

Florida SHMPoints

Providing insightful mitigation news and information from around the State of Florida.

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HMGP Application Tips & Hints to Avoid Armageddon

By: Jared Jaworski

The most recent presidentially declared disasters in Florida have brought new opportunities for counties to fund some of those prioritized projects that have been waiting in their Local Mitigation Strategies. Florida's last major declaration was in May of 2014, and much has changed since then, both at the state and county level. While I know that many counties are hard at work choosing projects and developing applications, I wanted to use this space to offer some simple tips and hints that are often overlooked during the application process. Many of these may seem like no-brainers, but these address issues that we often see at the state level that can slow down the application process.

#1 Tip: Ask Questions. Early and Often.

This one is simple. So simple that it is often overlooked. Some people find it intimidating to ask questions because they think their question is silly, or they assume they know what the answer will be. At the Florida Division of Emergency Management (Division), our job is to get this money out to the counties as fast as possible and we want to remove as many of the roadblocks ahead of time as soon as possible. It is better to ask us before you submit an application so as to not waste our time as well as yours. For example: questions about eligibility, technical feasibility, and environmental concerns should be asked before you select projects for application development so that if later down the line if you find out the project is ineligible, you didn't waste weeks of your time for nothing.

#2 Hint: Don't be misled by allocation amounts

After every major declaration, the Division produces a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that gives each declared county an allocation based on a 90-day estimate of what the total Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding will be. This number can be misleading because 1) it never lives up to

expectations, and 2) counties forget to look beyond Tier 1.

Let's tackle the first point. When a natural disaster devastates a county, it can be hard to see a lower than expected allocation. They have projects that have been waiting to be funded and sometimes the money just isn't there to make it work; they see the damage done to their county and wonder why their allocation is so low. One main thing to understand about how the allocations are calculated is that each declared county receives a percentage of the overall federal assistance that comes in to the state for that disaster. The NOFA allocations are divided up using those same percentages. Also, the HMGP allocations are not based on post damage assessments, but on submitted project worksheets (PW), which can give a false expectation on the return. A lot of the frustration also comes from the large stock counties may put into the NOFA allocation as being the "final" number. At 90-days from the date of declaration, everything is still in flux. FEMA reviews PWs throughout the first year after the date of declaration and the final allocation won't be locked-in until the end of that first year. The numbers in the NOFA are there to give counties a general idea of what size projects they can fund with Tier 1 funding, which brings me to my next point.

Florida operates under a special rule in the Florida Administrative Code, 27P-22. This creates a tier funding system for counties after HMGP dollars become available so that funding is distributed fairly. A county's allocation, based on a percentage of federal assistance, ends after Tier 1 has been distributed. Tier 2 operates on a different methodology. That allocation is determined by the percentage of unfunded projects costs your county has left after Tier 1 compared to the rest of the other declared counties. This gives declared counties the ability to affect their Tier 2 allocation percentage by over submitting for their Tier 1 allocation. In the end, you may be able to fully or partial (...continued on next page)

Tips & Hints (continued)

fund a project you could not fund in Tier 1. If there is nothing available in Tier 2, you still have a project application that can be used for future funding opportunities.

#3 Tip: The Devil's in the Details and other Application Fumbles

That last one was long, so I will do this rapid fire:

Project Title: Make sure it's descriptive enough. Project titles should follow the pattern "(County),(Jurisdiction/Project site), (Project Type)"

Contacts: Make sure the contacts and their information is up to date and entered correctly (no typos).

Scope: This is where we need all the details of what you plan to do and why it is important that it is done. This is important for later in the application (foreshadowing?) as well as when the scope of work is developed for the contract.

Budget: Avoid lump sums. Clearly identify what is being used toward the 25% non-federal match. Make sure your math checks out. Consider all sources for your match.

Feasible Alternatives: Remember that scope you typed out earlier? Have you considered other ways of doing this project that might be cheaper, faster, or more effective? Yes? The why aren't you doing it that way instead? We want to make sure the best action to resolving your problem is funded, and

this is where you show us your work.

Check List: Follow this as you complete your application to ensure that there are no missing elements. Missing information results in delays for your project. Help us help you.

#4 Hint: Early Bird Gets Mitigated Faster... I think I got that right.

Delays are inevitable. The application window is only so long, and the Division can only give so much time to counties to pick projects and develop their applications. This is because the Division needs time to review applications before submitting them to FEMA before the end of the first year after date of declaration. Now that Florida operates under the Program Administrate by States (PAS) pilot program, the Division has a larger responsibility to ensure applications are of the highest quality before FEMA sees them. The sooner your county can get an application to us, the better we can correct any issues before we need to submit to FEMA. We are well aware that many at the local level wear multiple hats and are unable to devote 100% of their time to application development, but every little bit helps in the end. As a PAS state we do not need to wait for a full FEMA review of your project, aside from environmental and tribal. The burden falls on us to get these projects started as soon as possible. Be aware, any funding left on the table after Tier 1 will go to another county.

I hope that these tips and hints were beneficial. The Division is always here to answer any questions you may have. We hope to hear from more of you in the coming weeks and months to assist you in any way we can in your application development.

HMGP Statewide Applicant Webinar, Wednesday, March 22 at 9 AM | Contact Jared Jaworski for details

HMGP Application Desk Reference: http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/Hazard/Documents/HMGP_Application_Desk_Reference.pdf

Hermine NOFA: http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/Hazard/Documents/Notice_of_Funding_Availability_4280_ititaled.pdf

Matthew NOFA: http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/Hazard/Documents/Notice_of_Funding_Availability_4283_ititaled.pdf

Beach Erosion & Restoration

By: Elise Fisher and Roger Lemarque

A Critically Eroded shoreline is defined in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's rule 62B-36.002 (5) as "a segment of the shoreline where natural processes or human activity have caused or contributed to erosion and recession of the beach or dune system to such a degree that upland development, recreational interests, wildlife habitat, or important cultural resources are threatened or lost," ("Critically Eroded Beaches in Florida", 2016, p.7).

In order for erosion to be classified as "critical" there must be a threat or loss of one of four specific interests - upland development, recreation, wildlife habitat, or important cultural resources. Many of the designated critically eroded beaches have been restored through the placement of beach fill material. Beach management projects have mitigated the original critical erosion conditions; however, these shorelines retain their critical erosion designation in order to retain their State of Florida funding eligibility.

The State of Florida has over 800 miles of sandy coastline, including the coastal areas neighboring the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Straits of Florida. This coastal area is home to many species of wildlife, as well as home to Floridians. Further, small businesses and Florida's renowned tourism industry have incorporated the sandy coast as a fundamental piece of the State's economy. This being said, damage to coastal areas of Florida may prove to be a hindrance for wildlife and the general population, and should be taken care of and protected with the utmost care. Inclement weather provided by the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season added the additional threat of erosion to coastal areas around the State of Florida.

Hurricane Hermine, made its landfall as a Category One hurricane on September 2, 2016, reaching a maximum of 80 mile per hour winds. Hurricane Hermine effects are seen in the Big Bend area of Florida and all the way through Pinellas County.

Hurricane Matthew, although never making landfall in Florida, approached the northwestern shores as a Category Three hurricane between October 6 and 8, 2016. The effects of this hurricane are seen in almost all coastal regions neighboring the Atlantic Ocean; specifically Duval, St. Johns,

Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, and St. Lucie Counties.

More than 500 miles of beaches were impacted to a measurable degree by Hurricane Hermine and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. These storms removed sand from previously restored beaches, but much of the material remains within the nearshore area. There will be some natural recovery of these beaches as sand is gradually transported by waves; however, there are some cases where the sand is too far off the beach and natural recovery will be slow. This creates a higher threat of further erosion from winter storms and the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season. These areas will require varying levels of assisted recovery activities ranging from dune restoration to full scale



Photo courtesy of NOAA and USGS

beach nourishment to reasonably protect the upland structures and infrastructure in advance of the next hurricane season.

There are many ongoing projects throughout the state. After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District placed more than 7.5 million cubic yards of sand on 38.5 miles of eroded beaches in Florida as part of the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) program. This resulted in a cost savings of about \$20 million. The Jacksonville District has the largest shore protection program in the nation, and recently initiated the Regional Sediment Management Center of Expertise program. The District constructs and maintains more than 30% of the nation's total shore protection projects, including 25 projects in 17 counties and more than 134 miles of shoreline.

Further south, beach re-nourishment is taking place on the 24 miles of sandy beaches along the Broward County's coastline. The long-term management of the County's shoreline involves shore protection projects, dune enhancements, and regional sediment management with extensive partnerships with State and Federal agencies.

There are many coastal restoration projects going on throughout the state. Like many mitigation initiatives, these efforts are ongoing and continue to decrease the severity of impact after future disasters.

Current Issues in Emergency Management

By: Melissa Schloss

Current Issues in Emergency Management (CIEM) was held at the Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee November 29 – December 1, 2017. Many county Emergency Management Directors and their key staff, along with FEMA, FDOT, and several other state partners were in attendance.

The agenda consisted of discussions about Zika, the Orlando Pulse Night Club Incident, Hurricane Hermine and Hurricane Matthew Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA) and expected various grant allocations and application processes. Issues such as mass care, evacuation studies, hurricane shelter survey and retrofit programs, National Incident Management System (NIMS), Emergency

Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) changes, Recovery, air operations and the upcoming events such as the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Conference and Governor's Hurricane Conference (GHC) were discussed.

This annual meeting is beneficial as it allows the opportunity for emergency management professionals from various levels of government, private sector and non-profit groups to get together and discuss current issues in the field within a professional setting. Great feedback and constructive criticism is always discussed, allowing for organizational improvement for the next disaster. Be sure to attend next year!

FEPA 2017 Annual Meeting

By: Laura Waterman



The Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) 2017 Annual Meeting was held in Orlando from January 30 — February 3 and the theme was “Sharing Solutions.” After over a decade without a hurricane landfall, there were several Lessons Learned and Best Practices identified after the three major incidents in 2016: the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Hurricane Hermine, and Hurricane Matthew.

There were several courses offered, including FEPA's County Emergency Management Director and Key Staff Training, an Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) training series, Damage Assessment, Hospital ICS, Psychological First Aid, Community Cybersecurity, and Preparedness for Cyber Incidents.

Additionally, there were several roundtables and workshops that allowed for an open dialogue of Lessons Learned and Best Practices from 2016. There were four Mass Care roundtables, which focused critical issues such as shelter staffing and feeding. There were also four Recovery roundtables that discussed Individual Assistance, Public Assistance,

Debris Management, and Beaches, all very relevant issues after the 2016 hurricane season. Other workshop topics included Cultural Competency Skills in EM Education, CERT: The Next Generation, Mutual Aid, Community Engagement in Emergency Events, Public Health and Emergency Management: Proven Partnerships, Healthcare Facility Emergency Measures and Evacuations, and Emergency Management Best Practices. These workshops were not a place to point fingers or place blame, but rather to share how different communities solved complications that arose during operations and recovery.

Several FEPA Committees also convened during the Annual Meeting, including the Mitigation Committee, which discussed HMGP project eligibility and application questions.

Attendees also had the privilege of hearing from Manual Soto, the Director of City of Orlando EM, as well as other Orlando officials. They discussed the response operations of the Pulse Nightclub Tragedy and how they were successful in managing the survivors and the families of victims.

The 2017 Annual Meeting closed with the installation of the 2017 FEPA Officers and an engaging After Action Panel regarding the 2016 Emergency Events.



RCMP becomes HLMP

By: Brianna Beynart and Jason Pettus

The Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP) has been a lesser-known state funded mitigation grant providing assistance to counties, cities, and non-profit organizations. While federal mitigation grant funding is commonly sought due to their expansive scope of work, the RCMP has quietly provided wind retrofits to residential properties. After years of program development, the RCMP is rebranding and expanding into the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.

Since the beginning, RCMP has specialized in mitigating residential properties against the destructive force of wind. Mitigating a residence from wind borne debris is accomplished by replacing opening protections with code compliant windows and doors, or by covering those entry points with hurricane shutters. Roof replacement, secondary water barrier installation, and load path reinforcements are often part of the scope of work, as strengthening the roof package yields the greatest benefit for a homeowner. Focusing on residential wind mitigation has carried an unfortunate stigma of being overly limiting in terms of grant productivity. However, mitigating homes with these grant funds has

Introducing the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program

allowed the program to generate an efficient 130% return on investment over the past three fiscal years. Generally, the feedback received from the homeowners has remained consistently positive; they were thankful

for the insurance savings! More importantly, those who experienced severe weather post-mitigation, were intensely thankful to have had their home's resiliency strengthened. Each year, approximately \$2.8 million is divided into \$194,000 grant parcels and dispersed among applicants throughout Florida. Around 175 individual residences are fully mitigated each year, providing a safe space and peace of mind for 175 families and the friends who find refuge in their homes during a frightening time in the community. This means a lot to the community and to the Program. Receiving more funding to help more people on an annual basis is a slow process but through an increasing number of applicants every year, proof of interest and importance of this funding is apparent. It is the goal of the Program to see more citizens of the State served and more structures mitigated.

The goal of the RCMP program has always been to reduce risk and loss for citizens of the State. It is with this goal in mind that Program management, with support from Division leadership, undertook the process of reviewing the program. It has been determined that the Program is able to

aid counties, municipalities, and non-profit partners with additional mitigation activities. Florida Statute 215.559 and its parent statute Fla. Stat. 215.555, The Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, authorize the RCMP Program. The first clause of Florida Statute 215.559 (1) (a) says that, "Seven million dollars in funds shall be used to improve the wind resistance of residences and mobile homes." This has historically been what the RCMP program has focused on. Yet there is a critical clause that Program management felt had been ignored. The second clause of Fla. Stat. 215.559 (1) (a) says, "...and other efforts to prevent or reduce losses or reduce the cost the cost of rebuilding after a disaster." This clause of the statute is critical as it authorizes the program to engage in activities that continue the effort of reducing risk and loss in the State. It is with this in mind that RCMP is realigning its mission to better meet statutorily mandated activities.

The first step in this process is to rename/rebrand the program in such a way as to meet the definition of the statute. Florida Statute 215.559 is named the *Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program*. Therefore, beginning 1 July 2017, the RCMP program will henceforth be known as the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP). Changing the name of a program may not seem like an exciting step to make, but it is the Program's hope that this step will signal to the State that the Program intends to break out of the single facet mitigation mentality that the Program has been defined by. Instead, the Program will be open to aide local governments and non-profits with their mitigation needs.

Second, in order to achieve this, the HLMP program is excited to announce that a strategic expansion of the scope of work has been approved for the 2017-2018 grant cycle! For fiscal year 2017-2018 local governments and non-profit partners can submit additional mitigation projects inside the Division's request for proposal. The proposals will be reviewed and scored so long as those activities do not include the following: elevating a residential structure, tearing down a structure and converting the real property into perpetual greenspace, or retrofitting existing facilities used as a public shelter provided that those projects are funded by a FEMA grant or other HLMP funding. The Program's hope is to fill in gaps where local governments or non-profit partners find a shortfall in funding good mitigation projects. The Program will continue to support wind mitigation activities as the return on investment gained through these projects is substantial and is of real value to the citizens of the State.

The Program will continue to address ways to help local government and non-profit partners in mitigating their communities. The future of the HLMP program will be shaped through a partnership with Program partners at the local level. It is the Program's hope to see additional funds come into the Program to continue to fund additional projects and see more people receive the benefit of mitigation.

Need More Information?

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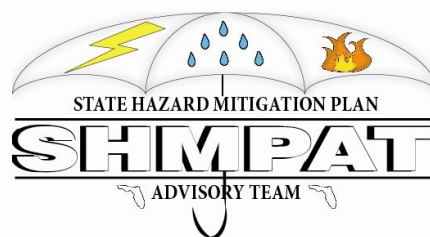
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The Bureau of Mitigation

Mitigation is an integral part of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Due to Florida's weather, geography, and miles of coastline the state is highly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters can be very costly to both the citizens and government.

Under the direction of Division Director Bryan W. Koon and State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Miles E. Anderson, the Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The Bureau also administers a state funded mitigation program called the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.

If you would like to know more about mitigation in Florida please visit: www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation.



Current Update Cycle	
Approved	67
Approved Pending Adoption	0
Expired	0
Complete	60

2017 Silver Jackets Meeting

We will be holding a 2017 Silver Jackets Kickoff Meeting in April! Please contact the Silver Jackets coordinator with ideas for the team.



For more information:

Visit: <http://floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/silverjacket/Index.htm>

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