



STATE OF FLORIDA

## **DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Florida Division of Emergency Management Releases Funding Availability for CITIZENS CORPUS/ Community Emergency Response Team Programs**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The Florida Division of Emergency Management would like to announce the opening of the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 application cycle for competitive awards from the State Homeland Security Grant Fund Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Programs. The applications will be available online April 4, 2008, at the new Florida CERT website, which can be accessed at [www.floridadisaster.org/CitizenCorpus](http://www.floridadisaster.org/CitizenCorpus).

The submission deadline for these grants is May 20, 2008. Funds provided under the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 cycle will be available to recipients no earlier than September 1, 2008.

Emergency Management officials encourage all eligible regional or local government, Fire Tax Districts, other taxing or special districts, school districts and Native American Tribes or nations within the State of Florida with projects that will enhance community response capabilities to apply for funds during this open period.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management supports the Community Emergency Response Team program which trains residents to be prepared for emergency situations in their communities and neighborhoods. Local CERT teams receive training in disaster preparedness, disaster fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, terrorism, communications, disaster psychology and team organization. CERT teams are often utilized by local emergency services agencies to perform a variety of functions.

CERT teams can make the difference by using their training to save lives and protect property. With training, practice and working together as a team, CERT members will be able to do the "greatest good for the greatest number" after a disaster, while protecting themselves from becoming victims.

The month of April is designated as Florida Volunteer Month. Emergency Management officials encourage all residents to consider volunteering through programs such as CERT in your local communities.

For more information on volunteering during disasters and community emergency response teams, visit the new Florida CERT website, [www.floridadisaster.org/CitizenCorpus](http://www.floridadisaster.org/CitizenCorpus). For more information on disaster assistance, and

to find out how you can *Get a Plan!* for disaster preparedness, visit [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org).

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