Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Rebuild Florida CDBG – Mitigation
Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP)
Summary of FDEO webinar on April 22, 2020
http://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation/critical-facility-hardening-program

Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program

In April 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that $633 million in funding would be available to Florida for disaster mitigation projects in areas impacted by presidentially declared disasters in 2016 and 2017. These funds are available through HUD’s newly created Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) and will be used to fund disaster mitigation programs to better protect Florida from future disasters.

With $75 million in Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding, the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program assists units of general local government and state agencies to harden critical buildings that serve a public safety purpose for local communities.

Eligible Areas

Florida communities most impacted and distressed (MIDs) by presidentially declared disasters in 2016 and 2017 (Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, and Irma) are eligible to apply for funding. There are 51 Counties in the state that are designated by HUD and the State as MID communities. This program requires that 50% of the funds be spent in HUD designated MIDs and at least 50% of the funds must benefit low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities.
Program Timeline

- **April 15, 2020:** Application submission cycle opens.
- **April 22, 2020:** Critical Facility Hardening Webinar (slides attached, transcript available on FDEO website)
- **June 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m. EST:** Deadline to submit applications.

Application Criteria

- **Project Minimum and Maximum:** $50,000 - $15,000,000
- **Application Type:** Sub-recipient
- **Applicant Eligibility:** Units of General Local Government (UGLG), state agencies, and non-governmental agencies that apply in partnership with their local UGLG or state agencies
- **Hazard Risks Addressed:** Flooding, severe storms, tropical cyclones, coastal erosion, wildfires.
- **Community Lifelines Protected:** safety and security; health and medical, energy; and communications.

Eligible Structures

FDEO has identified the following types of structures as critical facilities:

- Potable water facilities
- Waste water facilities
- Police departments
- Fire departments
- Hospitals
- Emergency operation centers
- Emergency shelters

To be eligible for funding, a grant proposal must:

- Be in compliance with the State Mitigation Plan.
- Have a beneficial impact upon the designated disaster area, even if located outside the designated area.
- Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution in which there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed.
- Be cost effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss or suffering resulting from a major disaster.

Application Process

- FDEO is encouraging applicants to use their on-line application and recommending that applicants register so they can receive an individualized web link that will allow them to work on and save their application before submission.
- An application can be downloaded as a fillable PDF and completed, then emailed or mailed to FDEO.
- FDEO only wants the application and attachments requested on the website. No extra information should be included as it will not be considered.
- Application materials and instructions can be found at: [http://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation/critical-facility-hardening-program](http://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation/critical-facility-hardening-program)
• FDEO is offering one-on-one technical assistance to applicants from April 24 – May 1.
  o You can reserve a time at https://www.picktime.com/cdbgmit - please send questions ahead of scheduled time as there is only 20 minutes allocate for each call.
  o Questions can be emailed to: cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com
  o FDEO will still be available to answer questions after May 1.

Questions/Answers from Webinar:

**How many projects can be listed on an application?** Each application should only list one project. If submitting more than one application, use the naming criteria outlined on the website.

**Does this grant only apply to existing infrastructure that needs hardening?** Yes, this grant only applies to existing infrastructure that needs to be hardened. There is also a general infrastructure grant program that will cover new construction projects.

**What is the maximum award amount?** $15,000,000 across all applications submitted per UGLG. There is also a minimum request of $50,000.

**Does this program require matching dollars?** No.

**Can these funds be used as a match?** Yes (to HMGP and Public Assistance through FEMA). See guidelines.

**Can an organization that is not a UGLG or state agency apply?** Others can apply as co-applicants, but the UGLG or state agency must be the primary applicant.

**Are generators an eligible expense?** Portable generators are not eligible, but if you are doing modifications or hardening the power grid with permanent, fixed generators then that could be an eligible project.

**My County is not a designated MID, can I apply?** No.

**My County is located within a MID, does the project also have to fall in the designated zip code?** No, it does not have to be in both.

**Are engineering and administration eligible under covered costs?** These may be eligible.

**Are public housing authorities eligible to apply?** Only as a partnership with the UGLG being the primary applicant.

**How many days after closing will the winners be announced?** After receipt of all the applications, FDEO staff will be evaluating and scoring the applications, then doing site visits and/or conference calls with the applicants. When that process is done they will then do the final scoring of the applications.
**Is Davis-Bacon required?** Yes, Section 3 applies as well.

**Does a project have to demonstrate damage from a disaster?** No, there is no tie-back required to a particular event. However, the project must be in the geographic area that was impacted by one of the identified storms.

**If you are selected for this, does this make you ineligible for the other programs?** No, applicants can apply multiple times across the CDBG-MIT programs. However, please only submit one project per application.

**Can funds be used to harden a governmental building?** Not if the building is for general governmental purposes, such as city hall or administration. However, if one building serves all purposes, ask us and we will talk through how this project should be handled.

**Must this application be publically noticed with meetings?** HUD has guidance on having information available to the communities to show what grants you are seeking, such as 14 day notice. No in-person meetings are being required at this time, but may receive further guidance from HUD.

**What is duplication of benefits?** That is when other funding, such as insurance proceeds have been received or you are receiving funds from another program. This grant should be used as the last resort to fill in funding gaps. You must provide information if other funds are being used for the project.

**Do projects have to be listed on our LMS?** No, this is not tied to LMS projects.

**Do the projects have to be shovel-ready?** No. Timelines will be available to show when the funds will need to be expended.

**When will the funds be dispersed to the successful applicants?** There will be a notice of award announcement then FDEO will work with each of the applicants to get a signed grant agreement.

**Who will sign the grant agreement?** The UGLG that is the primary will be the sub-recipient that will sign the grant agreement.

**Can independent fire or water authorities apply?** Only as a co-applicant with the UGLG being the primary.

**Does a non-entitlement city have to go through their County?** No, this is usually a requirement under the CDBG program, but not for this grant opportunity.

**What are the procurement requirements?** You must follow both state and federal guidelines. This will be covered during the grant agreement process.

**Can utilities apply?** If the UGLG is the municipal power or water supplier, please contact FDEO and they will review to project.