

We Are Here to Serve Our Home.

OVID Solutions is a small consulting firm that specializes in rural economic development, affordable housing and disaster recovery. Our firm is the expert on Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding in the Florida Panhandle. Prior to January of 2019, the owner of OVID Solutions served as the top Community Development Official for the State of Florida, managing CDBG-DR dollars in the wake of Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma. In addition, she spent years overseeing traditional CDBG funds and managed most of the state funding available to rural communities to grow their economy. We know how to help your community compete for these dollars because we have made decisions on how it is spent.

Our team was born and raised in the Florida Panhandle and OVID Solutions was created out of the desire to help our home recover and build back stronger than ever. We are in it for the long haul. Whether a small town looking to grow or a city overcoming a major disaster, our promise is to love a community like it is our own home – and in the Florida Panhandle, it is.

Contact Us

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This guide is meant to help communities evaluate potential projects based on basic CDBG-DR requirements in advance of the release of official guidance from Florida DEO. It is not a list of the full grant requirements.

Getting Your Projects Ready for CDBG-DR Funding



Developing competitive projects to make our hometowns stronger in the wake of Hurricane Michael.

What is CDBG-DR Funding?

The State of Florida will receive \$735 million in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for long-term recovery following Hurricane Michael. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is responsible for distributing the funding to impacted communities. DEO is currently developing a plan on how the State will spend this money and may begin to accept applications from communities in the Summer or Fall of 2020. Now is the time to prepare projects so that your community is ready to maximize this opportunity.

Selecting a Project

Eligible activities may include:

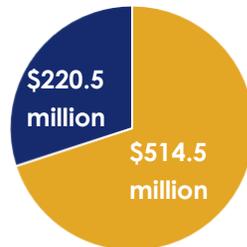
- Infrastructure (water and sewer facilities, generators, debris removal, drainage, bridges, etc.);
- Public facilities such as emergency community shelters;
- Demolition, rehabilitation of commercial or industrial buildings;
- New construction of affordable housing
- Workforce recovery training; and
- Voluntary home buyouts.

Note: The list of eligible activities may change in June of 2020 when DEO completes the Hurricane Michael CDBG-DR Action Plan.

Addressing a National Objective of the CDBG Program

To meet a National Objective the project must:

- Address an urgent need in the community,
- Reduce slum and blight, **OR**
- **Benefit a low- and moderate-income area.**



At least 70 percent of the \$735 million (\$514.5 million) must be spent on activities that benefit low- and moderate-income households, therefore it is best to meet this objective where possible, but not required. A low- to moderate-income area is a defined area where at least 51 percent of the households are at or below 80 percent of the area median income level, [set by HUD](#). There is an interactive [online map](#) that can help you find these areas in your community.

Tie-Back to Hurricane Michael

The project will need to address an issue that resulted from Hurricane Michael. It is important to show the damage to this area using data (pictures, numbers, official reports, etc.) – don't forget to document the damage of the area before it is cleared.

Tie-Back to Unmet Housing Needs

Funding that addresses unmet housing needs is prioritized under CDBG-DR. However, this does not mean only the repair of homes. This can include infrastructure to serve neighborhoods, increasing capacity of infrastructure to allow for the creation of new homes, etc. understanding the housing shortage resulting from the storm. By tying in support to housing, a community can increase the competitiveness of their application, however this is not required.

Connection to Local Plans

A competitive project will connect to a larger vision for the community. This may mean a long-term recovery plan, the Countywide Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) or other community plan. If the project meets the criteria for the LMS and is not currently in the plan, it is a good idea to get the project added. The project should also describe how it will make the community more resilient in the future.

Readiness to Proceed

There are time limits on spending CDBG-DR dollars so projects that are ready to go will often score higher. If a community cannot check "yes" in the boxes below, now is the time to work on these tasks to make your project more competitive.

Does the project have:	Yes	No
Site Control?		
Zoning and Community Approval?		
Procured and Contracted Members of Development and Construction Team?		
Commitment of Matching Funds?		

Match dollars are not required for CDBG-DR. However, it can make the project more competitive. While CDBG-DR funds cannot be used to duplicate other state or federal funding, it can be matched with sources like the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), State Rural Infrastructure Funds (RIF), etc.