

### III MITIGATION STRATEGY

#### A. Guiding Principles and Goals

During the planning process, the Pasco County Local Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives Subcommittee developed a set of community values or Guiding Principles that serve as a vision for hazard mitigation in Pasco County. This set of values was approved by the overall LMS Working Group in the formulation of specific goals and objectives which helped direct the planning process and the selection and implementation of mitigation initiatives and programs. The set of Guiding Principles that were affirmed by the LMS Working Group are as follows:

1. *Hazard mitigation should minimize future losses by reducing the risk to people and property;*
2. *Hazard mitigation should emphasize pre-and-post disaster planning to decrease vulnerability of existing and new construction to loss;*
3. *Hazard mitigation should prevent repetitive losses from natural disasters through regulation and education;*
4. *Hazard mitigation should utilize comprehensive planning, regional and local area plans, zoning codes, development standards and incentives to protect vulnerable properties and vulnerable areas, and support development in less vulnerable areas;*
5. *Hazard mitigation should strive to protect the public and private sectors by reducing their economic vulnerability and increasing their recovery capabilities;*
6. *Hazard mitigation should strive to reduce the security risk to both public and private sectors in order to lessen all losses associated with physical and cyber-attacks; and*
7. *Hazard mitigation should increase public awareness regarding mitigation.*

## B. Goals & Objectives

The following goals and their associated objectives stemmed directly from the values that were created by the LMS Working Group:

**GOAL 1:** *Minimize future losses from disasters by reducing the risk to people and property.*

### **Objective 1.1**

Protection of populations and properties in Pasco County susceptible to economic or physical loss from natural and man-made disasters shall be consistent with the standards established in the Local Mitigation Strategy and other planning documents.

### **Objective 1.2**

Encourage higher standards of maintenance to existing drainage systems and retention ponds, and monitor cumulative development impacts with a macroscopic view.

### **Objective 1.3**

Assure that Pasco County has sufficient shelter space to accommodate evacuees in time of need.

### **Objective 1.4**

Work with the National Weather Service to enhance communication and coordination before and during severe weather events.

**GOAL 2:** *Emphasize pre- and post-disaster planning to decrease vulnerability of existing and new construction to loss.*

### **Objective 2.1**

Identify and prioritize vulnerable properties by using topographic and storm surge maps, traffic analysis and evacuation modeling, economic and environmental impact analysis.

### **Objective 2.2**

Review evacuation time estimates taking into consideration the limited east/west and north/south travel times.

### **Objective 2.3**

Encourage structure retrofit programs to address identified flood, wind, and evacuation vulnerabilities based on income level.

### **Objective 2.4**

Identify post-storm redevelopment options throughout the county and where feasible, purchase land in known vulnerable areas to prevent placing people and infrastructure in harm's way.

**Objective 2.5**

Identify vulnerable existing public and private critical facilities and encourage pre-disaster retrofit.

**GOAL 3:** *Prevent flood-related repetitive losses from natural disasters through regulation and education.*

**Objective 3.1**

Develop and support public and private projects and programs to retrofit, relocate or acquire properties susceptible to repetitive flooding.

**Objective 3.2**

Require systematic maintenance programs for storm water management systems.

**Objective 3.3**

Encourage only low-density residential development in repetitive flood loss areas consistent with current residential code and other plans for residential development.

**GOAL 4:** *Strengthen and utilize comprehensive planning, regional and local area plans, zoning codes, development standards and incentives to protect vulnerable properties and vulnerable areas, and support development in less vulnerable areas.*

**Objective 4.1**

Monitor floodplain regulations and enforcement to assess effectiveness.

**Objective 4.2**

Develop and support economic incentive programs for both public and private sectors promoting benefits of structural retrofitting.

**Objective 4.3**

Discourage variances and exceptions in flood hazard areas as identified by Flood Insurance Rate Maps, storm surge, and historical flooding.

**Objective 4.4**

Promote the Florida Building Code standards requiring new developments and construction to meet applicable wind load standards for the county.

**Objective 4.5**

Promote regulations for new structures in 100-year flood areas to be elevated in conformance with or exceeding current Florida Building Code.

**Objective 4.6**

Encourage locations of critical facilities (schools, hospitals, etc.) to be away from the proximity of identified hazardous material facilities.

**Objective 4.7**

Enact development standards in wildland urban interface areas, such as setbacks, forest maintenance, access of response vehicles and construction materials.

**Objective 4.8**

Strengthen existing land use regulations and policies through enhancement of review procedures, and enforcement.

**Objective 4.9**

Review and consider policies to assure more permeable area in development, by limiting construction of paved surfaces and decreasing run-off.

**Objective 4.10**

Promote and support incentives to encourage higher standards of protection to structures and facilities from hazards.

**Objective 4.11**

Identify strategies to encourage the understanding of climate change impacts to the county.

**GOAL 5:** *Strive to protect the public and private sector by reducing their economic vulnerability and increasing their recovery capabilities.*

**Objective 5.1**

Encourage disaster planning training through collaborative programs with appropriate government agencies and the private sector.

**Objective 5.2**

Analyze the factors involved in small business decision making regarding preparing for disasters and integrating hazard mitigation into their management practices.

**Objective 5.3**

Promote mitigation guidelines for businesses to raise awareness about local hazards, assist in vulnerability assessment, aid in the identification of financial and technical assistance available, and facilitate hazard mitigation implementation to include continuity of operations.

**GOAL 6:** *Hazard mitigation should strive to reduce the security risk to both public and private sectors in order to lessen all losses associated with physical and cyber-attacks.*

**Objective 6.1**

Develop and maintain Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) in order to minimize public and private interruption and protect private records.

**Objective 6.2**

Utilize grant opportunities from the Federal, State, and District levels to harden critical infrastructure in order to minimize vulnerabilities to attack.

**Objectives 6.3**

Provide up to date information to public in order to plan for possible evacuation or shelter in place.

**Goal 7:** *Hazard mitigation should increase public awareness regarding mitigation.*

**Objective 7.1**

Provide education and information to the public and business community about potential hazards and property protection measures (i.e. events such as Hurricane Expo and general presentation to community group).

**Objective 7.2**

Utilize print media, television, radio, and computer technology to educate the public on mitigation.

**Objective 7.3**

Annually provide outreach specifically to properties immediately adjacent to the repetitive loss properties as part of the Community Rating System outreach and repetitive property owner outreach programs.

## ***Mitigation Actions***

This section will identify and analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects for each hazard. It will describe the selection process used to identify the mitigation projects and programs.

### **Tropical Cyclones**

Implementation of mitigation efforts will be accomplished through:

- Public education outreach programs, led primarily by Emergency Management, that focus on wind retrofits. Wind protection focuses on reducing the damage from wind by strengthening floors, foundations, and wall/floor attachments of existing structures. Some common techniques that help prevent internal structural damage include the use of storm shutters and shatterproof glass or windows that are rated for the design speed of the site. Improving the way roofs are attached to the walls (i.e. using gable and bracing on frame gables, nail patterns, roof sheathing, hurricane straps, etc.) can keep roofs from lifting up in hurricane force winds. Public education outreach programs regarding wind mitigation is a continuous process.
- Enforcement of the county building code by the County and City permitting department.
- Identification and implementation of retrofit projects throughout the county. The focus will be on both public and private structures vulnerable to wind damage and the responsibility for project identification funding and execution will rest with the property owner.

### **Flood**

In order to minimize vulnerability and future losses to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities, due to floods, stringent building regulations are currently strictly enforced. The County's Floodplain Manager is charged with enforcing the municipal codes and ordinances, which focus on flood damage prevention and protection. Two critical items to highlight from the code is the ability to use the "best available data" and the substantial improvement rule. Currently, Pasco County, in a partnership with FEMA and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, prepared new Digital Flood Rate Insurance Map (D-FIRM). With the completion of the study phase of 22 watersheds, preliminary maps were prepared ahead of the LIDAR data being ready. Although incomplete, the maps are considered more accurate than the 1984 predecessor and are therefore "best available data".

Mitigation efforts related to the County's repetitive loss properties are discussed in detail in the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). The FMP contains a complete listing of each property, a map of each location, a listing of adjacent properties (repetitive loss areas located in Appendix D of this plan), and documented previous attempts at mitigation.

To mitigate damages to existing structures, several independent public outreach programs will be implemented in order to educate the public on mitigation options. The first is targeted specifically to properties located in or near identified repetitive loss areas. This outreach will become part of the county's general Community Rating System outreach and will be performed annually in combination with the repetitive loss property owner outreach program. The GIS mapping office, with assistance from the Emergency Management staff, developed a specific address/target list of properties based on

the repetitive loss properties list. General public outreach will be conducted at county events, including Disaster Expos, and general presentations to community groups. Finally, an outreach is planned specifically to target businesses and industry and will focus on mitigation (of existing structures) or prevention (when developing new structures).

In addition, the Public Works Department has identified and is working on several drainage improvements to help mitigate flood damages to neighborhoods throughout Pasco County. Timeframes for completion of flood mitigation projects will vary drastically. This is particularly true for privately owned residential mitigation projects, where local funding may not be available.

### **Coastal and Riverine Erosion**

As discussed in an earlier section of this plan, the effects of coastal erosion are limited to a small geographic location. The vulnerability of coastal erosion resulting from tropical storms and hurricanes is high and therefore the likelihood of coastal erosion is moderate or high depending on jurisdiction.

### **Geological**

Sinkholes have occurred in almost every County in Florida. They cause structural damage to any nearby infrastructure. What starts as cracks in foundations and walls, can be early indicators of a possible sinkhole, which make a building unstable and dangerous. Pasco County continues to incorporate sinkhole awareness information about how sinkholes form, what the warning signs are, and what to do if a sinkhole develops into the public outreach. Furthermore, innovative ideas have stemmed from Emergency Management from the recent sinkhole response and can be identified in Appendix J.

### **Wildfire**

Wildfire mitigation will be implemented through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that has been incorporated within the Hazard Identification Risk Assessment and Appendix L. This plan identifies wildfire occurrence rates, cause trends, and identifies risk communities countywide. This information is used to develop and prioritize mitigation plans based on the identified communities at risk and then helps to implement public wildfire prevention education programs and outreach. Furthermore, this plan provides enhanced wild land fire protection to Pasco County communities through wildfire prevention programs, fuel reduction and treatment projects, and improving wildfire suppression capabilities. Development of the CWPP is the result of a partnership between the State Division of Forestry and Pasco County Fire Rescue with support from Emergency Management and the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group.

### **Severe Storms**

Strict enforcement of building code helps mitigate damages in the future housing stock from severe storms. Also, educational and awareness campaigns are other actions that assist in mitigating community buildings and residential structures from severe storms. Providing awareness for wind

retrofit projects and hardening existing structures to current compliance codes is essential as the majority of Pasco County was built prior to the enhancement of building codes.

Educational and targeted outreach also consists of injury and fatality prevention in severe storms. Some programs addresses the dangers of lightning, use of weather radios, and the proper use of warning systems for severe storms. Pasco County produced an alert program for citizens and employees called “Alert Pasco” to assist with seeking shelter in timely situations.

### **Drought/Heat Wave**

Pasco County, as well as much of Florida, has experienced some sort of drought during the last five years. Local public education efforts by the county Utilities Department concerning water conservation have met with some success and were supported by the stringent watering schedules imposed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. While there is little we can do today to create rain, there is much we can do to preserve existing resources and protect the aquifer.

### **Winter Storm/Freezes**

Freezes and other cold weather events generally occur in Pasco County between the months of November and February each year. Public education outreach will provide information to homeowners and agricultural land owners to help them plan ahead and prepare for cold weather in order to protect themselves, sensitive crops and livestock.

### **Cyber Incident**

Cyber awareness has increased over the past five year for not just Pasco County, but the United States. Pasco County has placed annual, mandatory cyber security trainings and refresher trainings for Pasco County employees because the majority of breach attempts are aimed at the government sector. Public outreach and education will also help provide citizens awareness and how they can further protect themselves and their family. In a world where technology and electronics continue to grow at a rapid pace, awareness is essential to protect personal information.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Mitigation of hazardous materials incidents includes techniques to reduce losses to emergency personnel, citizens, structures and the environment. These techniques include extensive training to personnel as well as notification and education of the public. The county participates on the regional Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which works together with other local governments, the private sector, and citizens to identify mitigation measures, projects and insure the public’s right to know under SARA Title III. There are no timeframes associated with this mitigation effort as it is constant and ongoing.

### ***Process for Submitting and Prioritizing Projects***

The individual or group presenting new projects are now required to use the Pasco County LMS Project Submission Form (Figure 3.1). This provides a standardized approach for all members, including representatives from Pasco County municipalities, the Tampa Bay Region, State Organizations, and private partners. This submission process provides greater detail on the project description, cost and cost effectiveness, its location, and how it relates back to the LMS goals. The detail is necessary to show awareness to the County on the LMS Project List in Appendix C.

All properly submitted projects are prioritized by the working group using the Prioritization Point Scale for Mitigation Initiatives rubric system (Figure 3.2). Each category or criterion of the system is assigned based on a 10 point system. The scoring method is specifically defined in the “scoring instructions” section for The LMS Working Group as it explains no credit, partial credit, and full credit awards. This system provides a more thorough prioritization for each LMS project.

An open discussion followed the implementation of this ranking system to address any issues or concerns. Upon review, the working group feels that prioritization and ranking will now be conducted per funding source as each funding source has its own set of priorities. Currently, the prioritization system’s scoring method is written to allow each project to comply with the funding sources provided. Category 9 specifically relates to the prioritization based on funding sources.

Where there was a “tie”, two or more projects with equal ranking, the members of the working group were asked to decide which element had the most value in the county. Where possible, they were asked to vote on projects in an effort to break a tie.

At the conclusion, members were asked to concur and approve the final prioritization for mitigation projects and programs. Ranking will now occur per funding source due to different criteria per grant requirements. The reader is advised that not all projects are ranked. There are various reasons for this, not the least of which is the submission of an incomplete application. Where additional information is still required, the project is not automatically dismissed, but every effort is made to provide technical assistance to the applicant in order that an application is ultimately completed and that it offers the project an opportunity to come to fruition.

**Figure 3.1**

**Prioritization Point Scale for Mitigation Initiatives**

Pasco County Local Mitigation Strategy

(Project Prioritization process, to be updated by the Pasco County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group)

| Categories  | Maximum Points Available | Scoring Instructions   | Points Awarded |
|---|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| <p>1. <u>Consistency With Existing Emergency Management Plan or Other Functional Plan Developed by an Official Local Governmental Entity</u></p> <p><i>Has this project or initiative already been proposed as a management initiative or structural improvement in any emergency proposed or adopted by County or local jurisdictions?</i></p> | 10                       | If the project or initiative has been proposed but not officially adopted, award 5 points. If the project has been adopted, award 10 points. |                |
| <p>2. <u>Consistency with Structured Programs &amp; Processes</u></p> <p><i>Does the project or initiative meet criteria or guidelines within its hazard area, which will provide program credits to the community or citizens? (Ex. Community Rating System, which will reduce flood insurance rates for property owners.)</i></p>             | 10                       | Award 10 points for those measures providing program credits.  |                |

| Categories   | Maximum Points Available | Scoring Instructions   | Points Awarded |
|--|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| <p>3. <u>Population Served</u></p> <p><i>Does the project reduce loss to or significantly benefit a large portion of a community as a whole? How many people are directly and indirectly affected?</i></p>   | 10                       | <p>Award 10 points for those projects that benefit all of the community. Award lesser point scores for those projects which are area or group specific:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Benefit 80% of the community = 8 pts.<br/> Benefit 60% of the community = 6 pts.<br/> Benefit 40% of the community = 4 pts.<br/> Benefit 20% of the community = 2 pts.<br/> Benefit 10% or less of the community = 1 pt.</p>  |                |
| <p>4. <u>Community Exposure</u></p> <p><i>Does the project mitigate a frequently occurring problem or a problem to which a community is particularly vulnerable, or a hazard that is a high level of risk as identified in the Local Mitigation Strategy Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment?</i></p>   | 10                       | <p>Award up to 10 points for those projects that mitigate a hazard risk to which the community has a high exposure based on the vulnerability analysis. Reduce the points awarded as the risk or frequency of events for which this project or initiative mitigates declines.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Multi-Hazards = 2 pts.<br/> High-risk hazards-region-wide impact = 8 pts.<br/> High-risk hazards-localized impact = 6 pts.<br/> Medium risk hazards-region-wide or non-specific location = 4 pts.<br/> Low risk hazards-non-site specific = 2 pts</p> |                |
| <p>5. <u>Cost Effectiveness</u></p> <p><i>What is the cost effectiveness of the initiative or project, based on conducting a preliminary analysis using a representative sample or BCA software 3.0 or later of the technical feasibility and benefits versus costs? Please include damage and impact costs from both presidentially declared and non-declared events.</i></p> | 10                       | <p>A total of 10 points will be awarded in this category based on the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Benefit/cost ratio = 1.0 or greater = 10 pts.<br/> Benefit/cost ratio = &lt;1.0 = 0 pts.</p>   |                |

| Categories  | Maximum Points Available | Scoring Instructions  | Points Awarded |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| <p>6. <u>Effective Project Useful Life</u></p> <p><i>How long will the community continue to receive the benefits of a particular mitigation project or initiative?</i></p>       | 10                       | Award 10 points to projects with a useful life greater than 40 years. Award 8 points to projects with a useful life between 20-39 years. Award 6 points to projects with a useful life between 10-19 years. Award 4 points to projects with a useful life between 5-9 years. Award 2 points to projects with a useful life between 1-4 years. Award 0 points to projects with a useful life equal to 0. |                |
| <p>7. <u>Public Support</u></p> <p><i>Can public support for this project be documented?</i></p>  | 10                       | Opposition = 0 pts.<br>No opposition = 5 pts .<br>Support present or letters of support = 10 pts.   |                |
| <p>9. <u>Sponsorship and Funding Availability</u></p> <p><i>Does this project have an active sponsor that will take responsibility for its management and implementation?</i></p> | 10                       | Award 10 points if there is an identified sponsor <u>and</u> the sponsor has 100% matching funds committed to the project or initiative. Award 8 pts. If sponsor matches 50% to 100%. Award 5 points if there is an identified sponsor for the proposed project or initiative, but no funding match from sponsor; 0 points if no sponsor.   |                |

| Categories  | Maximum Points Available | Scoring Instructions   | Points Awarded |
|---|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| 10. <u>Environmentally Sound</u><br><br><i>Does the project impact environmental or historical resources?</i> | 10                       | Award up to 10 points to projects or initiatives that have no negative impact on environmental or historical resources, taking into account appropriate mitigation measures that may be applied. Award 5 points for projects that have a medium impact on those resources; award 0 points for projects or initiatives that have a high impact. |                |
| 11. <u>Consistency with Local Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives</u>                                    | 5                        | A total of 5 points will be awarded in this category based on projects or initiatives that:<br><br>Meet 3 or more goals/objectives = 5 pts.<br>Meet 2 goals/objectives = 4 pts.<br>Meet 1 goal/objective = 3 pts.<br>Meet no goals/objectives = 0 pts.   |                |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b>   | <b>105 (115)</b>         |  |                |

**Figure 3.2**

**Pasco County LMS Project Submission Form**

**Pasco County Local Mitigation Strategy  
Project Submission Form**

**General Information Required**



1. Name, address and phone for contact regarding proposed project:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Description of the proposed project:

3. Explanation of need for proposed project:

4. Relation to goals, objectives and policies in the LMS and/or consistency with existing emergency management plan or other functional plan of a local government entity:

5. Hazard that proposed project will mitigate against and the project's effective useful life:

6. Estimated cost of proposed project. Has cost-benefit ratio been established?:
  
7. Source of funding for proposed project:
  
8. Estimated percentage of population benefited from proposed project. Is there public support for the project?
  
9. Estimated percentage of jurisdiction benefited from proposed project (or project's potential to provide economic benefits):
  
10. Estimated amount of time to implement proposed project:
  
11. Party responsible for implementing proposed project:
  
12. Potential environmental impacts of proposed project:
  
13. Additional comments or information not inquired for above:

**Please return project information to:  
Pasco County Emergency Management  
8744 Government Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34654  
Contact Information: (727) 847-8588  
Email: [leppig@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:leppig@pascocountyfl.net)**

## **Implementation of Mitigation Actions**

Public and private-sector coordination is vital for the long-term success of hazard mitigation. Increased educational awareness of the need for and importance of hazard mitigation can help to encourage home and business owners to retrofit their structures for improved protection. Hazard mitigation education is frequently provided by Emergency Management through outreach programs such as the Disaster Expo and presentations to homeowner or business groups prior to the annual hurricane season. These efforts are designed to encourage home and business owners to make preparations in advance of each hurricane season and will continue.

## **Mitigation Projects/Programs**

Appendix C identifies the current list of projects/programs included in the LMS. These can be funded through grant opportunities within Hazard Mitigation Assistance and other local, State, and Federal funding sources. The list developed includes information based on the project/program description, watershed location, responsible agency, project/program category, overview of funding sources, most relevant LMS goal and objective the project/program relates to, last update, and estimated costs.

Residential mitigation projects are not included in the LMS project list as they are fully documented and prioritized within the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). Since the highest level of vulnerability for the County is associated with flooding events, the list within the FMP accurately reflects the concerns of the community. However, recent updates to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) require the residential project to be adopted by the LMS Working Group and on the LMS Project List. The project titles and description will remain generic to adhere to the Privacy Act of 1974.

In addition to residential mitigation projects, retrofitting of critical facilities, drainage improvement projects, and generator projects are included in the LMS Project List. This comprehensive list will be analyzed by LMS Working Group and identify an additional funding opportunities to fund each project.

The availability of funding and the immediate priorities of the local government and municipalities will ultimately drive the selection of mitigation projects/programs for grant application submittal. The funding source, allocation, and priorities established by the grant program would determine if and when the mitigation projects/programs will be funded outside the regular local government budgetary process. The description of funding sources is based upon information currently available and does not preclude the consideration of other funding sources that are not identified here.

## **Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Actions: NFIP Compliance**

Pasco County and its municipalities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and as described below, maintain their rating under the Community Rating System through various programs. As stated earlier, a full description of this process is documented in the County's Floodplain Management Plan.

Approximately 35% of the land within Pasco County is controlled by governmental entities. This public land allows for beautiful wooded hammocks and open vistas and is an important component to the recharging of the underground Floridian Aquifer that provides water for much of West Central Florida. Public lands also allow space for flood waters to accumulate and dissipate, thereby reducing the possibility of flooding to nearby residences. Maintaining these natural areas contributes to the high water quality and adequate water supply that we enjoy in Pasco County.

In 2004, heavy rains from back-to-back hurricanes caused flooding in previously undocumented areas of the County. Isolated flooding was also seen in historically flood prone areas of the County during the drier seasons of 2005 and 2006. Periodic flooding, both from storm surge and from inland pooling of water, can occur in all sections of Pasco County. Many areas of the County contain environmentally sensitive lands and wetlands. Dumping in, polluting, or otherwise compromising these areas can place our water supply and natural areas at greater risk from flooding, which will certainly impact our developed areas.

The Pasco County Building Code and the National Flood Insurance Program regulations require that a structure must meet the same construction codes as a new building if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, repairs, additions, or other improvements is equal to or more than 50% of the existing structure's market value. This includes all floors of the structure. Buildings that are substantially damaged must also be brought up to the same codes and standards.

Due to the amount of development constructed within the floodplain, as well as an increase of stormwater runoff as a result of the overall increase of development, floodplain management has become an important component in protecting the well-being of the County's residents and property. To help decrease the vulnerability of flood damage for thousands of properties located within the coastal and floodplain areas, the County actively participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

In 1968, the US Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to provide affordable flood insurance to people living in high risk flood areas, also known as Special Flood Hazard Areas. The NFIP is a self-sustaining program administered by a branch of FEMA. The program makes flood insurance available in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances and regulations to reduce future flood damage (NFIP Communities).

Communities that participate in the NFIP adopt and enforce floodplain management programs in order to reduce future flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP provides federally backed flood insurance for property owners and renters in the participating communities. In addition to

providing flood insurance and reducing flood damage through floodplain management regulations, the NFIP identifies and maps the nation’s floodplains.

The NFIP has been successful in requiring new buildings to be protected from damage by a 100-year flood. However, flood damage still results from more frequent, less intense, flooding episodes and from flooding in unmapped areas. Under the CRS, there is an incentive for communities to do more than just regulate construction of new buildings to minimum national standards. The CRS adjusts flood insurance premiums to reflect community activities that reduce flood damage to existing buildings, manage development in areas not mapped by the NFIP, protect new buildings beyond the minimum NFIP protection level, and help insurance agents obtain flood data and help residents obtain flood insurance.

The objective of the CRS is to reward communities that are doing more than meeting the minimum NFIP requirements to help their citizens prevent or reduce flood losses. The CRS also provides an incentive for communities to initiate new flood protection activities. The goal of the CRS is to encourage, by the use of flood insurance premium adjustments, community and State activities beyond those required by the National Flood Insurance Program to reduce flood losses by:

- Protecting public health and safety,
- Reducing damage to buildings and contents,
- Preventing increases in flood damage from new construction,
- Reducing the risk of erosion damage,
- Protecting natural and beneficial floodplain functions,
- Facilitating accurate insurance rating, and
- Promoting the awareness of flood insurance.

Presently, all jurisdictions are active participants in the NFIP. According to FEMA, policy statistics in Figure 3.3:

**Figure 3.3**  
**Pasco County, FL NFIP Participation**  
**Data Obtained 7/31/2018**

| Community Name              | Policies In-Force | Coverage               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Pasco County Unincorporated | 22,670            | \$5,292,286,000        |
| City of Dade City           | 45                | \$10,370,400           |
| City of New Port Richey     | 1,192             | \$243,779,200          |
| City of Port Richey         | 719               | \$151,346,000          |
| City of San Antonio         | 6                 | \$1,691,000            |
| City of St. Leo             | 3                 | \$950,000              |
| City of Zephyrhills         | 148               | \$35,807,800           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>24,783</b>     | <b>\$5,736,230,400</b> |

*Source: Southeast Office, NFIP iService*

Pasco County entered the NFIP in 1977 and the last community assistance visit was conducted on July 23, 2018. The County currently has a Class 6 rating under the Community Rating System (CRS). To reiterate data shared earlier, there were 24,783 flood insurance policies in force countywide as of 07/31/2018. NFIP identified 508 repetitive loss properties in Pasco

County that are discussed in detail in Appendix D. This report, and its inclusion in the LMS, is required for the community to maintain its CRS status.

As a Class 6 community, Pasco County's CRS participation allows NFIP policyholders to receive a 20% discount on their flood insurance premium which translates to approximately \$4 million in policy savings. According to the County's most recent recertification documentation, received in January 2016, the County performs activities related to the items for which it receives credit as follows:

- Elevation Certificates
- Map Information Service
- Outreach Projects
- Flood Protection Information
- Higher Regulatory Standards
- Repetitive Loss Area Outreach Project
- Floodplain Management Planning
- Drainage System Maintenance
- Flood Protection Assistance

To summarize, the county and its municipalities will continue their commitment to NFIP by continuing to:

- Enforce the Floodplain Management Ordinance which regulates new development and substantial improvements in the special flood hazard areas.
- Maintain elevation certificates on file for all new construction in the SFHAs or for substantial improvements to properties in the SFHA.
- Use best available (flood map) data for issuing construction permits.
- Maintain public records and make them available for review.
- Maintain records pertaining to LOMAs, and LOMRs, etc.
- Provide information related to Flood Hazards, Flood Maps, etc., to the public upon request.
- Continue community outreach efforts for compliance with the Community Rating System program.
- Continue to promote Flood Insurance to property owners.
- Continue to update the public and enable their participation in the Flood Remapping Project.
- Maintain flood hazard publications at the main branch of the Library.
- Where feasible, continue to identify/acquire land in the SFHA open space/preservation.
- Promote hazard flood mitigation to the public.
- Continue drainage maintenance and drainage system improvement projects.
- Continue Floodplain Management activities and target a Class 5 rating.
- Enforce the adopted Floodplain Management Plan.

## ***Funding Sources***

A description of currently identified funding sources is provided below. The description includes an overview of the resource, eligibility criteria, type of assistance available, and a point of contact.

In addition to the funding sources for the mitigation projects/programs, there are additional programs available to citizens and homeowners to strengthen their homes and businesses through Florida Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

FLASH is a partnership of the insurance industry, state and federal government as well as national not-for-profit groups. The program is targeted at educating consumers about disaster mitigation. This is a multimedia campaign aimed at helping Floridians make their families, homes, and communities better able to withstand hurricanes and other severe windstorms. The initiative includes a toll free information line (1-877-221-SAFE), web site<sup>1</sup>, and television public service announcements concerning how to prepare for different hazards.

The NFIP provides flood insurance coverage for structures at risk in special flood hazard areas. The FDCA administers the NFIP in the state and provides technical assistance to local governments, residents and various building-trade groups on proper floodplain building and construction techniques. Insurance under the program is available only for loss due to flood. If floods damage a home or business, the NFIP may require the owner to meet certain building requirements to reduce flood damage. To help meet the costs associated with repairing or rebuilding, the NFIP grants policyholders up to \$30,000 through Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage to bring their home or business into current code compliance<sup>2</sup>.

There is a wealth of grant programs and various funding sources that can be used to fund identified mitigation projects. Figure 3.4 shows the funding sources list which is different programs that provide financial assistance to complete appropriately identified mitigation projects countywide. Figures 3.5 through Figure 3.30 describe each funding source in detail. Some programs on the list may no longer be in effect but are included because they have historically benefited Pasco County LMS Projects.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.flash.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/increased-cost-compliance-coverage>

**Figure 3.4  
Funding Sources Index**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Assistance to Firefighters Grant<br>(Figure 3.5)  | National Hurricane Program<br>(Figure 3.18)   |
| Buffer Zone Protection Program<br>(Figure 3.6)  | Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants<br>(Figure 3.19)  |
| Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State<br>Revolving Funds<br>(Figure 3.7)  | Outdoor Recreations-Acquisition; Development<br>and Planning (Land and Water Conservation Fund)<br>(Figure 3.20)  |
| Coastal Services Center Cooperative Agreements<br>(Figure 3.8)  | Pollution Prevention Grants Program<br>(Figure 3.21)  |
| Community Assistance Program-State (CAP-<br>SSEE)<br>(Figure 3.9)   | Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program<br>(Figure 3.22)  |
| Community Development Block Grant<br>(Figure 3.10)  | Public Assistance (PA)<br>(Figure 3.23)   |
| Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance<br>Trust Fund/Municipal Competitive Grant<br>(Figure 3.11)             | Repetitive Flood Claims Program<br>(Figure 3.24)  |
| Environmental Education Grant<br>(Figure 3.12)  | Severe Repetitive Loss Program<br>(Figure 3.25)   |
| Federal Highway Administration, Planning &<br>Environment, Intermodal and Statewide Programs<br>(Figure 3.13)           | Special Economic Development and Adjustment Assistance<br>Program-Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation (SSED)<br>and Long Term Economic Deterioration (LTED)<br>(Figure 3.26) |
| Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)<br>(Figure 3.14)  | Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century,<br>Surface Transportation Block Grant Program<br>(Figure 3.27)  |
| Florida Communities Trust (FCT)<br>(Figure 3.15)  | Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants<br>(Figure 2.28)  |
| Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)<br>(Figure 3.16)   | Water Pollution Control<br>(Figure 2.29)  |
| Hurricane Mitigation Loss Program(formerly<br>known as Residential Construction Mitigation<br>Program)<br>(Figure 3.17) | Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention<br>(Figure 2.30)  |

**Funding Sources Detailed**

**Figure 3.5  
Assistance to Firefighters Grant (Fire Prevention Safety Grant)<sup>3</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | Provide financial assistance to fire departments/non-affiliated EMS organizations to enhance their fire and related hazards capabilities and response needs. To support organizations lacking tools/resources necessary to effectively protect public health and safety and their response personnel with respect to fire and other hazards.  |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Fire departments, non-affiliated EMS organizations, public or PNP that have a formal arrangement to provide fire suppression or EMS, operating in the 50 States, District of Columbia, and US territory, to a population within a fixed geographical area on a first-due basis, but is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographical area where EMS is adequately provided by a fire department. |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | This program has no statutory formula. However, federal cost shares are based on populations as follows: over 50,000, a 20% share, 20,000-50,000, a 10% share and under 20,000, a 5% share. Also, a maintenance effort is applied to ensure that federal funds are used to supplement, not supplant existing programs.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Department of Homeland Security, Preparedness Directorate<br>245 Murray Lane, Bldg. 410, Washington, DC 20528   |

**Figure 3.6  
Buffer Zone Protection Program<sup>4</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) supports the DHS’s focus on infrastructure protection. It is intended to strengthen the critical infrastructure against risks associated with terrorist attacks by: 1. Identifying significant assets at the terrorist targeted site(s). 2. Identifying specific threats and vulnerabilities associated with the site(s) and its assets. 3. Developing a buffer zone extending outward from the facility in which preventive measures can be employed. 4. Identifying applicable LE jurisdictions and other Federal, State and local agencies having a role in the prevention of, protection against, and response to terrorist threats or attacks specific to the CI/KR site(s) and points of contact within these organizations. 5. Evaluating the capabilities of the jurisdictions with respect to terrorism prevention and response. 6. Identifying specific planning, equipment, training, and exercise requirements that better enable jurisdictions to mitigate threats and vulnerabilities of the site(s) and its buffer zone. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Through the BZPP, DHS continues to focus resources to reduce the risk associated with the highest priority CI/KR assets across targeted sectors, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest consequence chemical, nuclear, liquefied natural gas facilities</li> <li>• Critical water/wastewater systems and higher consequence dams</li> <li>• Transportation system critical nodes, select food and agriculture facilities</li> <li>• Critical telecommunications, banking, finance, public health and healthcare facilities</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | No cash or in-kind cost share for required for BZPP funds, but may change.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Department of Homeland Security, Grant Programs Directorate<br>Control Desk, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472   |

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/20601>

**Figure 3.7  
Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds<sup>5</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | EPA awards grants to States to capitalize their Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF). The States make loans for high priority water quality activities. As loan recipients make payments back into the fund, money is available for new loans to be issued to other recipients. Previously used to build wastewater treatment facilities, loans are now used increasingly for other water quality management activities, including: 1. agricultural, rural and urban runoff control; 2. Estuary improvement; 3. Wet weather flow control, including stormwater and sewer overflows; 4. Alternative wastewater treatment technologies; and 5. Non-traditional projects such as landfills and riparian buffers. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Grant funds available to States, Puerto Rico, Territories, District of Columbia and Indian Tribes can receive project grants from either EPA or Indian Health Service. States lend money to municipalities, communities, citizens' groups; nonprofit organizations; and private citizens implementing NPS and estuary management activities (provided for in State plans developed under CES Sections 319 and 320).  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Loans provided by States to eligible recipients, 20% State match is required.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management<br>SRF Branch, Municipal Support Division (4204)<br>401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460  |

**Figure 3.8  
Coastal Services Center Cooperative Agreements<sup>6</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The Coastal Services Center supports projects aimed at developing creative science-based solutions to coastal management issues that will allow maintenance or improvement of natural resources while also allowing for economic growth. The Center will support activities in the following program areas: Landscape Characterization and Restoration; the Coastal Change Analysis Program; Coastal Remote Sensing; Integration and Development; the administration of the Coastal Management Fellowship program; training and meeting facilitation; and Special Projects. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State and local governments, public nonprofit organizations, other public institutions/organizations.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project Grants (Cooperative Agreements).  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration<br>National Ocean Service, Coastal Services Center<br>2234 South Hobson Avenue<br>Charleston, SC 29405  |

**Figure 3.9  
Community Assistance Program-State (CAP-SSSE)<sup>7</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The CAP-SSSE is intended to identify, prevent and resolve floodplain management issues before they require enforcement action. FEMA annually informs each State of its eligibility to participate in the SSSE under notification separate from the solicitation package with the Cooperative Agreement Performance Partnership Agreement (PPA) Package. The SSSE is administered through the Mitigation Division of each FEMA Regional Office. The CAP-SSSE is a product-oriented program related to the NFIP flood loss reduction objectives. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States and Indian Tribes.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests. States are required to provide a 25% match.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA, Mitigation Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472  |

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://coast.noaa.gov/funding/links.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/community-assistance-program-state-support-services-element>

**Figure 3.10**  
**Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)<sup>8</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) provide for long-term needs, such as acquisition, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of damaged properties and facilities and redevelopment of disaster-affected areas. Funds may also be used for emergency response activities, such as debris clearance and demolition, extraordinary increases in the level of necessary public services. Eligible projects include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary acquisition, or if appropriate, elevation of storm damaged structures;</li> <li>• Relocation payments for displaced people and businesses;</li> <li>• Rehabilitation or reconstruction of residential and commercial buildings;</li> <li>• Assistance to help people buy homes, including down payment assistance and interest rate subsidies; and</li> <li>• Improvements to public sewer and water facilities.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State governments that have elected to administer CDBG funds for non-entitlement communities. States with designated major disaster areas may receive statutory and regulatory waivers of program requirements regarding the use of regular CDBG funds which recipients designate to address the damage.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Formula grants to States for non-entitlement communities. Additional grants are not available unless emergency supplemental CDBG funds are appropriated.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Department of Housing and Urban Development<br>Community Planning and Development<br>451 7 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC 20410   |

**Figure 3.11**  
**Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund/Municipal Competitive Grant Program<sup>9</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The EMPA provides competitive grants to state, regional, local governments, and PNP organizations to implement projects that will further state and local emergency management objectives. The Municipal Competitive Grant Program provides competitive grants to municipalities that are legally constituted, have an authorized, established, and maintained emergency management program, and have signed the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA). For both programs, applications are accepted in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects promoting public education on preparedness and recovery issues.</li> <li>• Projects enhancing coordination of relief efforts of statewide private sector organizations, including public-private business partnership efforts.</li> <li>• Projects to improve training and operations capabilities of agencies assigned lead or support responsibilities in the State CEMP.</li> <li>• Other projects that will further state and local emergency management objectives which have been designed by the State of Florida as priorities in the applicable Notice of Fund Availability.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State, regional agencies, local governments, and PNPs may submit multiple proposals to implement projects that will further state and local emergency management objectives; no individual proposal may exceed \$300,000. Each Municipal EM program may apply for one competitive grant not to exceed \$50,000 in requested grant funds.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund Program<br>Division of Emergency Management<br>2555 Shumard Oak Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32399  |

**Figure 3.12**  
**Environmental Education Grant<sup>10</sup>**

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/preparedness/grants-unit/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This grant provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate or disseminate environmental education projects, methods or techniques. Projects must focus on one of the following: 1.) improving environmental education teaching skills; 2.) educating teachers, students or the public about human health problems; 3.) building State, local, Tribal government capacity to develop environmental education programs; 4.) educating communities through community-based organizations; or 5.) educating public through print, broadcast or other media. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Local, Tribal or State education agencies, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, State environmental agencies, and non-commercial education broadcasting agencies.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants (up to \$25,000 regionally; \$25,000 to \$250,000 nationally) Non-Federal government match of 25% required.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency<br>Office of Environmental Education<br>401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460   |

**Figure 3.13  
Federal Highway Administration, Planning & Environment, Intermodal and Statewide Programs<sup>11</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The intent of the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Intermodal and Statewide Programs is the expeditious development and management of high quality feasibility studies with FHA funds. Within the context of Title 23 U.S.C. or in 23 CFR guidelines, the meaning of feasibility has the following parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The degree to which a given alternative mode, management strategy, designs or location is economically justified.</li> <li>• The degree to which such an alternative is considered preferable from an environmental or social perspective.</li> <li>• The degree to which eventual construction and operation of such an alternative can be financed and managed.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Public or private, profit or non-profit entities or individuals, Local government agencies, Universities, colleges, technical schools, institutes.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants (cooperative agreements). Matching funds may be required.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, ISTEA<br>400 7 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC 20590   |

**Figure 3.14  
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)<sup>12</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program helps States and communities identify and implement measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to homes and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Projects may include: 1.) elevation, relocation or demolition of insured structures; acquisition of insured structures and property; 2.) dry flood proofing of insured structures; 3.) minor, localized structural projects that are not fundable by State or other Federal programs (e.g. erosion-control and drainage improvements), and 4.) beach nourishment activities such as planting of dune grass. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State agencies, participating NFIP communities, or qualified local organizations. Communities that have been suspended from the NFIP are not eligible.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Planning grants to assist communities with the development of Flood Mitigation Plans (assessment of flood risk and identification of actions needed to reduce risk). Project grants for the implementation of measures to reduce flood losses.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA<br>Mitigation Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472   |

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/index.cfm>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

**Figure 3.15**  
**Florida Communities Trust (FCT)<sup>13</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This grant program facilitates the purchase of lands for conservation and/or recreation purposes by local governments. This land acquisition program helps to implement conservation, recreation, open space, and coastal elements of local comprehensive plans. The Board of Florida Communities Trust has latitude to consider innovative financing arrangements, loans, and land swaps. However, most of the Trust’s funding is for land acquisition. Land acquisition projects in which matching funds are available will receive more favorable consideration, although a portion of available funds may be awarded on outright grants. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States and Tribes.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Florida Communities Trust<br>2555 Shumard Oaks Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32399   |

**Figure 3.16**  
**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)<sup>14</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | Program assists States and communities implementation of long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. The program’s objectives are to prevent or reduce the loss of life and property from natural hazards, to implement State or Local Mitigation Strategies, to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during recovery from a disaster and to provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures benefitting the disaster area. Eligible projects include: elevation, relocation, acquisition or demolition of structures that will reduce future losses and retrofitting of critical facilities. Examples of eligible projects include: Structure hazard control or protection such as storm water control facilities; retrofitting of critical facilities such as flood proofing or installation of hurricane shutters; property acquisition, relocation and elevation to protect structures from future damage; small scale drainage improvements to existing drainage facilities; and other small scale flood protection measures to critical facilities. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State, local governments, certain private non-profit organizations or institutions, and Indian tribes or authorized Tribal organizations and Alaskan Native villages or organizations. Project must be in a declared disaster area (by the President).   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grant (match of funds or in-kind services required). FEMA can fund up to 75% of total eligible costs (50% if disaster was declared prior to 6/10/1993).  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA<br>Mitigation Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472  |

**Figure 3.17**  
**Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP) receives \$7 million annually from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Trust Fund. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State, regional agencies, local governments and private non-profits/for project organizations.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Competitive grants to implement projects furthering RCMP’s statutory objectives.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Florida Division of Emergency Management<br>2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399   |

**Figure 3.18**  
**National Hurricane Program<sup>15</sup>**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b> | This program provides state and local assistance; property protection; hazard identification and evacuation studies; post storm analysis; training and exercises; and public awareness and |
|-----------------|--|

<sup>13</sup> <https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/florida-communities-trust-home>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/national\\_hurricane\\_program\\_fs\\_july\\_2006.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/national_hurricane_program_fs_july_2006.pdf)

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
|                            | education campaigns, and materials to support State and local activities. The intent is to significantly reduce the loss of life, property, economic disruption and disaster assistance costs resulting from hurricanes. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Several states, including Florida  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests, States are required to provide a 25% match.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA<br>Mitigation Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472  |

**Figure 3.19**  
**Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants<sup>16</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The 319 program provides formula grants to the States to implement Nonpoint source projects and programs in accordance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Examples of previously funded projects include best management practices (BMPs) installation for animal waste, design and implementation of BMP systems for stream, lake and estuary watersheds; basin-wide landowner education program; and lake projects previously funded under the CWA Section 314 Clean Lakes Program. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States and Indian Tribes.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Formula grants are awarded to a lead agency in each State. States/local organizations are required to provide 40% of total project or program cost.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency<br>Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds<br>Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Nonpoint Source Control Branch<br>401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460  |

**Figure 3.20**  
**Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning<sup>17</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This grant program provides financial assistance to the States and their political subdivisions for the preparation of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) and acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities for the general public, to meet current and future needs. Acquisition and development grants may be used for a wide range of outdoor recreation projects, such as picnic areas, inner city parks, campgrounds, tennis courts, boat launching ramps, bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, and support facilities such as roads, water supply, etc. Facilities must be open to the general public and not limited to special groups. Development of basic, rather than elaborate facilities is favored. Fund monies are not available for the operation and maintenance of these facilities. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States and Indian Tribes.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Department of the Interior<br>Recreation Grants<br>National Park Service   |

**Figure 3.21**  
**Pollution Prevention Grants Program<sup>18</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This grant program provides project grants to States to implement pollution prevention projects. The grant program is focused on institutionalizing multimedia pollution (air, water & land) prevention as an environmental management priority, establishing prevention goals, providing direct technical assistance to businesses, conducting outreach, and collecting and analyzing data. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States and Indian Tribes.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests. States are required to provide at least 50% of total project costs.   |

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/nps/319-grant-program-states-and-territories>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/15916>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/p2/grant-programs-pollution-prevention>

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Contacts</b> | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency<br>Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics<br>Pollution Prevention Division<br>401 M Street SW<br>Washington, DC 20460 |
|-----------------|---|

**Figure 3.22  
Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program<sup>19</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The purpose of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program is to assist communities to implement hazard mitigation programs designed to reduce overall risk to the population and structures before the next disaster occurs. Mitigation projects that primarily focus on natural hazards are eligible, but communities may also apply for mitigation of hazards caused by non-natural forces.   |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State agencies; Federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, and local governments. Private non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply; except through a local government application for proposed activities on their behalf. All applicants must be participants in the NFIP if they have been identified through the NFIP as having a Special Flood Hazard Area. In addition, the community must be in good standing with the NFIP and participating in their respective county's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Grants provided to assist communities to implement hazard mitigation programs to reduce overall risk to the population and structures before the next disaster occurs. 25% State match is required.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Division of Emergency Management<br>Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation<br>2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399   |

**Figure 3.23  
Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program<sup>20</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This grant program provides supplemental assistance to States, local governments, and certain private non-profit organizations to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. Grants can be used to clear debris; apply emergency protective measures to preserve life and property in response to the declared event; and repair or replace damaged structures, such as buildings, utilities, roads and bridges, water-control facilities and recreational facilities. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States, Indian Tribes, and local governments. Also, eligible are PNPs that operate educational, utility, emergency or medical facilities, provide custodial care or essential services of a governmental nature to the public.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests. States are required to provide a 25% match.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA<br>Infrastructure Support Division<br>Response and Recovery Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472   |

**Figure 3.24  
Repetitive Flood Claims Program<sup>21</sup>**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>    | The Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which amended the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA) of 1968. The Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 eliminated the RFC program. The program details are to remain in the LMS to allow for reference to previously completed RFC projects. |
| <b>Eligibility</b> | State agencies, Local and Tribal Governments that participate in the NFIP communities and are in good standing.  |

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/repetitive-flood-claims-program>

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants for the implementation of measures to reduce flood losses. |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA<br>Mitigation Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472   |

**Figure 3.25  
Severe Repetitive Loss Program<sup>22</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which amended the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide funding to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 eliminated the SRL program. The program details are to remain in the LMS to allow for reference previously completed SRL projects. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State agencies, local and tribal governments that participate in the NFIP communities and are in good standing.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants for the implementation of measures to reduce flood losses.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | FEMA<br>Mitigation Directorate<br>500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472   |

**Figure 3.26  
Special Economic Development and Adjustment Assistance Program: Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation (SSED) and Long Term Economic Deterioration (LTED)<sup>23</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | The EAPG assists State and local areas in the development and/or implementation of strategies designed to address structural economic adjustment problems resulting from sudden and severe economic dislocation such as plant closings, military base closures and defense contract cutbacks, and natural disasters (SSED), or from long-term economic deterioration in the area's economy (LTED). Grants may be made to develop and Economic Adjustment Strategy or to implement such strategies. Grants may be made for the construction of public facilities, business development and financing (including revolving loan funds), technical assistance, training or any other activity that addresses the economic adjustment problem. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States, cities, counties or other political subdivisions, consortia of such political subdivisions, public or PNPs representing redevelopment areas designated under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, Economic Development Districts established under Title IV of the Act, Indian Tribes. Geographic areas, which meet either LTED and/or SSED eligibility criteria. LTED eligibility determined by: 1.) Very high unemployment; 2.) low per capita income; and 3.) chronic distress. For SSED eligibility, the economic dislocation must exceed certain job loss thresholds for the area.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants.  |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | Department of Commerce<br>Economic Adjustment Division<br>Economic Development Administration<br>Room H7327, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC 20230  |

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/collections/14>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

**Figure 3.27**  
**Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program<sup>24</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds may be used by State and local governments for any roads (including the National Highway System) that are not functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors. Each State sets aside 10% of STP funds for transportation enhancements, which can include water related projects, such as wetland mitigation and implementation of control technologies to prevent polluted highway runoff from reaching surface water bodies. Other transportation enhancements include landscaping and other scenic beautification, pedestrian and bicycle trails, archaeological planning and research, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, historic preservation, sidewalk modifications to comply with ADA, natural habitat or wetland mitigation efforts, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) capital improvements and environmental/pollution abatement projects. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Public or private, profit or non-profit entities or individuals, local government agencies, Universities, colleges, technical schools or institutes.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Project grants (cooperative agreements), matching funds may be required.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Department of Transportation<br>Federal Highway Administration<br>400 7 <sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC 20590   |

**Figure 3.28**  
**Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants<sup>25</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This program provides water and waste disposal facilities and services to low income rural communities whose residents face significant health risks. Funds may be used for 100% construction costs to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve a community water or sewer system; extend service lines and connect individual residences to a system. The program allows applicants to make grants directly to individuals to extend service lines, connect resident’s plumbing to system, pay reasonable charges and fees for connecting to system, installation of plumbing and related fixtures, and construction in dwelling of a bathroom. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | Local governments, Indian Tribes and non-profit associations.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Department of Agriculture<br>Rural Utilities Service, Water Programs<br>1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250   |

**Figure 3.29**  
**Water Pollution Control Program Grants<sup>26</sup>**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This program assists in the establishment and maintenance of adequate measures for prevention and control of surface and ground water pollution. The program provides broad support for the prevention and abatement of surface and ground water pollution from point and non-point sources including water quality planning, monitoring, water quality standards, assessments, permitting, pollution control studies, planning, surveillance and enforcement; advice and assistance to local agencies; training; and public information. Funds cannot be used for construction, operation, or maintenance of waste treatment plants, nor can they be used for costs financed by other Federal grants. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | States, Indian Tribes and interstate agencies for establishing and maintaining adequate measures for prevention and control of surface and ground water pollution.   |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Individual grants are awarded based on requests.   |
| <b>Contacts</b>            | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency   |

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/specialfunding/stp/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/water-pollution-control-section-106-grants/tribal-grants-under-section-106-clean-water-act>

**Figure 3.30**  
**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program<sup>27</sup>**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Overview</b>            | This program works through local government sponsors and helps participants solve natural resource and related economic problems on a watershed basis. Projects include watershed protection, flood prevention, erosion and sediment control, water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, wetlands creation and restoration, and public recreation in watersheds of 250,000 or fewer acres. Technical and financial assistance is available for installation of works of improvement to protect, develop, and utilize the land and water resources in small watersheds. |
| <b>Eligibility</b>         | State agency, county, municipality, township, soil and water conservation district, flood prevention or flood control district, Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or PNP with authority to execute operate watershed improvement works.  |
| <b>Assistance Provided</b> | Cost-sharing (funds cover 100% of flood prevention construction costs; 50% of construction costs related to agricultural water management, recreation and fish and wildlife; and none of the costs for other municipal and industrial water management). Technical assistance and counseling.   |
| <b>Contact</b>             | Local or State Natural Resources Conservation Service<br>Department of Agriculture<br>Natural Resources Conservation Service<br>P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013   |

### ***Plan Maintenance Process***

This plan will be monitored, evaluated and updated as needed to meet the changing needs of the community. To do so, the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group will convene quarterly to review and revise as necessary under the following circumstances:

- a) Annually in the month of January, or
- b) When actual events substantially alter or negate parts of the strategy, or
- c) At the request of a member of the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group; or
- d) At the request of a municipality or the local government.

All meetings will be preceded by one or all of the following forms of invitation to the working group members, municipalities, private and public non-profits, businesses, general public and any other interested parties: email, press release, advertisement in the local newspaper, posting on the County's official calendar website.

In addition, Emergency Management will annually solicit input from all working group members in order to prepare an annual progress report that accurately reflects the status of the LMS Working Group and its projects. The progress report will be presented to Florida Division of Emergency Management on behalf of Pasco County. In addition, all meeting information will be posted on the Emergency Management website starting in year 2018. It will include but is not limited to the agenda and meeting minutes for each meeting held. At a minimum, the following items will be reviewed to assess the status of the plan:

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<sup>27</sup> [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/?cid=nrcs143\\_008271](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/?cid=nrcs143_008271)

- **Relevance/Applicability:** Does the plan continue to be relevant to the community’s goals?
- **Usefulness/Benefits/Value:** Does the plan continue to be useful, provide benefits to the community and continue to have value to the residents of Pasco County?
- **Progress:** Is progress being made towards completion of plan goals and mitigation projects?
- **Participation:** Is there sufficient community involvement in the LMS process or does outreach need to be conducted?

The schedule/guide for the annual update is seen in Figure 3.31:

**Figure 3.31  
Annual Update Guide**

| Monthly Milestones | Action   |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>April</b>       | Solicit input for an update. Review plan, criteria and input received, prepare draft.  |
| <b>July</b>        | Public meeting to provide update in mitigation activities and modify report as appropriate.  |
| <b>August</b>      | Finalize report, submit for review to LMS Working Group and public.  |
| <b>October</b>     | Conduct an LMS Working Group meeting to approve or deny update   |
| <b>January</b>     | Conduct an LMS Annual Update Meeting to summarize all changes, project status updates/retires, grant updates, project submissions, and membership updates for the calendar year.<br>Submit the annual update to FDEM after this meeting commences. |

Every 5 years, the LMS Working Group will complete an intensive review and update to the Local Mitigation Strategy. This updated plan will be submitted and reviewed by FDEM and FEMA for approval. Post approval, the plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and the municipalities of New Port Richey, Port Richey, Zephyrhills, Dade City, San Antonio, and St. Leo. The newly adopted plan will be posted on the Emergency Management website. The schedule/guide to complete the 5 year update is seen in Figure 3.32.

**Figure 3.32  
5-Year Update Guide**

| Time from Due Date      | Action   |
|-------------------------|--|
| T-18 months             | First public meeting and formation of different subcommittees, begin data collection and research for the risk analysis. |
| T-12 months to 7 months | Public meetings, task assignments, plan updates, complete draft.   |
| T-6 months              | Final public meeting, plan approval by LMS Working Group, submit plan to State of Florida for review.                    |
| T-6 months to 3 months  | Make revisions if necessary.   |
| T-3 months              | Submit to FEMA for review.   |
| Target due date         | Receive FEMA approval.   |
| T+2 months              | Board of County Commissioners and Municipalities for adoption process.   |

The plan will be reviewed by Emergency Management in partnership with the following: the County’s Zoning, Planning, Engineering, the Cities of New Port Richey, Port Richey, Zephyrhills, Dade City, San Antonio, St. Leo, subcommittees consisting of appropriate members from the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, and the general public. This process will require members to provide detailed information concerning their projects, ordinances, progress

and programs. Emergency Management will compile the collected information which will be presented to the entire LMS Working Group and the public at various meetings for comment and approval. The review will be accomplished by public notices and published meeting information.

Public participation will be essential to producing a quality program for the County and the municipalities to implement. It is anticipated that notices will be placed in newspapers, public meeting places, libraries, and the County website to encourage participation in the process. It is also the intent of the members to personally encourage participation through public speaking engagements.

It is also recommended that the overall five year update advises on changes in development for Pasco County. Since the previous update in 2014, Pasco County continues to grow rapidly. The majority of the development has been through rejuvenation efforts of existing neighborhoods and commercial building along our major thoroughfares, specifically U.S. 19, State Road 54, and Ridge Road. The most recent and notable neighborhood development is the Bexley communities, Briar Oaks, Lakeside Estates, Epperson, and Starkey Ranch communities. The most notable developments from a commercial/infrastructure perspective includes AdventHealth ER Central Pasco (opened in January 2018), Florida Hospital Center Ice (opened in January of 2017), the Tampa Premium Outlets (opened in 2015), and the planned Wiregrass Sport Complex (estimated opening 2020). The newly developed and rejuvenated residential and commercial structures are reflected in the revised Hazard Identification Risk Assessments completed in Section II of this LMS.

Upon final approval of the plan by FDEM and FEMA, the Local Mitigation Strategy will be presented to the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners,

### ***Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms***

The County's Local Mitigation Strategy is incorporated into existing planning mechanisms as follows:

The Central Permitting section of the Building department enforces the Building Code Ordinance. The code has specific criteria related to both wind and flood mitigation. At the point of permitting, enforcement of the Code supports the mitigation strategy.

The Stormwater Management department manages the Floodplain Management Plan. The FMP is a broad planning document that focuses specifically on a mitigation strategy related to repetitive loss properties and flood mitigation in general throughout the entire County.

The Planning Department has a mechanism in place to identify the potential impact to shelters related to any new developments within the evacuation zones. A process is in place whereby developers must either address evacuation concerns or work with Emergency Management officials to develop mitigation plans or contribute financially to mitigation efforts.

Information from the 2019 LMS, specifically which is contained within the Risk Assessment section, will be compared against the existing Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). If that information is determined to be appropriate, then it will be added to the CEMP at the next update which is scheduled for 2020.

Each of these plans, processes, procedures and ordinances are therefore incorporated by reference to this Local Mitigation Strategy. Each is available for review at the Pasco County Office of Emergency Management.

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