



# LMS TIMES



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**Special points of interest:**

- Director's Corner
- CRS Corner
- Risk Rating 2.0
- LMS PPL Submission
- #MitigationMonday

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:

[rheen@pbcgov.org](mailto:rheen@pbcgov.org)

**This Issue:**

Director's Corner	1
CRS Corner	2
Rebuild Florida	2
Risk Rating 2.0	3
LMS PPL Submission	4
#MitigationMonday	4

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**Director's Corner**

By Mary Blakeney,  
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The COVID-19 State of Emergency in Florida, as well as the Palm Beach County Local State of Emergency both expired on June 27, 2021.

On June 28, 2021, after 469 days of Level 2 Partial activation, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) has shifted to the EOC Level 3 (Enhanced Monitoring) Activation Status.

Currently all mass testing sites, mass vaccination sites, and EOC operations have been demobilized. Although these sites have demobilized, COVID-19 and the mitigation efforts remain to fight against this pandemic. We continue to encourage our community to get vaccinated, social distance, wash our hands, and wear a mask. These efforts support our ability to minimize the spread of COVID-19 cases throughout Palm Beach County.

The Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management is proud to have served alongside our partners in response to COVID-19, and will continue to monitor and support the Palm Beach County Health Department and Health Care District of Palm Beach County should the need arise.

As we transition from the COVID-19 activation, we remain vigilant of the 12 core hazards which could impact our community at anytime.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to mitigation, floodplain management, and making our wonderful community even better. If I can ever be of assistance to you, feel free to contact me at [mblakene@pbcgov.org](mailto:mblakene@pbcgov.org).

**Make A Plan**

*Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility!*

- Find out what reoccurring hazards are prone to your local area; consult the Palm Beach County Evacuation Tool for Storm Surge Information
- Familiarize yourself with Evacuation Zones and Locate Evacuation Risk Shelters near your area
- Determine where you can get building supplies or groceries during a disaster
- Make a Family Disaster Plan and practice it with family members
- Pre-register for Special Needs and Pet-Friendly Shelters

**Build a Kit**

*Having the right items during a disaster can make all the difference!*

- Emergency Essentials
- Important Documents
- Specialty Items

**Be Informed**

*Know where to go for current and accurate information!*

- Monitor local media sources
- Follow us on social media
- Sign up for AlertPBC notifications
- Download the PBC DART App

**Get Involved**

*Preparedness is a responsibility we all share!*

- Volunteer with an organization active in disasters
- Engage with the EOC by reporting damage in the PBC Dart App
- Spread the word!

# CRS Corner: Activity 510

By: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)/Community Rating System (CRS) Update

Addressing substantial damage after an event is a basic requirement of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). All communities participating in the NFIP have adopted, and are expected to enforce, a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the NFIP minimum standards in 44 CFR 60.3, including those sections addressing substantial damage and substantial improvement. Community Rating System (CRS) communities are expected to do it better.

Doing damage assessments for substantial damage determinations, especially in the chaos after a flood, fire, tornado, or other event, can be a daunting task. After such an event, local officials are often overwhelmed. At the same time, residents are eager to make repairs, reconstruct their damaged buildings, and get back to normal. But floodplain managers know the work must be done correctly (and with safety in mind). Doing it wrong means residents will be flooded again and damage will occur again.

The perfect time to develop a plan and strategy for substantial damage is before a flood or other natural hazard event occurs. If the task is thoughtfully considered before the event occurs, damage assessments are more easily managed, and recovery is more quickly achieved. The same is true with post-event outreach, education, and mitigation planning activities. Preparation and planning done prior to an event will be paid back many times over after an event occurs. This new CRS activity credits plans and actions that a community takes before a flood or hazard event to be prepared for managing and mitigating substantial damage.

CRS communities can now receive credit for actions taken to establish a plan that helps increase awareness of flood-risk areas, identifies vulnerable structures and neighborhoods, and ensures there is a strategy in place for making damage determinations and enforcing the substantial damage requirements. In addition, the plan, and the process of producing it, fosters communication with residents and elected officials, and helps develop long-term actions to mitigate properties and reduce future losses.

CRS credit for a SDP is available in Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Plans) under element SDP, described in the 2021 Addendum to the 2017 CRS Coordinator’s Manual.

## Upcoming LMS Working Group Meeting

The LMS Working Group will hold its 2nd quarter meeting via Conference Call on the following date:

- September 8, 2021 @ 9:00 am

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the LMS Steering Committee has decided that all future meetings will be via conference call or Webinar until we are able to meet in person once again. Stay safe and keep mitigating!

The public is highly encouraged to attend.

# Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Announces Additional \$175 Million Available Through the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program

By: The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announced local governments can now apply for \$175 million through the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program. This program is designed to assist local governments and state agencies with making Florida communities more resilient to future disasters by developing large-scale mitigation projects.

“Governor DeSantis is committed to bolstering Florida’s infrastructure, and the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program is an opportunity to ensure our state’s resiliency to future storms,” said Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Dane Eagle. “Florida is no stranger to natural disasters, and this mitigation funding will allow Florida communities to transform and make long-term investments in their infrastructure.”

Local governments and state agencies may apply for funding to propose projects that meet program requirements, including benefiting low- and moderate-income (LMI) populations. Nonprofits and non-governmental organizations may also apply in partnership with a local government or a state agency. The funds are allocated to the state through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program formed in response to the 2016 to 2018 presidentially declared disasters.

### The deadline to complete and submit an application is Friday, September 17, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. (EST).

DEO will be available to provide technical assistance to communities during the application process. For more information about the program and technical assistance, including how to complete an application, visit the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program’s [webpage \[r20.rs6.net\]](http://www.rebuildfloridamitigation.com).

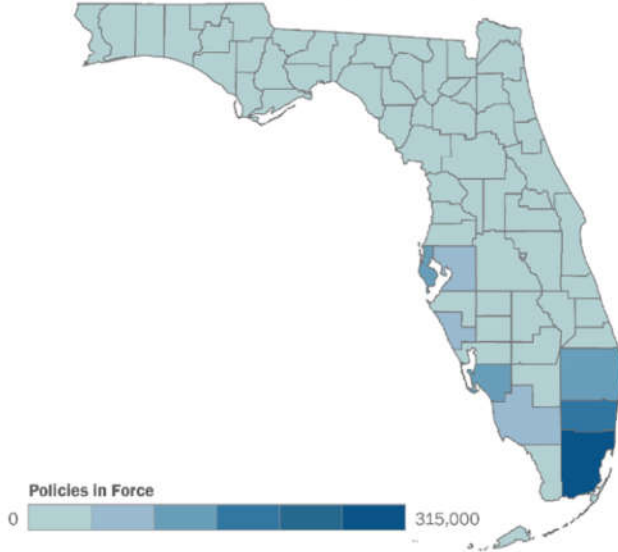
To provide more information about the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program, the Department will host a [webinar \[r20.rs6.net\]](http://www.rebuildfloridamitigation.com) at 2:00 p.m. (EST) on Thursday, June 24, 2021. The registration link for the webinar is available [here \[r20.rs6.net\]](http://www.rebuildfloridamitigation.com).

According to the guidelines set by the Federal Register, at least 50 percent of CDBG-MIT funds must be spent in HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas, with the remaining funds spent in state-designated MID areas. This CDBG-MIT funding is available for use in 51 Florida counties.

The Department is the governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery and mitigation funds awarded to the state. Rebuild Florida uses federal funding for Florida’s long-term recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of natural disasters. For more information, visit [RebuildFlorida.gov](http://RebuildFlorida.gov).

# Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action

## NFIP Policies in Force by County in Florida



Reference: Federal Emergency Management Agency & Florida Division of Emergency Management

A significant part of FEMA’s NFIP Transformation is Risk Rating 2.0, which will fundamentally change the way FEMA prices insurance and determines an individual property’s flood risk.

Risk Rating 2.0 is equity in action. With Risk Rating 2.0, individuals will no longer pay more than their share in flood insurance premiums based on the value of their homes. Roughly two-thirds of policyholders with older pre-FIRM homes will see a premium decrease.

FEMA will reduce disaster-related suffering and disaster-related costs in Florida through insurance and the mitigation of flood risks by leveraging advances in industry best practices, technology, and flood risk modeling.

April-September 2021: FEMA collaborates with and continues to periodically share draft guidance documents with NFIP insurers regarding RR 2.0 program changes.

August 1, 2021 – Agents will be able to provide quotes for policies with effective dates on or after October 1, 2021.

*Phase 1: New Policy* – Effective October 1, 2021, new policies will be subject to RR2.0 methodology. Existing policyholders which are eligible for renewal will be able to take advantage of premium decreases.

*Phase 2: Policies that renew on or after April 1, 2022*, will be subject to the new rating methodology.

Insured’s with policies effective 10/1/2021 to 3/31/2022 can ask for a quote using Risk Rating 2.0 and decide whether or not the RR 2.0 rate quote is more beneficial.

Note: as of 4/1/2022 FEMA will be strictly enforcing policy’s 30-day grace period. If a premium payment isn’t received within that timeframe the policy won’t be reinstated instead rewritten with loss of discounts!

FEMA’s core mission and programs continue to emphasize purchasing flood insurance and pursuing mitigation options to achieve resiliency. While there are many policies in force in Florida, there are still opportunities to increase participation and improve resilience, as shown in the table below.



## LMS PPL Submission Period

The purpose of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is to develop and execute an ongoing methodology for reducing a community's vulnerability to identified natural, technological, and human caused hazards. The strategy provides a rational, managed basis for considering and prioritizing hazard-specific mitigation options, and for developing and executing sound, cost-effective mitigation projects. The LMS also provides a basis for justifying the solicitation and use of local, state, federal, and other funding to support hazard mitigation projects and initiatives.

Each year, the LMS provides opportunities to submit projects for the Prioritized Project List (PPL) by which the LMS Steering Committee, on recommendation of the LMS Evaluation Panel, will approve a single, ranked, prioritized project list, which is one of the ultimate goals of the LMS effort. In order to remain eligible to submit projects, each local government or agency must remain in good standing with the LMS, which includes following and continuing to follow PBC's LMS participation rules.

The LMS PPL Spring Submission Period concluded in May and reviewed a total of 18 projects. 9 of the projects were new projects being added to our list and the remaining 9 projects were previous projects already on the approved PPL, but were resubmitted by their jurisdictions to be re-evaluated due to new information, costs, and documentation available.

All LMS stakeholders have an opportunity to submit new projects to be scored and ranked on the PBC LMS PPL. Our Fall Submission Period is expected to take place in October/November later this year.

LMS Working Group members can find the PPL instructions regarding the submission period on our LMS webpage at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>.

## #MITIGATIONMONDAY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Don't forget, we are in the midst of a #MitigationMonday outreach campaign, to make our residents more aware of mitigation actions they can take to better withstand the next disaster. Be sure to follow @PBCDEM on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for our #MitigationMonday messages, and feel free to use the hashtag for your own mitigation messaging on Mondays!



Photo Credit: FEMA

The latest Mitigation Minute from FEMA had some great information about updates to two of its safe room resources: P-320, *Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building or Installing a Safe Room for Your Home*; and P-361, *Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms*:

Every year, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other extreme windstorms cause numerous injuries and deaths in the United States. FEMA provides guidance and best practices on safe room design and construction, participates in safe room-related standard and building code development, provides funding for safe rooms and monitors a safe room helpline to answer safe room-related technical questions. More information is available at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/safe-rooms/resources>.