



Watershed Planning Program

HMGP DR-4673 Ian

Mitigation Bureau

Florida Division of Emergency Management

2024



Program Background

The Florida Division of Emergency Management's (FDEM) Bureau of Mitigation prioritizes flood risk management as an integral part of its mission. Florida is particularly vulnerable to tropical systems, storm surge, and other heavy rain events that contribute to flood risk. These combined conditions will result in increased flood risk exposure throughout the state. According to the Florida Demographic Forecast, growth and development are projected to increase, and Florida can expect a net immigration of 296,000 people over the next six years.



Program Background

Florida residents can protect themselves against flood exposure by purchasing flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Policy (NFIP)

- The NFIP underwrites most flood insurance in the United States, insuring more than five million homes
- The national average annual cost of flood insurance is approximately \$700 and costs can be higher in areas with high flood risk exposure
- To counteract this, NFIP communities can participate in the Community Rating System (CRS), which discounts flood insurance premiums to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from a community's efforts



Program Background

- The CRS scores NFIP communities by awarding credits for implementing higher floodplain management standards
 - Communities are graded along ten classes and given discounts on flood insurance premiums for policyholders within that jurisdiction
 - Class 10 ranking provides no flood insurance discount and a Class 1 ranking provides a 45%
- Importantly, CRS Class 5 communities cannot progress to a CRS Class 4 ranking without the creation and adoption of a Watershed Master Plan
- Due to this CRS Class barrier, the Watershed Master Planning Initiative was created to ensure Florida communities progress to better CRS Class rankings, which in turn would reduce flood insurance costs for Florida residents and enhance mitigation practices in communities vulnerable to flood risk exposure



Program Background

Watershed Master Plan (WMP)

- A WMP provides the communities within a watershed with a tool they can use to make decisions that will reduce the increased flooding from development on a watershed-wide basis

Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP)

- A SWMP is a roadmap for managing stormwater in a sustainable and cost-effective manner, reducing flood risks, and protecting water quality while supporting community and economic development
- The plan ensures that the county's stormwater management system remains effective in reducing flooding and protecting water quality
- A SWMP typically includes an inventory of existing stormwater systems and the community's existing policies and regulations, identifies known problematic areas and areas with high flood risk, and proposes a series of recommendations for managing stormwater effectively



Program Background

The Watershed Master Planning Initiative was funded through a \$26.6 million grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) with the purpose of creating standardized, cost-effective, and easily replicable WMPs

- A Call for Proposals was held in 2022
- 35 subrecipients were awarded grant funding to create WMPs
- All projects are projected to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2024



Watershed Planning Program Rollout

- In July 2024, FDEM Mitigation released a survey to Florida communities to gather information about potential expansion of the Initiative
- After gathering feedback, the Initiative was expanded and is now referred to as the Watershed Planning Program
- Now includes funding for Stormwater Master Plans



Watershed Planning Program Rollout

- FDEM requests Proposals from Florida communities for funding to produce a WMP or SWMP
- After a subgrant is granted to an individual community to produce a WMP, FDEM would require participating communities to submit their completed WMP to CRS for approval and adopt the WMP as an annex to their LMS
 - Receiving CRS points is important, as it results in increased ratings for their community and, subsequently, flood insurance premium discounts for community residents
- After a subgrant is granted to an individual community to produce a SWMP, FDEM would require participating communities to adopt the SWMP as an annex to their LMS



Watershed Planning Program Rollout

Estimated Individual Project Length: Up to 24 months

- Individual timelines for communities will vary, but all communities should be able to complete a WMP or SWMP within two years
- The Period of Performance for each subapplicant will last for up to two years



Watershed Planning Program Rollout

Estimate of Funding Per Sub Applicant: Not to exceed \$300,000 (Federal)

- Each project has a cost share of 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal
- Funding will be determined after the State reviews all submitted Proposals



Watershed Planning Program – Proposals

Requirements for Proposals

- **Applicant Information**

- Title of Project
- Organization
- Applicant Type
- County
- Federal Tax I.D. Number
- DUNS ID
- FIPS Code
- NFIP Community Identification Number
- Point of Contact
- Application Preparer
- Authorized Applicant Agent
- Verify LMS Compliance



Watershed Planning Program – Proposals

- **Project Description**

- Type of Hazard that will be mitigated (flood)
- Type of Project: Stormwater Master Plan – Watershed Master Plan
- Number of persons protected by project List “total impacted area” to be protected by project
- Level of protection and magnitude of event: 10-, 25-, and 100-year storm event
- Select items project may impact: wetland, floodplain, water quality, coastal zone, etc.
- Describe the existing problems of your community
- Describe the types of protection the proposed project will provide
- Scope of Work (what you plan to do)
 - WMP and SWMP Scopes of Work are found in the Notice of Proposal Form
- Describe any other on-going or proposed projects in the area



Watershed Planning Program – Proposals

- **Project Location**
 - Provide map of the area being modeled (area covered by sub watershed basins)
 - Provide a city or county scale map
 - Flood Insurance Rate Map of community
- **Budget/Costs**
 - Itemized list of costs
 - Lump sums will not be accepted



Contact Information

For more information on the Watershed Planning Program visit our website at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/watershed-planning/>

Additional Questions?

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