

REBUILD FLORIDA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT MATCH PROGRAM (HMGMP) APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Local Government Applicant Name:	DeSoto County
Official Project Title:	Fire Station #1 Safe Room
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):	GH9DBEQV5KK3
Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN):	59-6000579

Application Preparer: (This is the city/town/county employee that FloridaCommerce will contact regarding any question within your submitted application.)

First and Last Name:	Dennis Johnson
Title:	Grants Coordinator
Mailing street address:	201 E Oak ST Suite 201
City:	Arcadia
State:	Florida
Zip:	34266
Phone Number:	863-993-4800
Email Address:	d.johnson@desotobocc.com

Local project manager/lead contact: (This is the person who will lead the project locally.)

First and Last Name:	Dennis Johnson
Title:	Grants Coordinator
Mailing street address:	201 East Oak ST Suite 201
City:	Arcadia
State:	Florida
Zip:	34266
Phone Number:	863-993-4800
Email Address:	d.johnson@desotobocc.com

Location of Proposed Project

Street Address:	25 East Cypress St.
City:	Arcadia
State:	Florida
Zip:	34266

Please select which qualifying county this project is located in:

HUD MIDs

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brevard | <input type="checkbox"/> Manatee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte | <input type="checkbox"/> Monroe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collier | <input type="checkbox"/> Osceola |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DeSoto | <input type="checkbox"/> Pinellas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardee | <input type="checkbox"/> Polk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminole |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hillsborough | <input type="checkbox"/> Putnam |

State MIDs

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flagler | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glades | <input type="checkbox"/> Okeechobee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hendry | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Johns |

Does the proposed project exist within a fiscally constrained county (per [S. 218.67\(1\) F.S.](#))?

- Yes No

If "Yes," please select which fiscally constrained county:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DeSoto (HUD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Highlands (HUD) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glades (State) | <input type="checkbox"/> Okeechobee (State) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardee (HUD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Putnam (HUD) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hendry (State) | |

FLORIDA COMMERCE

Division of Community Development Office of Long-Term Resiliency (OLTR)

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Please select which National Objective the project addresses:

Low-Moderate Income (LMI)

Urgent Need (as outlined in the conditions of the HMGMP section of the Hurricane Ian Policy Manual)

Total service area population served:	33,976
Total LMI population served:	7626
Total Low- Income citizens served:	
Total Moderate- Income citizens served:	\$50,868
Total LMI percentage (%):	12.3%
Percentage of Total UGLG Population to be Served by this project:	33976

How was the LMI data obtained for this project?

Survey Data

Census Block Data

Please specify which census block groups were used in calculating your LMI service area.

Please [\[Attach\]](#) your LMI service area map.

The required LMI map should encompass the entire area benefiting from the project and depict all project sites if multiple locations exist. Applicants are to utilize HUD's Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) Area Data to determine the project benefits LMI families in the surrounding area. Applicants can also develop an income survey of the area as an alternative to the Census Data. HUD provides a demonstration to determine the area of benefit, whereas at least 51 percent of the residents shall be LMI to qualify for CDBG-DR assistance.

Map Tutorial Link:

Map URL Link:

If a survey was used to determine the LMI for your project, please upload the applicable survey data.

[\[Attach\]](#)

If you selected the "Urgent Need" National Objective, please select the applicable criteria, and provide a written justification on how this project qualifies to participate in the HMGMP.

- The existing conditions must pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.
- The existing conditions are of recent origin or recently became urgent (generally, within the past 18 months).
- The grantee is unable to finance the activity on its own.
- Other sources of funding are **not** available.

As a result of Hurricane Ian, Fire Station 1 sustained damage to the living quarters, truck carport, and fire apparatus bays. This damage has left first responders at this location without adequate on-site shelter during hazardous weather events. Without these critical facility components, personnel may be unable to safely remain on station and provide essential life-safety and emergency response services to the community during disasters.

Since Hurricane Ian, the County has experienced multiple additional disaster events, further limiting available local resources and making this project financially infeasible without external assistance. The proposed project is therefore dependent on grant funding to restore safe operational capacity at the facility.

This project will serve as a companion to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding administered through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. No other viable alternative funding sources are currently available to complete the proposed improvements.

HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA(S)

Historically underserved, geographic areas are those comprised of 51% or more population density of primary residents that are persons of color, persons of Native or Indigenous heritage, persons 62 years or older, and/or other historically underserved communities.

Please specify the applicable demographic information for the census block group(s) associated with this project.

All Census Block Groups provided in the previous section must be incorporated into these numbers.

American Indian and Alaska Native:	177
Asian:	192
Black or African American:	4,270
Hispanic or Latino:	10,011

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:	8
Some Other Race:	4,053
Two or More Races:	3,956
Person(s) 62 years or Older:	9,379
Other (non-specified):	
Total Historically Underserved Population:	33,976

Map Link:

Block Groups and Tracts

[https://data.census.gov/geo/maps/products/datafinder/0100000US\\$0500000/ACSDT5Y2020/B19083/B19083_001E?layer=VT_2020_140_00_PY_D1&breaks=Manual\(0.5\)&loc=28.1080,-81.9707,z6.0276](https://data.census.gov/geo/maps/products/datafinder/0100000US$0500000/ACSDT5Y2020/B19083/B19083_001E?layer=VT_2020_140_00_PY_D1&breaks=Manual(0.5)&loc=28.1080,-81.9707,z6.0276)

Citywide

[https://data.census.gov/geo/maps/products/datafinder/0100000US\\$0500000/ACSDT5Y2020/B19083/B19083_001E?layer=VT_2020_160_00_PY_D1&breaks=Manual\(0.5\)&loc=28.3135,-83.0454,z6.9752](https://data.census.gov/geo/maps/products/datafinder/0100000US$0500000/ACSDT5Y2020/B19083/B19083_001E?layer=VT_2020_160_00_PY_D1&breaks=Manual(0.5)&loc=28.3135,-83.0454,z6.9752)

Countywide

[https://data.census.gov/geo/maps/products/datafinder/0100000US\\$0500000/ACSDT5Y2020/B19083/B19083_001E?layer=VT_2020_050_00_PY_D1&breaks=Manual\(0.5\)&loc=28.9935,-82.1060,z7.4897](https://data.census.gov/geo/maps/products/datafinder/0100000US$0500000/ACSDT5Y2020/B19083/B19083_001E?layer=VT_2020_050_00_PY_D1&breaks=Manual(0.5)&loc=28.9935,-82.1060,z7.4897)

Please select which CDBG-DR eligible HMGMP activity that best describes your proposed program or project:

- Acquisition or relocation of hazard-prone structures
- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Debris removal
- Elevation of flood-prone structures
- Flood diversion
- Floodplain and stream restoration
- Infrastructure protection measures
- Minor structure flood control
- Permanent generators for a critical facility (not for the general conduct of government)
- Repair and hardening of existing buildings and facilities (not for the general conduct of government)

- Community safe room construction and/or homeless shelter
- Stormwater management improvements
- Relocation of police and fire facilities (moved out of floodplain)
- Relocation of UGLG owned and operated utilities (above ground to below ground)
- Other: _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Write an overview/summary of the HMGMP project being proposed.

Please include the following:

1. Project purposed.
2. How the work will be completed.
3. The team responsible for completing the work.
4. Method(s) used to determine funding requested.
5. Anticipated outcomes.
6. How the project will be maintained after it is completed.

The proposed project will be implemented at Fire Station 1, located in Arcadia at 25 East Cypress Street, Arcadia, Florida 34266. The purpose of this project is to improve life-safety protection for first responders and occupants by constructing a FEMA-compliant safe room within the existing facility. The safe room will provide near-absolute protection from extreme wind events, including hurricanes and tornadoes, in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency guidance in FEMA P-361 and FEMA P-320.

The project includes the design and construction of a hardened interior safe room integrated into the existing fire station. The structure will consist of reinforced poured concrete walls, impact-resistant metal doors, and interior finishes including drywall, trim, and flooring. The room will use existing electrical and potable water systems and will include a new mini-split HVAC system for ventilation and climate control. Construction will be completed by a qualified, licensed contractor in accordance with applicable building codes and FEMA standards.

The project team will include DeSoto County administrative staff and the DeSoto County Engineer, who will oversee coordination and compliance. A licensed design professional will prepare construction documents, and a qualified contractor will complete construction. Grant administration and reporting will follow all applicable state and federal requirements.

Funding was developed using preliminary cost estimates based on similar FEMA-compliant safe room projects, regional construction costs, and current material and labor pricing. Costs include design, permitting, construction, HVAC installation, and interior finishes.

The anticipated outcome is a hardened safe room that significantly reduces risk to life during extreme wind events and supports continued emergency response operations during disasters, improving community resilience.

After completion, the safe room will be maintained by the DeSoto County Facilities Department through routine inspections, HVAC servicing, and general upkeep to ensure long-term functionality and compliance.

DAMAGE SUMMARY

Write an overview/summary of how Hurricane Ian's damage impacted the service area and specifically this project.

Fire Station 1 is located in a rural area of DeSoto County, where access and operational continuity can be significantly compromised during major storm events. Hurricane Ian caused widespread damage throughout the region, disrupting critical infrastructure and further highlighting the vulnerability of emergency response facilities in the service area.

As a result of this event, the station's ability to safely shelter first responders during severe weather has been severely limited. The lack of an adequate, hardened refuge within the facility places personnel at increased risk during disaster conditions and may hinder the County's ability to maintain uninterrupted emergency services when they are needed most.

Given the station's isolated rural location and the potential for roadway flooding, wind damage, and extended emergency conditions, ensuring on-site protection for first responders is essential. The proposed safe room directly addresses this critical need by providing a secure, resilient space that allows personnel to remain safely stationed and continue supporting life-safety operations throughout disaster events.

This project strengthens overall service area resilience by ensuring that emergency responders have a protected environment from which to operate, even when surrounding infrastructure is compromised.

UNMET NEED

Describe how the proposed activity will address an Unmet Need tied to the impact of damage from the disaster (Note: All CDBG-DR activities must clearly address an impact of the disaster).

The proposed activity directly addresses an unmet need resulting from the impacts of Hurricane Ian, which exposed the vulnerability of Fire Station 1 and its inability to adequately protect first responders during severe weather events. The damage sustained to the facility, combined with the station's critical role in emergency response, has created a significant gap in safe, on-site sheltering capacity for essential personnel.

The construction of a FEMA-compliant safe room will address this unmet need by ensuring that the structural vulnerability of the facility does not place emergency response staff at risk during future disasters. The safe room is designed to provide near-absolute protection from tornadoes, hurricanes, and other extreme wind events, thereby safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of first responders who are required to remain on duty during emergencies.

This project aligns with established storm shelter design standards intended to promote consistency, reliability, and life-safety protection in hazardous weather conditions. By incorporating these standards into the facility, the County will ensure that emergency personnel have a secure environment in which to shelter in place while continuing to support critical response operations.

Ultimately, this activity closes a demonstrated gap in disaster resilience by providing a hardened refuge that allows essential services to continue without interruption during and after severe storm events.

BUDGET, ACTIVITY WORK PLAN, DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

Budget, AWP, and DOB Template

[\[Attach\]](#) Budget, Activity Work Plan, and Duplication of Benefits Worksheet.

[\[Attach\]](#) Quotes/Estimates used to determine funding request.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[\[Attach\]](#) Map clearly showing Project Location and/or Service Area.

[\[Attach\]](#) Most Recent Flood Plain Map.

PICTURES

Upload either up to ten (10) photos of the service area or any other relevant photos for the scoring team to review regarding the program or project.

FLORIDA COMMERCE

Division of Community Development Office of Long-Term Resiliency (OLTR)

Picture(s) [\[Attach\]](#)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC NOTICE

All applicants must conduct a public hearing or public comment period, notifying their citizens of their intent to seek CDBG-DR funding. In order to satisfy this requirement, please provide documentation for one of the two methods below.

Public Hearing

Date of Hearing Notice:	
Date of 1 st Public Hearing:	

Documentation of Public Hearing Notice [\[Attach\]](#)

Documentation of 1st Public Hearing

- Public Hearing Meeting Minutes [\[Attach\]](#)
- Public Hearing Certification [\[Attach\]](#)
- Citizen Participation Plan [\[Attach\]](#)
- Citizen Complaint Policy [\[Attach\]](#)
- Citizen Complaints from Public Hearing [\[Attach\]](#)

Public Comment Period

Date of Public Notice:	4/12/2026
Public Comment Start Date:	4/12/2026
Public Comment End Date:	4/27/2026

Documentation of Public Notice [\[Attach\]](#)

- Public Notice Certification [\[Attach\]](#)
- Citizen Participation Plan [\[Attach\]](#)

- Citizen Complaint Policy [\[Attach\]](#)
- Citizen Complaints from Public Comments [\[Attach\]](#)

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

As authorized Executive Officer, I certify that staff, contractors, vendors, and community partners of the CDBG-DR initiative:

FLORIDACOMMERCE

Division of Community Development Office of Long-Term Resiliency (OLTR)

- A. Will comply with all HUD and Florida requirements in the administration of the proposed CDBG-DR funded activities;
- B. Will work in a cooperative manner to execute the Subrecipient Agreement that provides the pathway for successful CDBG-DR program(s) and/or project(s) and;
- C. Certify that all information submitted in this Application is true and accurate.

Signature