



## **Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum**

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**To:** Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers

**From:** Edward Pidermann, Town Manager

**Subject:** Rebuild Florida Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP)

**Date:** June 16, 2020

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### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to apply for the Rebuild Florida Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP) to provide funding for the Roberto Alonso Community Center Critical Facility Energy Resiliency Project in an amount not to exceed \$525,000, and if funded, to authorize the Town Manager to accept grant funds, execute the grant agreement, take all necessary steps to implement the terms and conditions of the agreement, expend budgeted funds in connection with this Program, and to submit requests for reimbursements in connection with this Program.

### **Background**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the state of Florida would receive over \$633 million in funding to support long-term mitigation efforts (following Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma) through HUD's newly created Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program. This funding is designed to address mitigation needs to ensure that the state of Florida is more resilient to future natural disasters. A total of \$75 million was allocated for the Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP). The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is the lead agency and responsible entity for administering the CDBG-MIT funds allocated to the state. Applicant matching funds are not required for this Program.

According to guidelines, at least 50% of these funds must be spent in HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas. The HUD-designated MID areas include Brevard, Broward, Clay, Collier, Duval, Hillsborough, Lee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, St. Lucie, and Volusia counties. The remaining funding can be spent in state designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas. Additionally, at least 50% of the funding must benefit low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities. The CDBG-Mitigation Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Communities Map is enclosed as Exhibit A.

For purposes of the CFHP, critical facilities are defined as the buildings/structures that serve a public safety purpose for local communities, including emergency shelters and emergency operation centers. Critical facilities are essential for the functioning of a community and typically house operations that, if interrupted, will cause a negative impact on at least one of the seven community lifelines identified below:

- 1) Safety and Security
- 2) Food, Water, Shelter
- 3) Health and Medical
- 4) Energy (Power & Fuel)
- 5) Communications
- 6) Transportation
- 7) Hazardous Materials

The CFHP allocation is focused on addressing LMI communities and urgent needs. One of the eligible activities under the Program is energy resiliency projects that help ensure the most critical facilities in Florida communities have access to power throughout and following an emergency when local sources of power are down. Currently, the Roberto Alonso Community Center, located at 16500 NW 87th Avenue, in Miami Lakes, serves as a critical facility within a designated LMI Block Group, benefiting low-and-moderate income (LMI) persons. In addition, this critical facility meets the CDBG National Objective, “Urgent Need”, by activating an emergency operations center before, during and after storms.

The Roberto Alonso Community Center Critical Facility Energy Resiliency Project will include the design, permitting, purchase, and construction of a new generator to replace the existing back-up power source to avoid disruption of emergency operations and mitigate threats and emergency-related challenges at this facility.

### **Benefits**

If awarded, the Rebuild Florida Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Critical Facility Hardening Program (CFHP) will provide the necessary funding for the Roberto Alonso Community Center Critical Facility Energy Resiliency Project to ensure this facility has reliable, maximum, and continuous emergency energy supply in the event of a power failure due to storms or natural disasters in Florida communities.