



LMS TIMES



Volume 18

Summer: Jul/Aug/Sep 2022

Special points of interest:

- Director's Corner
- 2021 BRIC and FMA
- NFIP Extension
- 2022 BRIC and FMA Opportunities
- 2022 Fall PPL Cycle

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



As we are approaching the end of another hurricane season we were quickly reminded about how long the season actually is with another late season catastrophic storm, Hurricane Ian. The continued education and promotion of preparedness is the best way we can assist our family, friends, community, co-workers, and ourselves to be more resilient. We need to continue to educate our community about the hazards which are embedded within these large disasters.

Palm Beach County was hit with that very scenario as the leading feeder band from

Hurricane Ian caused destruction as two tornadoes, an EF-1 in the Wellington area and an EF-2 in Delray Beach, caused damage and displaced more than 60 residents. Emergency Management staff working with local, state, and federal partners were quickly collecting data and information to make the plea to FEMA which lead to a Individual Assistance (IA) declaration..

Last month I mentioned concerns with the increasing issues within the insurance industry and how we may see a very different landscape during the next disaster. Hurricane Ian is not going to help this situation and we need to be ready for the potential of greater numbers of un-insured and under insured residents. I believe we do need to look at mitigation at an individual level. We need to educate our community to learn about their home and its' construction.

If I can ever be of assistance to you, feel free to contact me at mblakene@pbcgov.org.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Fiscal Year 2021 BRIC and FMA Selections



FEMA

On August 1, 2022, FEMA announced the 53 projects selected from the national competition applications received.

FEMA made \$1.16 billion available for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs in fiscal year 2021.

The breakdown of available funding for fiscal year 2021 includes \$1 billion for BRIC and \$160 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance.

For the BRIC program, this includes an in-

crease in set-aside grants for tribes—from \$20 million to \$25 million. The state and territory allocation also increased from \$600,000 per applicant to \$1 million per applicant for a total of \$56 million in available funds.

In Fiscal Year 2021, FEMA selected projects from 19 states, including the District of Columbia, across all 10 FEMA Regions. The selected projects have met the basic eligibility requirements and will enter the next phase of the awards review process. FEMA will provide funding through these selections for states, local communities, and District of Columbia for larger more complex infrastructure projects.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities/after-apply/fy-2021-subapplication-status>

CRS Corner: Congressional Reauthorization for the National Flood Insurance Program

By: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

On March 11, 2022, the president signed legislation passed by Congress that extends the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) authorization to September 30, 2022.

In July 2022, Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) introduced S. 4533, the NFIP Extension Act of 2022, with Sens. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) as cosponsors.

The legislation would prevent the NFIP from expiring on September 30, 2022 by extending it for one year until September 30, 2023.

The program's most recent five-year reauthorization expired on September 30, 2017, nearly five years ago. The NFIP has been subject to approximately 20 extensions of varying lengths since the 2017 deadline.

FEMA and Congress have never failed to honor the flood insurance contracts in place with NFIP policyholders. Should the NFIP's authorization lapse, FEMA would still have authority to ensure the payment of valid claims with available funds. However, FEMA would stop selling and renewing policies for millions of properties in communities across the nation. Nationwide, the National Association of Realtors estimate in 2017 that a lapse might impact approximately 40,000 home sale closings per month.

NFIP reauthorization is an opportunity for Congress to take bold steps to reduce the complexity of the program and strengthen the NFIP's financial framework so that the program can continue helping individuals and communities take the critical step of securing flood insurance.

The level of damage from recent catastrophic storms makes it clear that FEMA needs a holistic plan to ready the nation for managing the cost of flooding under the NFIP.

Upcoming LMS Working Group Meetings

The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group will hold its meetings on the following dates:

- December 14, 2022 @ 9:00 am
 - Wellington, FL

The public is highly encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact:

Ronnie Heen
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Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management hosted FDEM workshop

By: Ronnie Heen

Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management



On September 22, 2022, The Palm Beach County (PBC) Division of Emergency Management (DEM) hosted the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for their State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) workshop, at the PBC Emergency Operations Center.

FDEM's current SHMP identifies hazards and assess risks to Florida and identifies the goals and objectives to address those hazards and risks.

The FDEM SHMP workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to engage in the 2023 SHMP Update planning process.

The SHMP workshop informed participants about:

- New FEMA policy guidance
- SHMP timeline for approval
- SHMP priorities
- Goals and Objectives

The workshop, including an overview, discussion, and demonstration of the transition to a web-based format.

Lastly, there were interactive sessions to gather input from mitigation stakeholders which included Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Collier counties.

More information about the FDEM SHMP is available at:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/statemitigationstrategy/>

Fiscal Year 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance & Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant programs

By: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

FEMA provides federal funds for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program to state, local, tribal and territorial governments for hazard mitigation activities, including capacity and capability activity types and hazard mitigation projects.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, FEMA will distribute up to \$2.295 billion for the BRIC program.

FEMA will distribute up to \$2.295 billion through the BRIC grant program in the following manner:

Total Available BRIC Funding \$2.295 Billion			
Uses of Assistance	\$112M State/Territory Allocations	\$50M Tribal Set-Aside	\$2.133B National Competition for Hazard Mitigation Projects
Management Costs	✓	✓	✓
Capability and Capacity Building Activities	✓	✓	
Hazard Mitigation Projects	✓	✓	✓

The Fiscal Year 2022 BRIC program's priorities are to:

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, as referenced in Executive Order 14008 - Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
- Incorporate nature-based solutions, including those designed to reduce carbon emissions
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes
- Encourages hazard mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program provides funds to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

FEMA will distribute up to \$800 million in the following manner:



For FY 2022, FEMA will distribute up to \$800 million.

FMA Key Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must participate in the NFIP and cannot be in probation or suspended status.
- Applicants are required to have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 201.
- Structures identified in the application must have an NFIP policy in effect at the FMA application start date (09/30/2022*) and must maintain it through completion of the flood hazard mitigation activity and for the life of the structure.

FMA Eligible Activities

- Acquisition/Demolition
- Acquisition/Relocation
- Elevation of structures
- Mitigation Reconstruction
- Dry Floodproofing of Historic Structures
- Dry Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures
- Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects
- Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings
- Non-Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities
- Infrastructure Retrofit
- Soil Stabilization
- Project Scoping – Individual Home & Community Flood
- Miscellaneous/Other**



FDEM deadline to Submit BRIC and FMA subapplications 11/14/2022 by 5:00 PM EST

Additional resources and application information about the BRIC and FMA program, to include each program's Fact Sheets and Notice of Funding Opportunity announcements can be found at:

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/>

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

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.

The 2022 fall cycle for submission of new or revised projects to update the LMS PPL will begin on September 1, 2022 and will continue until close-of-business (5:00 p.m.) on September 16, 2022. After all projects are received, they will be evaluated and scored by the LMS Evaluation Panel and ranked for the update of the PPL during the evaluation period (September 23 – October 7, 2022). The LMS Evaluation Panel will meet on October 14, 2022 for final approval of scores and rankings. All projects will be scored based on the contents of the application only. The Steering Committee will motion to approve the new fall PPL at their regular meeting on October 20, 2022.

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

Information regarding the PBC LMS, PPL, or previous LMS meeting minutes is available on our LMS webpage at: www.ReadyPBC.com

MITIGATION OUTREACH CAMPAIGN



FEMA and AARP Release New Resource: *Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults*

On July 13, 2022, FEMA and AARP released a new resource: a new *Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults* that will help local community officials protect older adults in their community.

Adults aged 65 and older are a growing demographic that is disproportionately impacted by climate change and natural hazards. This is due to several factors:

- Lack of access to transportation to evacuate
- Increased dependence on in-home or nearby health supports
- Impaired mobility, cognition or senses
- Lack of access to internet and digital communication
- Limited social networks

The *Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults* discusses how older adults are disproportionately affected by natural hazards and provides recommendations and tips to reduce that risk. The guide is for emergency managers, planners, local officials, and other community stakeholders that serve or advocate for older adults.

The guide is the result of a partnership between FEMA and AARP. Together, the two organizations have partnered to identify and provide resources, spark ideas, and encourage partnerships to better engage older Americans in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery operations. This long-term, strategic partnership aims to advance accessible, safe, and livable communities for people of all ages.

The *Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults* is available at: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_mitigation-guide_older-adults.pdf