

CUMULATIVE FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be receiving subgrant applications from the State of Florida for acquisition and demolition, wind retrofit, mitigation reconstruction and/or elevation of residential properties. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9.12, FEMA hereby gives cumulative notice of the intent to provide statewide funding for these projects under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) a result of tropical storms Debby, Helene and Milton.

An Initial Public Notice posted on August 29, 2024 for Debby <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-federal-register-notice/4806-dr-fl-initial-public-notice> , October 2, 2024 for Helene <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-federal-register-notice/4828-dr-fl-initial-notice> and October 19, 2024 for Milton <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-federal-register-notice/dr-4834-public-notice-001>. Comments and other information received were fully evaluated by FEMA along with evaluation of social, economic, environmental, and safety considerations. This serves as a cumulative Final Public Notice for FEMA's funding action for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) HMGP expedited activities that may be located within, affect, or be affected by floodplains or wetlands.

The purpose of acquisition projects is to permanently eliminate the risk of future flood or other hazard damages and to prevent health and safety risks for property owners. The proposed scope of work for acquisition and demolition may include the following: On a completely voluntary basis which property owners may opt out of, a County may acquire a property within its jurisdiction. If a property owner opts out of a county acquisition, the property owner may proceed with elevation, or reconstruction and elevation, depending on the extent of damage to the property. Should a County enter into a voluntary agreement with a property owner to acquire a property, all structures on the property will be demolished. Demolition activities include removal of foundations, removal or capping of utilities, removal or filling of septic tanks, and/or removal of ancillary buildings such as barns, garages, fencing, etc. Management and disposal of all associated debris shall adhere to all Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements and adhere to all Florida General Statutes. The property will be converted into open space and deed restricted as set forth in the FEMA program requirements concerning the acquisition of property for open space at 44 CFR 206.434 (e).

Mitigation reconstruction projects aim to significantly reduce potential future flood damage to structures, enhancing resilience and ensuring the safety of their occupants. The proposed scope of work for mitigation reconstruction projects may include the following. Mitigation reconstruction will entail demolition of the existing primary living structure on the property and rebuilding a new code-compliant structure, possibly on a new foundation, with the first floor elevated to the highest elevation required among local, state, and federal floodplain management and flood risk reduction requirements. Activities may include site preparation, disconnection of utilities, and elevation of electrical and mechanical equipment located outside the structure. Any enclosed space at grade level shall have hydrostatic vents and can only be used for storage or parking. The square footage of the newly constructed and elevated structure shall be no more than ten percent greater than the original square footage. The project shall be designed and constructed in compliance with the Florida Building Code, ASCE 24-14 or latest edition, the Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards in 44 CFR Part 60, applicable floodplain ordinances, and all other applicable local regulations. Management and disposal of all associated debris shall adhere to all Florida Department of Environmental Protections requirements and adhere to all Florida General Statutes.

Structure elevation projects aim to significantly reduce potential future flood damage to structures, enhancing resilience and ensuring the safety of their occupants. The proposed scope of work for projects that involve only elevation may include the following. Elevate the existing, primary living structure on the property such that the first floor is elevated to the highest elevation required among local, state, and federal floodplain management and flood risk reduction requirements. Activities may include site preparation, disconnection of utilities, and elevation of electrical and mechanical equipment located outside the structure. Any enclosed space at grade level shall have hydrostatic vents and can only be used for storage or parking. The square footage of the newly constructed and elevated structure shall be no more than ten percent greater than the original square footage. The project shall be designed and constructed in compliance with the Florida Building Code, ASCE 24-14 or latest edition, the FFRMS, NFIP standards in 44 CFR Part 60, applicable floodplain ordinances, and all other applicable local regulations. Management and disposal of all associated debris shall adhere to all Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements and adhere to all Florida General Statutes.

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Wind retrofit projects aim to reduce the risk of future wind damage to structures. The proposed scope of work for wind retrofit projects may include alterations to the roof, windows, doors, and other vulnerable components of structures, and must be designed to meet or exceed the design criteria found in FEMA P-804. Activities may include replacing roof and wall coverings, protecting openings, strengthening vents and soffits, connecting structural systems, bracing gable end walls, and strengthening connections to attached structures. The project shall be designed and constructed in compliance with the Florida Building Code, ASCE 24-14 or latest edition, the Federal Flood Risk Management Standards (FFRMS), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards in 44 CFR Part 60, applicable floodplain ordinances, and all other applicable local regulations. Management and disposal of all associated debris shall adhere to all Florida Department of Environmental Protections requirements and adhere to all Florida General Statutes.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. EO 11988 and EO 11990 require FEMA to consider alternatives and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands.

As proposed, the above proposed elevation projects constitutes an Adverse Effect to Historic Properties under 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1) for the elevation of numerous structures which may be listed on or listed as contributing to the National Register of Historic Places. FEMA in consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other consulting parties are in coordination to resolve any adverse effects of the Undertaking as per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In accordance with the Programmatic Agreement currently in effect with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), and Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) (Agreement), executed in 2014, as extended through amendment in 2024 FEMA is recommending the following treatment measures from Appendix C of the agreement to resolve the adverse effect:

Treatment Measure D – Historic Context Statements and Narratives for areas to be provided to FEMA by the SHPO.

Treatment Measure F – FEMA, in coordination with SHPO, shall update the Historic Property Inventory for communities to be provided by the SHPO.

In determining if a proposed action is in the floodplain, FEMA will identify whether the action is subject to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) (any action where FEMA funds are used for new construction, substantial improvement, or to address substantial damage to a structure or facility, and to all structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, and dry floodproofing actions under HMGP). If the action is subject to the FFRMS, FEMA will establish the FFRMS floodplain area and associated flood elevation by using the process specified in 44 CFR 9.7(c) and FEMA Policy: FFRMS (FP 206-24-005). For actions not subject to the FFRMS, FEMA will use the 1% annual chance (base or 100-year) floodplain and flood elevation for non-critical actions and the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) floodplain and flood elevation for critical actions. For all FEMA programs and project types, if a state, local, tribal, or territorial government has its own higher elevation standard, FEMA requires use of the higher standard. FEMA program policies also reference additional consensus codes and standards, such as ASCE-24-14, that incorporate additional elevation requirements beyond the base flood elevation.

FEMA has determined that the only practicable alternative is to fund these mitigation projects as quickly as possible to provide relief to the socioeconomic challenges property owners are experiencing before, during, and after disasters. The three alternatives proposed; as described above, are deemed practicable based on the variables of the property such as existing conditions of structures, topography, property owners' decision, and other environmental and socioeconomic factors or constraints. The no action alternative has been quickly dismissed due to the need to be proactive and not reactive to multi-hazard threats to property owners in the State of Florida.

For the above stated actions, this will be the final public notice from FEMA. Other activities and those involving facilities that do not meet the criteria described above are required to undergo more detailed review including the study of alternative locations. Subsequent project-specific final public notice(s) regarding such projects will be published, if

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necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

Comments: Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing or email with the subject line “**Elevate Florida**” at the above addresses within 15 days of the date of this notice.