



THE CITY OF KEY WEST
1300 White Street, Key West, FL 33040 (305) 809-3792

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager

FROM: Alison Higgins, Sustainability Coordinator
Scott Fraser, Floodplain Manager

DATE: June 21, 2018

SUBJECT: FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Opportunities

ACTION STATEMENT:

The City proposes to submit the attached list of 13 potential Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP) projects to the County to fulfill a step of the grant application process. This Resolution does not bind the City to accept any such grants if ultimately offered, but is a necessary step for the City to make application for these grants.

This Resolution is also designed to meet similar requirements for additional disaster recovery funding being made through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) via Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

BACKGROUND

Declared disasters are allocated recovery monies into multiple FEMA funding programs. These funds are administered by the State through the County governments to local municipalities. One such opportunity is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The City has submitted 20 projects that have been ranked by the County's Local Mitigation Strategy group, which makes these projects eligible for the multiple funding programs. HGMP is the fund that is coming available first.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs funds wind mitigation (roofs, windows, doors), power mitigation (generators), enhancements to Emergency Operations Centers and flood mitigation (drainage, wells). The City wishes to advance 13 projects to be considered for HGMP funding. HMGP's pre-application process requires all potential projects be submitted by Resolution through the Countywide Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) managed by the County, in which the City participates.

Current available monies through HGMP will not cover all projects listed, but additional Tier 2 and even Tier 3 funding announcements are anticipated during the next year. Thus, any project beyond the current available funding limits, may later become eligible, if submitted now.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced \$616 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) will be made available to Florida in support of long-term hurricane recovery efforts. Details of this funding are still being processed by HUD. City staff desire the flexibility to shift funding proposals between FEMA and HUD as determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Thus, this Resolution addresses the pursuit of both disaster funding options separately, with the understanding that ultimately no duplication of benefits nor costs may occur.

Applications are due July 30th. If a project is awarded, the City later has the option to accept or decline the grant. The acceptance of any such grant must return to the City Commission for review, funding of the local cost share and approval.

PURPOSE & JUSTIFICATION

The projects listed benefit first responder buildings as well as key public service buildings owned by the City. The grant provides for 75% of the funding for the project, so the City would only have to pay for 25% of a project that would make our crucial facilities more resilient to storms. This will help us better provide for our community in the event of a major storm.

If the City opts not to pass a resolution naming potential projects, no projects will be eligible for HGMP funding associated with Hurricane Irma's disaster recovery efforts.

FEMA's HMGP program is separate from its Public Assistance disaster recovery program that reimburses storm related costs; yet the City must ensure no duplication of benefits occurs between the two.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No immediate financial impact.

If awarded by the federal government, and then accepted by the City, 25% of project costs are the responsibility of the City, as a cost reimbursable grant.

If any of the projects submitted are awarded by FEMA/HUD, the City Manager will return to the City Commission for approval of the grant contract and funding the local 25% match.

The grand total of all potential grant opportunities identified herein total \$28,688,95 for FEMA/HUD's 75%, accompanied by a City 25% share of \$9,562,985.

It's unrealistic to believe all these projects will be awarded to the City, but making application for all these projects increases the likelihood some will be awarded, if not now, potentially later.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager, upon the advice and consent of the City Attorney, to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and HUD Community Development Block Grant funding opportunities in the respective dual amounts of \$28,688,95, with a local 25% match not to exceed \$9,562,985.