant to state mitigation. Projects include stormwater retrofits, watershed restoration, floodplain mapping, and land conservation.
Level	The level of mitigation efforts of SJRWMD is high because almost every project includes mitigation, usually to reduce flood risk.
Significance	The mitigation efforts of the SJRWMD are significant because floodplain management must be coordinated not only locally, but also regionally, based on basins and watersheds, to be successful. The agency also completes many infrastructure mitigation projects to reduce flood risk.

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Liaisons	Joel Brown and Jerry Mallams
Agency Summary	<p>The 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 missions: water supply, water quality, natural systems protection, and flood protection.</p> <p>The Environmental Resource Permitting Program, per F.S. 373 Part IV 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, the SWFWMD administers a Water Use Permitting Program, per F.S. 373 Part IV, which regulates the consumptive use of water for public supply, agriculture, commercial, industrial, and recreation uses. This permitting effort mitigates risks associated with drought. Similarly, the SWFWMD administers a Water Shortage Plan, per F.S. 373.246, 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.</p> <p>The District has adopted a process to create and maintain a risk-based capital improvement plan for its flood 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. The SWFWMD has four dam facilities classified by the Florida Dam Safety Program of DEP as High-Hazard Potential Dams. As a result, the District has and maintains Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) to mitigate flood risk associated with these facilities. The SWFWMD maintains all of its dams, levees, and canals to state and federal standards to mitigate flood risks associated with these facilities and ensure they continue to function and protect life and property, as designed. These facilities include, but are not limited to the Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area/Tampa Bypass Canal, Lake Tarpon Outfall, Peace Creek Canal system, and Tsala Apopka Outfall.</p> <p>The 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.</p> <p>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 locals governments to implement flood protection and water quality projects to reduce the risk of flooding and improve water quality.</p> <p>Along with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the SWFWMD works to improve the operational manuals of the Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area/Tampa Baypass Canal during a significant storm surge event. Additionally, the District routinely evaluates and updates the operational manuals for its flood control and water conservation structures, which serve as guidelines for routine and event based operations of structures. These water control structures, both flood and conservation structures, contribute to the mitigation of flood and drought risk.</p> <p>The SWFWMD partners with FEMA to provide information to update federal floodplain maps through the RiskMAP program.</p> <p>The Minimum Flows and Levels program establishes minimum flows and levels to prevent damage to water resources, including saltwater intrusion. The 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Relevance	The SWFWMD has ongoing risk mitigation programs and projects that contribute to the mitigation of many natural hazards including drought, wildfire, sea-level change, high tides, storm surge, saltwater intrusion, stormwater runoff, flash floods, inland flooding, and coastal flooding. Therefore, the agency is very relevant to statewide mitigation.
Level	The level of mitigation efforts of SWFWMD matches their roles and responsibilities in statewide mitigation. Almost every project completed by SWFWMD includes a mitigation action.
Significance	The mitigation activities of the SWFWMD are significant, in part, due to its contribution in a variety of natural hazards including but not limited to drought, wildfire, sea-level change, high tides, storm surge, saltwater intrusion, stormwater runoff, flash floods, inland flooding, and coastal flooding. The agency also completes many infrastructure mitigation projects to reduce flood risk.

South Florida Water Management District

Liaisons	Elizabeth McElroy and Lucine Dadrian
Agency Summary	<p>The South Florida Water Management District is responsible for managing and protecting water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality, and natural systems.</p> <p>The SFWMD operates and maintains a regional water management system known as the Central and Southern Florida Project, which was authorized over sixty years ago to protect residents and businesses from floods and droughts by more effectively managing floodwaters during heavy rains.</p> <p>Stormwater Treatment Areas are constructed wetlands that improve water quality, like reducing phosphorus levels in the Everglades. The SFWMD conducts many ecosystem restoration projects to protect and preserve unique ecosystems, such as the Everglades, the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and coastal watersheds. These restoration projects are often implemented via federal and state partnerships such as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), and together with SFWMDs Dispersed Water Management Projects, serve to lessen the effects of natural hazards.</p> <p>SFWMD provides regulatory guidance to assist FDOT and communities through the permitting process for projects involving preventative and restoration measures to address the impacts from natural hazards. SFWMD issues Environmental Resource permits to applicants seeking to construct and operate a surface water management system. The permit authorizes activities that are not harmful to the water resources or inconsistent with public interest. Applicants must identify any activity that would affect wetlands, alter surface water flows, or contribute to water pollution.</p> <p>The Land Mitigation Program involves the modification of a project to avoid or minimize wetland impacts and compensation for wetland impacts that are unavoidable. These acquired lands are used to encourage establishment of private and public mitigation banks and off site regional mitigation areas.</p> <p>SFWMD provides regulatory guidance to assist DOT and communities through the permitting process for projects involving preventative and restoration measures to address the impacts from natural hazards.</p> <p>Current projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Okeechobee watershed restoration • Everglades Agricultural area storage reservoir • Kissimmee River and floodplain improvement • Managing water control structures that provide flood control during the wet season in the Big Cypress Basin
Relevance	The SFWMD completes several mitigation projects each year and is therefore relevant to state mitigation. Projects include stormwater retrofits, watershed restoration, floodplain mapping, and land conservation.
Level	The level of mitigation efforts of SFWMD is high because almost every project includes some type of mitigation action, usually to reduce flood risk.
Significance	The mitigation efforts of the SFWMD are significant because floodplain management must be coordinated not only locally, but also regionally, based on basins and watersheds, to be successful. The agency also completes many infrastructure mitigation projects to reduce flood risk.

ONGOING EFFORTS

Each agency will continue the efforts discussed above, as well as continue to integrate mitigation and resilience principles into their own planning mechanisms, identify new mitigation opportunities, and promote mitigation and resiliency internally and externally.

In 2019, the Natural Hazards Interagency Work Group, and the entire Mitigate FL group, aims to achieve the following:

- Mitigation education and outreach to all levels of government, the private sector, and the public, specifically focusing on homeowner mitigation and flood insurance topics
- Update the Silver Jackets interagency charter to re-engage state and federal partners
- Continue the Watershed Planning Initiative to develop and update all watershed plans in the state of Florida
- Encourage local governments to apply for DR-4399 Hurricane Michael Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding
- Provide mitigation training, like G-318, to state and local agencies
- 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.
- Implement the SCORE CAVs pilot program to conduct a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) in each community every three years
- Partner with the Florida Association of Counties to develop flood mitigation and NFIP trainings for County Commissioners
- Complete the Hurricane Michael Loss Avoidance Assessment