



LMS TIMES



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Summer: Jul/Aug/Sep 2021

Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- HMGP: COVID-19
- BRIC/FMA FY21 NOFO
- Watershed Planning
- LMS PPL

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

Director's Corner

By Mary Blakeney,
FPEM, Director,
PBCDEM



Disasters are more expensive than ever. On October 15th, we received the updated Public Assistance Thresholds for the State of Florida. The overall State Threshold increased nearly \$6 Million to \$35,107,245.

This information was based on the 2020 census data. This new data increased the Palm Beach County Threshold from \$5,069,314.56 to \$6,117,983.10 which is an increase of over \$1 Million.

Now more than ever, investing in mitigation projects could save our county future losses due to these increasing thresholds.

The costs of retrofitting existing structures may be the best investment against undeclared disasters.

Working with our partners throughout the county to strengthen our Local Mitigation Strategy, design robust projects for submission on the Project Prioritization List, and educating our residents about preparedness and individual mitigation measures is an investment we all should be part of for a successful outcome for future recovery operations.

We are united with one goal to reduce human and economic losses with the continued focus on our 12 core hazards which 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.

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Department of
Public Safety
Division of Emergency
Management
20 South Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL
33415

PH: 561-712-6400
Fax: 561-712-6464

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program COVID-19 Pandemic (DR-4486)



The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has announce the availability of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds as a result of the recent Presidential Disaster Declaration for the COVID-19 Pandemic (FEMA-4486-DR-FL).

This funding helps communities implement measures to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.

The FDEM is migrating its processes to a fully digital platform through its FDEM Portal.

The application period will close December 21, 2021. The FDEM encourages potential applicants to submit complete applications before the close of the application period.

Eligible applicants are listed according to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 44 §206.434(a).

HMGP disaster declarations, application process, as well as additional information can be found at:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/>

CRS Corner: Obtaining Repetitive Loss Data for the CRS

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

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) protocols for repetitive loss data have changed.

The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) no longer distributes NFIP repetitive loss data to CRS communities. All community requests for repetitive loss data (repetitive loss lists) must be directed to FEMA.

FEMA is currently redesigning how the agency shares NFIP data and how the data is securely returned to each requester. We recommend that requests for repetitive loss data be submitted to FEMA after November 1, 2021.

If your community has a verification cycle visit in 2021, please use the most recent repetitive loss data that has been provided. Section 501.b of the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual states that "a community currently due for a CRS cycle visit will need a current repetitive loss property list." However, for the time being, the most recent list will be considered to be the current list.

For new communities applying for CRS entry, ISO/CRS Specialists will review most recent data or aggregate repetitive loss numbers with the community.

The CRS will continue to provide updated information on obtaining repetitive loss data in future editions of the NFIP/CRS Update for both the request process and expected timing.

Upcoming LMS Working Group Meeting

The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group will hold its 4th quarter meeting via Conference Call on the following date:

- December 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.

The public is highly encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact:

Ronnie Heen
(561) 712-6481

BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) AND FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) PROGRAMS 2021 NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

By: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) & Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)

The BRIC and FMA grant program applications began:

September 30, 2021

FEMA has announced the opening of the FY 2021 Application Period for the BRIC and FMA grant programs. FEMA's NOFO be found at www.grants.gov.

FDEM is soliciting eligible sub-applicants to prepare and submit sub-applications for the BRIC and FMA programs.

All sub-applications must be submitted to FDEM via the FEMA GO grant application system on or before:

November 12, 2021 by 5:00 PM EST.

(Only complete sub-applications will be accepted and reviewed.)

To view the recordings of the 2021 BRIC and FMA Webinar Series please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/2021-building-resilient-infrastructure-and-communities-and-flood-mitigation-assistance-programs>.

For information on FEMA's grant application system (FEMA GO), please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go> or contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at 1-877-611-4700 or via e-mail at FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the Non-Disaster Grant Programs Project Manager Territorial Assignments project manager:

Robert Collins
(850) 815-4553
Robert.Collins@em.myflorida.com

WATERSHED PLANNING INITIATIVE

Reference: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) &
Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)

The Watershed Planning Initiative is funded through a \$26.6 million grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), as approved by FDEM and FEMA, with the purpose of creating standardized, cost effective, and easily replicable Watershed Master Plans (WMP) throughout the state of Florida.

According to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (2019), there are 1.77 million flood insurance policies in Florida, and a 5% discount in communities with large concentrations of flood insurance policy holders would result in cumulative yearly savings far exceeding the cost of the grant award.

From September 2019 - June 2021, FDEM conducted a pilot program procuring the services of Florida Atlantic University that consisted of research, the creation of a framework and guidance documents for a consistent statewide approach to WMP development or updating, and the production of two complete WMPs to be used as an example for future WMPs developed by participating jurisdictions.

With the Phase I process completed, FDEM will be moving forward with Phase II of the program.

- For Phase II, FDEM would request applications from Florida communities for funding to produce a WMP.
- After FDEM enters into an agreement with an individual community to produce a WMP, FDEM would require participating communities to submit their completed WMP to the Community Rating System (CRS) for approval, receive CRS points, and adopt the WMP as an annex to their Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) .
- Receiving CRS points is critical, as it results in increased ratings for their community and, subsequently, flood insurance premium discounts for community residents.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local Governments or Communities
- County Governments
- Water Management Districts
- Intergovernmental Partnerships

Note: An applicant must be participating in NFIP and not be on probation, suspended or withdrawn from the NFIP, and must be part of the CRS Program.

Applicant Prioritization:

Applicants will be prioritized based on the criteria detailed below:

- Number of Community Flood Insurance Policies
- Flood Risk Exposure
- CRS Ranking of Communities
- Other Local Community Conditions

Additional information and a webinar discussing Phase I & II is available at:
<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/watershed-planning-initiative/>.

Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Prioritized Project List (PPL) Submission Period

Currently, the Fall Submission Period is taking place and will be evaluated and published in early November 2021.

Each year, the LMS provides two (2) opportunities to submit projects for the PPL. The LMS Steering Committee, on the 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 adopting and continuing to follow Palm Beach County's (PBC) LMS participation rules.

All LMS stakeholders have an opportunity to submit new projects to be scored and ranked on the PBC LMS PPL.

The purpose of the 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.

Information regarding the PBC LMS, PPL, or previous LMS meeting minutes is available on our LMS webpage at: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Sections/Planning-Local-Mitigation-Strategy.aspx>.

#MITIGATIONMONDAY OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Tornados are one of the many hazards associated with tropical storms and hurricanes.

Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Listen to your battery-operated National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio or local radio/television outlets for updated reports.

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.



What to do before tornadoes threaten:

- Know the terms used to describe tornado threats:
- Ask your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter about the tornado threat in your area.
- Ask about community warning signals.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio with a battery backup and tone-alert feature that automatically alerts you when a Watch or Warning is issued (tone-alert not available in some areas).
- Purchase a battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries as well.
- Determine places to seek shelter. Identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
- Know the location of designated shelters.
- Make a record of your property. Take photographs or videotapes of your belongings. Store these documents in a safe place.

More information can be found at:

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Hazards/Tornado-Preparation-Tips.aspx>