

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability and Resiliency Committee

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: October 23, 2019

SUBJECT: **DISCUSS HAVING THE CITY PURSUE MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT

Office of Management and Budget | Grants Management Division.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

Item C4P – September 11, 2019 Commission Meeting.

SPONSORED

Commissioner Samuelian.

ANALYSIS

Introduction

The State of Florida has been allocated more than \$633 million in federal funding for disaster mitigation projects. These funds are available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's newly created Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program which was formed in response to the 2016 and 2017 presidentially declared disasters.

Process

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will serve as the administrator and fiscal agent for Florida for the CDBG-MIT Program. Congress, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and States and Local Governments all have a role in the process.

1. Action by Congress:
 - Congress Approves the Appropriation.
2. Actions by HUD:
 - HUD calculates and announces allocations.
 - HUD publishes a Notice with the Federal Register.
 - HUD awards CDBG-MIT Funds.
3. Actions by States and Local Governments:
 - States and local governments administer the CDBG-MIT grant program directly or distribute funds to subrecipients or subgrantees.

DEO will lead the state's efforts in creating the federally required State Action Plan that will provide a high-level strategy for how the funding will be used to address disaster mitigation. The State Action Plan will be developed in partnership with state agencies that are working on resiliency efforts and will include input from local communities and stakeholders. DEO must submit the State Action Plan to HUD for review by February 3, 2020.

At least 50% of this allocation must address mitigation needs in the HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (HUD MID) counties. Miami-Dade is included in the HUD MID. In addition, at least 50% of the CDBG-MIT funds must benefit low- and moderate-income persons. DEO will have a public engagement process which will include:

- At least three (3) public hearings – one (1) prior to the public comment period.
- A 45-day comment period.
- A Citizen Advisory Committee.
- Webinars.
- Stakeholder Meetings.

Purpose of CDBG-MIT Funds

The purpose of CDBG-MIT funds is to protect communities from major disasters in the future through disaster mitigation projects.

HUD's definition of mitigation is: *“Activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters.”*

Disaster-related activities are those that can demonstrate a logical connection between the impacts of the disaster and the activity's contribution to community recovery. Examples of eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Rebuilding homes and infrastructure damaged by the disaster.
- Providing assistance to affected business owners.
- Restoring the housing stock through new construction or rehabilitation/reconstruction.
- Rebuilding or replacing impacted infrastructure, such as road and bridge repair, water and wastewater facilities.
- Providing funding for activities that address job losses, impacts to tax revenues and impacts to businesses, such as job training, workforce development, loans and grants to businesses and improvements to commercial/rental districts.

HUD has emphasized the importance of broad-based, local and regional mitigation projects that will have long-lasting effects on community risk reduction. HUD also expects grantees to enhance the impact of HUD-funded investments with “more stringent building and zoning codes which will help to limit damage from future severe weather events.” This is an eligible cost under the CDBG-MIT program.

Timeline and Current Status

Date	Action	Status
February 3, 2020	Deadline for the State Mitigation Action Plan to be submitted by DEO to HUD.	DEO is currently working on the Action Plan, it has not yet been released. DEO will post the Action Plan for no less than 30 calendar days to solicit public comment before submitting it to HUD.
August 23, 2019	HUD published the Federal Register necessary for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to work with partners to develop the federally required State Mitigation Action Plan.	Completed.
April 11, 2019	One-year anniversary of HUD announcing state of Florida would receive \$633,485,000 for mitigation activities.	Completed.
April 11, 2018	HUD announced state of Florida would receive \$633,485,000 for mitigation activities in Florida communities that experienced major declared disaster events during 2016 and 2017.	Completed.

Conclusion

The Administration maintains a full listing of mitigation projects, many of which may be eligible for CDBG-MIT funding. After review of the State Mitigation Action Plan, the Administration will compile a listing of eligible projects to apply for. The Administration will return to the Sustainability and Resilience Committee with an update and recommendation after the Action Plan is posted.