



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
Regular Meeting

#12-2620

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee Feldman, City Manager

DATE: December 18, 2012

TITLE: Grant Application - Federal Emergency Management Agency, Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program - Repetitive Flood Claim Program, no match required

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a motion authorizing the proper city officials to apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance (HMA) Program for the Repetitive Flood Claim (RFC) Program through the state of Florida's Division of Emergency Management.

Background

The Commission was briefed on the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program on August 29, 2012.

FEMA offers three hazard mitigation assistance grant programs: Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC), and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL). These programs provide funds for:

- Property acquisition and structure demolition
- Property acquisition and structure relocation
- Structure elevation
- Mitigation reconstruction

RFC provides funds on an annual basis to reduce the risk of flood damage to individual properties insured under the NFIP that have had one or more claim payments for flood damages. RFC provides up to 100% federal funding for projects in communities that meet the reduced capacity requirements.

Direct benefits of these programs to the City of Fort Lauderdale include reduced flood insurance rates, reduced localized flooding, elimination of severe repetitive loss properties and enhanced green space.

Staff is recommending for the City to be a sub-applicant by December 2012 and request funds for acquisition and demolition of at least two properties with no required match through the RFC Program. While the state of Florida is encouraging early submittal by December 2012 for review, final applications may be submitted until March 2013 pending Federal approval of the program. The application process requires review and approval by both the state of Florida and FEMA.

These programs are available to all City of Fort Lauderdale residents, but individuals and businesses are not able to apply directly to FEMA for HMA funds. Instead, the City must act as the sub-applicant in order to secure funding to mitigate private structures. Applications must meet stringent criteria established by FEMA. These criteria include, but are not limited to, eligibility, completeness, cost effectiveness, engineering feasibility and effectiveness, environmental planning and historic preservation compliance.

Based on FEMA criteria, the Community Rating System Team has recommended guidelines for the eligibility and selection of applicants to ensure the preparation and submittal of competitive applications. Within the City, approximately 70 structures are classified by FEMA as repetitive loss structures. Approximately 30 residents have expressed interest in one of the three programs. Out of the 30, four residents were responsive to required documentation. Only two residents have met established criteria for acquisition and demolition.

Resource Impact

Implementation of this mitigation program may improve the City's Community Rating System score, therefore, providing additional discounts to our neighbors' annual flood insurance premiums. The Repetitive Flood Claim Grant Program does not require a match.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Memo 12-159

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