



Florida SHMPoints

Providing insightful mitigation news and information from around the State of Florida.

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Mitigation Grant Programs Recap

By: Amy Peterson

Following the devastation of Hurricane Michael, the need for mitigation moving forward became apparent. Below is a recap of the state and federal grant programs available. Please contact the Mitigation Bureau for more details.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. It is a partnership that is designed to assist states, local governments, private non-profit organizations and Indian Tribes in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. Although the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is federally funded, the program is administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The process of selecting eligible mitigation projects to be submitted for funding consideration has been delegated to each county's Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) in accordance with 27P-22 of the Florida Administrative Code.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, is funded by FEMA and administered through a partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). FDEM has the authority and responsibility for developing and maintaining a State Hazard Mitigation Plan, reviewing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Assistance Program sub-applications, recommending technically feasible and cost effective sub-applications to FEMA and providing pass-thru funding for FEMA approved and awarded project grants to eligible sub-applicants.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is funded by FEMA and administered through a partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). FDEM has the authority and responsibility for developing and maintaining a State Hazard Mitigation Plan, reviewing Flood Mitigation Assistance Program sub-applications, recommending technically feasible and cost effective sub-applications to FEMA and providing pass-thru funding for FEMA approved and awarded project grants to eligible sub-applicants.

Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program

The Florida's Division of Emergency Management created the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program to act as a specialized, state-funded mitigation program aimed at minimizing damages caused by hurricanes. The program began as an active response to the devastation brought by Hurricane Andrew, specifically to the insurance Market in the State of Florida. With an annual budget of \$7 million, provided by the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Trust Fund, the program is funding activities that promote property resiliency through retrofits made to residential, commercial, and mobile home properties, the promotion of public education and public information, and through hurricane research activities.

Employee Spotlight

By: Luz Bossanyi

Each year the Florida East Central Branch (ECB) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) holds its Officers Installation Luncheon and invites a guest speaker to present on relevant community infrastructure related topics. The event is typically attended by approximately 50-75 civil engineering professionals within the Central Florida area, a mixture of consultant and local government professionals.

This year, Claudia Lozano spoke, giving an overview of the Florida Division of Emergency Management's (FDEM) program and role during hurricane and other emergency response situations, some of the devastating events FDEM has responded to in the past, and ways of potentially bettering Florida's infrastructure to minimize the impacts of future destructive events. ASCE then presented Claudia with an award of appreciation.



Claudia works extensively on mitigation projects as a Lead Mitigation Specialist and has extensive experience working on mitigation projects statewide. She has been activated for numerous natural disasters and has been instrumental in implementing the Bureau's mitigation projects and has excellent perspectives to present. She joined FDEM almost 9 years ago, where she has been working on the revision of applications, scopes of work, benefit cost analysis, project feasibility, construction documents, site inspections, and assisting potential applicants to ensure the compliance and execution of the projects funded through different mitigation programs. During this time, she has gained vast experience in benefit cost analysis. She is the Engineering Lead and constantly provides training and coordinates the engineering team to assist applicants by collecting, analyzing and researching data to help demonstrate the cost effectiveness of mitigation projects that will help communities throughout the State. Please join me in congratulating Claudia for this award.

Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning Guidebook Update

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has released a new 2018 update to the Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning Guidebook. The Guidebook can be found online at:

https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/PDRP%20SLR%20Guidebook%20Update_FINAL_061518-v8.pdf

Also, the Adaptation Planning Guidebook is now published and can be found online at:

<https://floridadep.gov/fco/florida-resilient-coastlines-program/documents/adaptation-planning-guidebook>

The other general resources and documents from the 5 year DEO Coastal Resiliency Initiative can also be found on the DEP Florida Coastal Office site at:

<https://floridadep.gov/fco/florida-resilient-coastlines-program/content/resilience-resources>

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Hurricane Michael

The First 90 Days

A quick guide to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program timeline

Presidential Declaration

Check State website for any updated forms and information.

Suggested County Actions

- ⇒ Meet with **Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group**.
- ⇒ Solicit projects from **jurisdictions**.
- ⇒ Ensure new projects are placed on the **LMS project list**.
- ⇒ Choose projects from the **LMS project list** to focus on. Preferably ones that vary in budget.
- ⇒ Prioritize the selected projects in the order that you want them funded. (you may want them ordered differently than your LMS project list)
- ⇒ Ensure each project has an **endorsement letter** from the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the LMS Working Group to accompany the project, if it is chosen.
- ⇒ Begin working on applications as much as possible.

Ask Questions
Ask Often

Notice of Funding
Published along with
90-day estimate.

Got questions?

Call our
Mitigation Hotline
(850) 815-4524

Visit
FDEM Mitigation¹



¹ www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program

Proactively Surveying Properties for Substantial Damage

By: Kristabel Moore and Steve Martin

When hurricanes barrel toward land, structures often endure storm surge and high winds. These forces can decimate homes, businesses and entire communities, especially along the coast.

This is a “call to arms” for local officials who must survey structures before high water marks are lost or removed and prescribe mitigation treatments to structures before they can be re-occupied. By making homes and businesses compliant with flood and wind resistance, local officials can help owners reduce or eliminate the cycle of repeated storm damage.

Buildings determined to be “substantially damaged”, as defined by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), must comply with local flood ordinances and are subject to Florida Building Code (FBC) requirements. After an event, there will be a rise in permit applications by owners who are eager to rebuild their homes. Floodplain Administrators and Building Officials are responsible for carefully and efficiently identifying and documenting damaged buildings, and notifying owners of the requirement to apply for permits before damages are repaired, and for making structures compliant with the codes.

Assessing damages in a post-disaster environment is different from an isolated flood event. Communities will be stretched thin for resources and should be planning ahead in order to effectively manage the increased workload. It may be necessary to seek additional support from the State and FEMA for inspections and data gathering, as well as making use of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements by submitting a mission request in WEB EOC. Taking advantage of these partnerships will help post-hurricane disaster assessments run more smoothly.

Substantial Damage Determinations (SDDs) should not be confused with Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs), as the former can be quite detailed for regulating building construction. PDAs broadly characterize the scope of destruction and help local officials identify target areas in which to conduct SDDs. Readily-available property appraiser data can be used to determine structure market values that must be compared with detailed repair costs that include the quantity and value of materials and the labor costs to install or repair damaged building elements with new materials. It is important to remember that PDAs are not a substitute for SDDs. More information on conducting SDDs can be found in *FEMAP-758: Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference*, which also includes sample letters notifying property owners that their structures are or are not substantially damaged.

Communities typically use one of two approaches when conducting SDDs. The first and preferred approach is to proactively survey building conditions using FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) or a privately developed off-the-shelf program to systematically observe and document damage by building element. The alternative, but not recommended approach, is to wait until structure owners show up at the building department with a scope of work and costs for repair when they request a permit. Unfortunately, property owners may be delayed if they learn that the amount of repairs exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure. They may have to hire a design professional and/or structural engineer to go back to the drawing board to design compliant new foundations and elevate structures to meet Base Flood Elevations provided on flood maps. This causes added expenses for property owners, delays their start date for making repairs, and may require temporary work to be removed and performed again with a higher elevation of the structure.

Homeowners with Federal flood insurance will also be able to more quickly submit a claim for Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage, should their property be determined substantially damaged by flood early in the process of recovery. ICC coverage helps pay additional costs of bringing repetitive losses or SD structures into compliance with local flood ordinances. ICC can provide up to \$30,000 and does not have to be paid back. These claims can be made whether or not a flood event is a Presidentially declared disaster. More information about ICC claims is available in *FEMA 301: Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage: Guidance for State and Local Officials*. It describes eligibility and how the claims process should be handled. All ICC claims must be made by the homeowners themselves. Post-disaster inspections on any new construction are essential to guaranteeing that permit requirements are being followed properly and that properties are mitigated against future losses.



Two surviving structures that are potentially substantially damaged on the Gulf beachfront at Mexico Beach.

Need More Information?

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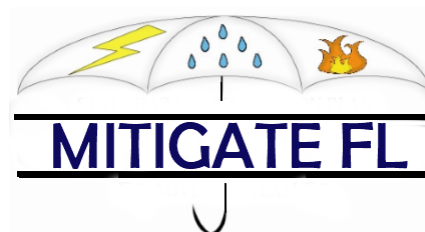
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The Bureau of Mitigation

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

Under the direction of Division Director Wes Maul and State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Miles E. Anderson, the Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The Bureau also administers a state funded mitigation program called the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program. If you would like to know more about mitigation in Florida please visit: www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation.



Upcoming Grant Opportunity

The Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Coastal Office and the Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP), will be opening up an application period for new grants on January 4th, along with an application webinar.

Access to the webinar and applications with details will be posted on our website later in December. However, please feel free to view our website for what has been awarded, along with the goals and priority areas that FRCP is currently focused on.

<https://floridadep.gov/fco/florida-resilient-coastlines-program>