

Appendix F: Funding and Data Sources

This appendix addresses, in part, the following FEMA requirements:

Requirement §201.6(c)(3): The plan shall include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdiction’s blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools.

Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(i): The hazard mitigation strategy must include a description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.

Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii): The mitigation strategy must include a section that identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure.

Palm Beach County seeks to utilize every available funding source to provide comprehensive mitigation funding to mitigation projects. We do this by utilizing resources at the local, state, and federal levels and by being in continued contact with funding agencies and partners throughout the region.

The following list, though not exhaustive, includes many of the ways mitigation projects are funded or encouraged to be funded by the LMS in the county:

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – This program provides funding only after a Presidentially-declared disaster affects the county. It is provided by FEMA, and administered by the State of Florida’s Mitigation Branch as an Enhanced Mitigation Plan state. All projects to apply for this program must be included on the County’s PPL and each jurisdiction must have adopted the LMS in order to qualify for these funds. Additionally, jurisdictions are encouraged after a disaster to coordinate and use Section 406 funds in conjunction with Section 404 funds as allowable to mitigate future damages.
- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)** – Again, this is a FEMA-funded program that is released annually. It is not tied to disasters and is intended to mitigate recurring flooding issues within a jurisdiction. It is a nationwide, competitive grant program in which each state may only apply for one grant. Projects applying through this grant program must be included on the County’s PPL and each jurisdiction must have adopted the LMS to qualify.
- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)** – Another FEMA-funded program that is released annually. It is similar to the FMA program except it is not restricted to flood-related projects. It is a nationwide, competitive grant program. Projects applying through this grant program must be included on the County’s PPL and each jurisdiction must have adopted the LMS to qualify.

- **Small Business Administration Loan Program** – This program is coordinated through the DEM, but typically does not involve the LMS. It allows individuals as well as jurisdictions to take out low or no interest loans for specific issues related to mitigation.
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** – These grants, provided by the federal Housing and Urban Development department, are grants given to jurisdictions for a multitude of reasons and are somewhat flexible on how the jurisdiction may be able to use them. Although they have not been fully utilized for mitigation purposes, the LMS encourages jurisdictions to actively look at these grants as a source of potential funding for their mitigation projects. CDBG is independent of the LMS process, so funds that are used for mitigation are not required to follow the standard LMS submission and prioritization process. However, since these funds are allowable to be used as the local 25% match for HMGP funds, anytime these funds are used for that purpose they must follow the standard LMS processes.
- **Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program** – This program is 100% funded by the State of Florida annually as the only state-funded mitigation program in the nation. It provides small grants to jurisdictions of up to \$194,000 dollars for mitigation projects. These funds are also independent of the LMS process, although HLMP funds have often been used to complete small mitigation projects that do not go over that funding limit. We also encourage jurisdictions to use these funds to assist in mitigating Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss properties when the costs do not exceed the established funding limit.
- **Capital Improvement funds** – These are funds paid for locally through tax dollars to improve the capital structure of a jurisdiction. Many prioritized LMS projects over the years have eventually been funded using Capital Improvement funds locally. These funds are independent of the standard LMS process.
- **Penny Tax** – This is a recent funding mechanism that can be used to fund projects locally. The County has a one-percent sales tax with the funding dedicated specifically to infrastructure projects, including mitigation of infrastructure. The LMS highly encourages jurisdictions to apply for and use the penny tax to complete mitigation projects.

Several years ago, Economic Development Administration and Public Entity Risk Institute grant funds, and private sector donations were used for the establishment of a state-of-the-art community wide Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan and business preparedness initiatives designed to build a more disaster resilient community and economy.

Hazard-specific HMGP projects, submitted specifically in response to county allocations, may, at the discretion of the LMS Steering Committee and Evaluation Panel, be prioritized using other criteria relevant to flood mitigation and wind retrofit projects. In response to Hurricanes Frances & Jeanne, the LMS's Flood Mitigation Technical Advisory Committee played an important role in prioritizing HMGP flood mitigation projects.

Once projects are submitted to DEM Management and FEMA those funding agencies work directly with applicant jurisdictions and organizations. The LMS monitors project status, and assists and works with applicants and funding agencies to resolve issues and problems that may arise. A list of all mitigation funding sources is maintained on the DEM SharePoint site.

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