



LMS TIMES



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Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- HMGP Grant Funding Opportunity
- Belle Glade Mitigation Projects

The LMS Times is a quarterly publication that seeks to provide residents of the Palm Beach County community with key information in the areas of mitigation and public safety. If you have stories that would benefit the community, please contact us. We want YOU involved. Send articles to: SRatlif1@pbcgov.org

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Director's Corner

By Bill Johnson, RN,
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Significant HMGP Funds Available

Welcome to a new year! With that new year comes a couple of things I would like to share with you to make your community more resilient and prepared for our next disaster.

As you should already know, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds are now available through FEMA for Hurricane Irma, which affected Palm Beach County in September of 2017. This is the first time in many years that we have had the opportunity to get such a large amount of HMGP dollars (FEMA-estimate at just over \$15 million dollars), and you should take every advantage of it.

Your Prioritized Project List (PPL) projects that have been just waiting for a funding stream to come to fruition, finally have it. Now, it is up to you to develop those projects and apply for those funds, in order to turn those project concepts into reality and mitigate those issues so it does not affect you again.

Our LMS Coordinator is here to help you navigate through the process, along with folks in the State Mitigation Bureau. If you have questions, ask them. The better your application, the more likely you will be approved and get those projects finished. Be sure to read all the instructional documents from FEMA before submitting your application. You want to send in a complete and comprehensive project that will easily win approval, and do not forget about your 25% match. Start looking now in your internal funding, as well as the

supplemental funding that Shane, our LMS Coordinator, sent you earlier in March, and get your match lined up early, so you can focus on project development.

If you have a project that you did not get on the PPL in the fall, you have one final opportunity to do so in April during the spring PPL submission period. If there were any damages that can be mitigated through project development, put those together and get them submitted and ranked on the PPL, so you can apply for these funds immediately. The deadline to apply for Irma HMGP is August 6.

On another note, there is unique opportunity available locally to help you build resilience in your community. The Governor's Hurricane Conference® will be returning to Palm Beach County in May. This year's theme is "Readiness is Everyone's Job". The Conference will be at the Palm Beach County Convention Center from May 13—18, 2018. This is a time for those involved in hurricane planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation to learn the latest techniques, trends, mistakes to avoid, and partake in over 300 hours of available training and workshops. We anticipate over 1,500 people to attend, so this will be a great networking opportunity, as well.

I would encourage you to take advantage of this local opportunity to learn from, and meet with, others who experienced some of the same issues during last hurricane season. You can find the conference information at www.flghc.org and register there as well.

Until next time, be safe and well.



HMGP Grant Funding Opportunity

Hurricane Irma HMGP funds now available!

By Shane Ratliff,
LMS Coordinator

The purpose of HMGP is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration in the areas of the state, tribe, or territory requested by the Governor or Tribal Executive. The key purpose of this grant program is to enact mitigation measures that reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters.

Palm Beach County was declared a major disaster area by President Trump on September 10, 2017. This opens up HMGP funding to the State of Florida. Florida was awarded an estimated \$350 million dollars in mitigation funds in the HMGP for Hurricane Irma, and Palm Beach County has over \$15 million available in Tier 1 funding (this is an estimate that is subject to change by FEMA).

Your LMS Coordinator emailed you the information on the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) the day it was released on February 5. The deadline for completing your FEMA application is August 6, 2018. **EVERY PROJECT ON THE PPL IS BEING ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**, in order to maximize and use all of the \$15 million in funding. Then, if there are Tier 2 funds available, you will be in competition for those as well (Tier 2 funds are leftovers that were not claimed by other counties, but only available to affected counties). But you must apply through FEMA with your project in order to get this funding.

Below are the steps you need to take in order to apply:

1. Your project must be on the current PPL as adopted by the LMS Steering Committee on February 21, 2018. Due to the August deadline, you are able to apply with a project you submit in our Spring submission period (see page 4), if you work quickly and beat the deadline.
2. Once you complete your application and are ready to submit it through grants.gov, contact your LMS Coordinator and provide a copy of your application. Once reviewed, you will be provided with a Letter of Support signed by the LMS Chairperson, which is required in order to submit an application.
3. Write a good grant proposal for your project by following the instructions from FEMA to the letter. It is not unusual for your completed grant application to be over 100 pages in length.

4. Justify everything! Make sure you send plenty of documentation to justify FEMA granting the funds to complete your project. Remember, a picture is worth 1,000 words, so photos of previous damages in your project area are beneficial.
5. Your municipality or agency **MUST** have adopted the 2015 Palm Beach County LMS. If you have not, your application will be rejected. Contact your LMS Coordinator to find out your municipal/agency status on adoption.

There was a general applicant's briefing webinar online on March 15, 2018 that was sent out by the LMS Coordinator. If you missed that one, do not worry. There will be a specific applicant webinar for a four-county area (including Palm Beach County) on May 3, 2018. You will have opportunities to ask specific questions regarding your project and find out all you need to know in order to apply.

Your LMS Coordinator is available to assist you with the process. Contact Shane Ratliff at SRatliff1@pbcgov.org or 712-6481 and he will help you through the process.

LMS Tip of the Day: Aged-Out Projects in the Project Prioritized List (PPL)

The LMS states that after five years, if you have not been funded or completed your project, you will be removed from the PPL and be required to resubmit your project, with updated numbers (costs, etc.) in order to keep your project on a list. By using old PPL's that were published twice per year, the LMS Coordinator has reviewed and determined which projects on the list are five years or older. Due to the availability of HMGP-Irma funds, your project will remain on the list until after the August 6 deadline. However, after that, your project will be removed at the next available submission period in October if you do not resubmit updated information for your project to get it added to the list for another five years.

The LMS Coordinator will send you a copy of your submission before this time, and work with you to get your project updated and rescored. In general, you will need to update project costs and any changes in scope since it was first submitted.

Moving Mitigation Forward without Outside Funds in Belle Glade

Written and compiled by Shane Ratliff, LMS Coordinator with photos from Phillip Rincon, City of Belle Glade Grants and Special Projects Manager

You often hear us discuss mitigation projects in conjunction with available grant opportunities such as HMGP, HMA, FMA, and others. However, mitigation is meant to be an ongoing process, with or without any outside funding, to reduce the risk of damages during disasters. In other words, we are expected to continue working towards completing mitigation projects, even in those times where there is an extended period of no declared disasters (like we had for over a decade until Hurricane Matthew broke the silence in 2016).

The City of Belle Glade takes their mitigation mission seriously, and while they had multiple mitigation projects on the PPL in the past, you will notice in the most recent PPL they have five fewer projects. That's because they have been consistently taking capital funds and other types of internal funding and completing these needed projects in their city.

Here are photos from four of the five former PPL projects from Belle Glade:

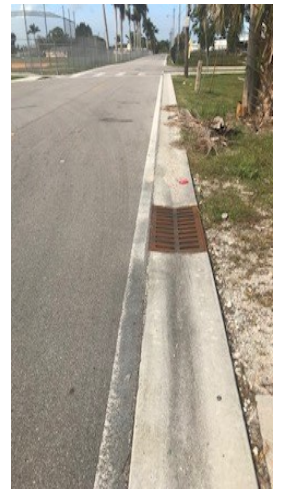
*City Hall
Retrofit*



*Lake Shore
Civic Center
Retrofit*



*NE Avenue
H Drainage*



*SE Avenue
K Drainage*



Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings

The LMS Working Group will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- June 13, 2018, City of Greenacres
- September 12, 2018, Town of Lantana
- December 12, 2018, Village of Wellington

We always need our LMS members to volunteer for future meetings, so if you would like to host, please contact Shane at SRatlif1@pbcgov.org today!

The public is also encouraged to attend.

Outstanding work to the City of Belle Glade and their employees for keeping mitigation in mind when choosing how to spend those tax dollars. Preventing future disaster-related issues is always a wise choice!

Spring 2018 PPL Submission Period

By Shane Ratliff,
LMS Coordinator

It's almost that time again! Time to submit those mitigation projects to be scored and ranked on the Palm Beach County PPL in the hopes of applying for, and receiving funding through various grant programs, and completing your project.

The Spring 2018 PPL project submission period will begin on April 9, 2018 at 9 a.m., and close on April 20, 2018 at 5 p.m. Submissions will be done through WebEOC®, our online LMS platform that we have used since 2016. The new and improved WebEOC® LMS boards will be completed after this submission period, after all projects are loaded into it and new login profiles are created for LMS members. NOW is the time to start putting information together so that you are ready to submit when the submission period opens.

Also back by popular demand will be the “guidance document” that was sent out before the last submission period in the fall. This is a step-by-step guide on how to answer the questions completely so that you maximize your scoring and ranking. Please read and follow it, those that did so were obvious during the last scoring period because they had a more complete submission. Those that didn't follow it scored lower because they left items blank or did not provide supporting documentation, which is required on some of the questions.

Due to FEMA's August 6, 2018 deadline for Hurricane Irma HMGP funds, projects submitted during this submission process should be eligible to apply for these funds. A caveat to that is you will have less time to develop your project and apply through FDEM than if you already had it on the PPL list.

Also, those who have outdated information in their current PPL ranked projects may resubmit their project with updated information (costs, scope of work, etc.) and it will be rescored and ranked again. Please keep in mind your ranking may go higher or lower though, and all scores are final.

If you need any assistance with the online submission platform for the PPL, please contact the LMS Coordinator, Shane Ratliff, at 561-712-6481.

Good luck and keep mitigating!

*Note all submission instructions and information is posted on our LMS webpage at <http://discover.pbcbgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>

LMS2020 Update

After dozens of hours of work, the LMS2020 is now in a completed draft form. It will soon be reviewed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation Bureau in the hopes of being “approved pending adoption” in the near future. In order to remain compliant and satisfy CRS requirements, we will have one more public input meeting to showcase the draft document to the public, and solicit their input one last time. Then, upon receipt of the document from FDEM and any corrections that need to be made, it will be up to you as LMS members to take the document to your own municipality/agency and seek adoption as written (this is scheduled for January to October of 2019 to get all the municipality adoptions completed).

All municipalities participating in the LMS and wanting to remain eligible for mitigation grant funding **must** adopt the LMS2020. Then, the final step is the approval of the Board of County Commissioners and the implementation of the LMS2020. More information will follow in the months ahead. Thanks to the Revisions Subcommittee for all the long hours and hard work into producing this document and continuing to move us forward in the area of mitigation.