

ECFRPC CDBG-MIT Project “Advancing Mitigation Assessment and Planning Through Regional Collaboration” Open for Public Comment July 15 – July 28, 2020

The East Central Florida Regional Planning is applying to the CDBG-MIT Planning Grant funding opportunity (<http://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitgation>) in partnership with five (5) other RPCs. The project team for this proposal, “Advancing Mitigation Assessment and Planning Through Regional Collaboration” represents a collaborative approach through the partnership of six (6) regional planning councils: Northeast Florida, East Central, Treasure Coast, Central, Tampa Bay and North Central. A total of \$1.5 million, over 3 years, is being requested for allocation across the six (6) regional planning councils to fulfill the proposal tasks as outlined below. As per the requirements of the application process, information about the proposal is found below and is open for public comment from July 15-July 28th. All public comments should be sent to Pegge Parker at pegge@ecfrpc.org no later than 5pm on July 28th for consideration.

“Advancing Mitigation Assessment and Planning Through Regional Collaboration”

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council is applying to the DEO-MIT Planning Grant funding opportunity (<http://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitgation>) in partnership with five (5) other RPCs. The project team for this proposal, “Advancing Mitigation Assessment and Planning Through Regional Collaboration” represents a collaborative approach through the partnership of six (6) regional planning councils: Northeast Florida, East Central, Treasure Coast, Central, Tampa Bay and North Central. A total of \$1.5 million, over 3 years, is being requested for allocation across the six (6) regional planning councils to fulfill the proposal tasks as outlined below.

Efforts across Florida, especially in northeast, east central, south and Tampa Bay have aimed to increase resilience through a regional approach and consistency. Echoed across the country, regions have gained momentum by advancing this approach and continue to learn from development of processes as each region conveys distinctive expertise, circumstances and response to shocks and stressors to the forefront.

As such, this project proposes to amplify ongoing efforts and applications of the Northeast Florida, Tampa Bay and East Central Florida Regional Planning Councils and expand them not only within their regions, but across boundaries to other regions (North Central, Central and Treasure Coast) in Florida in order to provide a more cohesive and consistent statewide approach to planning for and mitigating impacts from natural hazards. Additionally, as most efforts recently have been to develop tools and strategies for coastal areas, the team will join forces to transfer the models and planning efforts to inland counties as Hurricane Irma, and other past hurricanes and events, have shown that flooding and other impacts are not isolated to the Florida coastline. Inland counties across Florida present a gap in planning for future conditions to the level that coastal communities have been privy to. Filling this void allows for a regional approach to understand and mitigate future risks. The vulnerabilities that will be examined with this project will be naturally occurring and will use Local Mitigation Strategy identified vulnerabilities in the regions combined with other hazards as identified by stakeholders.

Together with the understanding of risk and vulnerabilities and the engagement of local and regional stakeholders and experts, a regional mitigation needs assessment and mitigation project list, combined with pilot small area plans and best practice development would serve to fill a multitude of resilience gaps and strive to implement a greater integrated resilience and mitigation planning across the state of Florida. To that end, this approach is the closest thing to approaching a statewide resiliency assessment

framework and model. The team proposes to coalesce multiple regional climate resiliency approaches into a comprehensive statewide climate resiliency plan, of sorts. Foremost in this approach is the inclusion of inland areas of the state, which are never touched by the sea. The framework and plan will include, but not limited to:

- Comprehensive multi-locational mitigation assessment and template for Florida use
- Mitigation priority areas and project list
- Selective Small Area Plans for Priority Areas
- Interactive Online Best Practices Application
- Visual Online statewide resiliency site with representative map application
- GIS Flood Assessment Model available for statewide use (not a web display tool)
- Stakeholder Engagement

While the entirety of this project's process is driven by stakeholder engagement, in year 3, the project team will hold workshops and webinars across the regions to showcase the project deliverables, train end-users on the tools available to them and build capacity in regards to strategies in mitigation planning and solutions.

The coordination among the regions will work to elevate resiliency across the State. Currently, there is no statewide framework to implement resiliency, and while work is ongoing in many local governments and in regional collaboratives, this project takes steps towards aligning resiliency efforts statewide. It is anticipated that statewide partnerships and initiatives will result from this three-year planning project.