



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RICK SCOTT
Governor

BRYAN W. KOON
Director

September 21, 2017

Attn: LMS Coordinators

RE: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Type Recommendation

Dear Emergency Management Professionals:

The State of Florida received a Presidential Disaster Declaration (DR-4337-FL) on September 10, 2017 for Hurricane Irma, which impacted many counties in the State of Florida. Federal aid to supplement state and local hazard mitigation efforts, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), will be made available throughout the state and administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (Division). HMGP provides funding for technically feasible, cost-effective mitigation activities that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.

Florida Administrative Code, 27P-22 designates the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Groups (LMS) as the responsible entity for coordinating mitigation activities within the County. The LMS works with local stakeholders to identify, prioritize, and select eligible mitigation activities to be submitted for funding consideration under the HMGP. This process has greatly benefited both the state and the local communities, and the state has no desire to disrupt this process.

Due to the nature of the damages caused by this event, we recommend that mitigation projects submitted for consideration under the HMGP focus on **acquisition of properties without flood insurance in the Special Flood Hazard Area.**

The benefits of flood mitigation are extensive and provide significant return on investment for communities and their citizens. While reviewing eligible projects for prioritization and selection, please consider the Community Rating System (CRS) benefits of projects and focus on maximizing these benefits whenever possible.

A Notice of Funding Availability will be published shortly after 90-days from the declaration date in the Florida Administrative Register and at *Floridadisaster.org*. It will be distributed to all LMS, EM directors and Boards of County Commissioners as well.

In the meantime, we hope that you continue to communicate to the Division's Bureau of Mitigation any questions or concerns you have about the HMGP so that we can better assist your communities when funding becomes available. If you have any questions

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regarding this letter or any of our mitigation grant programs, please call the Mitigation Hotline at (850) 815-4524.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miles E. Anderson, for
Bryan W. Koon, Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management