

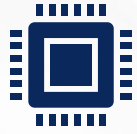


County Webinar: Elevate Florida Program Overview

FEBRUARY 12, 2025



Agenda



Elevate Florida Program Overview



Portal and Contact Center Metrics



Responsibilities and Future Engagement



Frequently Asked Questions



Closing



Program Overview and Eligibility

The primary purpose of the Elevate Florida Program is to offer timely and effective disaster assistance to residents of Florida who have been impacted by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and other catastrophic events.

To become a potential participant of the Elevate Florida program, applicants must:

- ✓ Be over the age of 18,
- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen,
- ✓ Be the legal property owner of a residential property in the State of Florida, and
- ✓ Be able to contribute up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the project's total cost.

Multi-family real estate such as duplexes, triplexes, condos, townhomes, semi-detached homes, apartments, and manufactured homes may be eligible.

Application

- Property owners can apply on the Elevate Florida Portal found at fdem-resmit.my.site.com
- For inquiries, individuals can email info@elevatefl.org or call the contact center Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. ET at 877-ELEV8FL (877-353-8835).
- For more information, visit the floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/elevate-Florida/

Elevate Florida is designed to expedite the application process and complete a resident's mitigation project. Below are the eligible project types which people applying for the program will see as a drop-down menu selector during the application process.



Structure Elevation

Physically raising an existing structure.



Mitigation Reconstruction

The construction of an improved, elevated building on the same site where an existing building and/or foundation has been partially or completely demolished or destroyed.



Acquisition / Demolition

A structure is purchased from voluntary sellers and demolished, to be maintained by the local community as open space. The local community must agree to participate in this project type.



Wind Mitigation

Measures that reduce the risk of future wind damage to structures. This may include alterations to the roof, windows, doors, and other vulnerable components of structures.



Program Timeline

Depending on project, up to two years:

Less than one week

One to four months

Two to three months

Three to nine months

Stage 1

APPLICATION
SUBMITTAL

Applications are reviewed upon submission to check for completeness or additional information needs.

Stage 2

APPLICATION
REVIEW

Case manager conducts initial review to determine grant(s) eligibility.

The property owner will sign a pre-inspection contract and provide the resident cost-share for initial inspections.

Stage 3

DECISION AND
APPROVAL

The application package is submitted to FEMA for final approval and award.

The property owner signs the construction contract, pays the cost-share for construction, and arranges housing during construction.

Stage 4

CONSTRUCTION

Occupants vacate during construction to provided temporary housing.

Construction begins with State-assigned contractors providing turnkey services.

Stage 5

CLOSEOUT

After construction, a final inspection and closeout packet with necessary documentation will be provided to property owners.

The criteria for prioritizing applications for the Elevate Florida program, after initial eligibility screening, is to aim for effective use of grant funding for properties and areas with the most need while meeting FEMA deadlines. The five categories highlighted below do not indicate one area as prioritized over another.



**NFIP
REPETITIVE
LOSS**



**GEOGRAPHIC
AREA, FLOOD
ZONE**



**PRIMARY
RESIDENCE**



**SUBSTANTIAL
DAMAGE**



**STRUCTURE
TYPE**



Elevate Florida Responsibilities

State

Implementation: Oversee property owner assistance, application development, assignment of inspection and construction contractors, and project management from application to closeout.

Agreements: Develop and execute agreements and MOUs with local communities and residents, as applicable.

Project Approvals: Conduct project reviews and approvals throughout the duration of the program and align with program goals and requirements.

Application Review and Determination: Validate applications meet all necessary criteria and standards.

Closeout: Conduct project closeout and submit to FEMA.

Local Jurisdictions

Agreements: Review and execute agreements and MOUs with FDEM, as applicable.

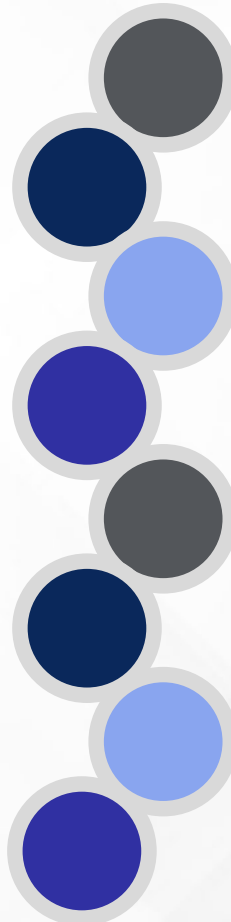
Permits: Process and issue local permits.

Acquisitions: Determine if your community will allow acquisition projects. Execute agreement with FDEM to transfer ownership of property to local community. Maintain property as open space in perpetuity.

Deed Restrictions: Assist with processing deed restrictions for participating properties.

Certificate of Occupancy: Conduct inspections and issue Certificates of Occupancy for mitigated structures.

HMGP Funding Allocation: May allocate additional funding to support projects in their county.





Community Coordination

County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Groups

- Project Management Team will coordinate with communities to execute Agreements and MOUs
 - Potential MOUs: Program Authority, Reallocation of HMGP
 - Potential Agreements: Acquisitions
 - Other Potential Forms: Acknowledgement of Conditions (application form)
- FDEM will provide information about awarded projects upon FEMA approval for record keeping

County/Community Assistance

- Coordinate with FDEM and Project Management Team to identify appropriate points of contact
- Amplify outreach efforts and coordinate potential application intake events, as needed
- Help combat program misinformation
- Assist FDEM coordination with local Building Departments for permitting and local inspections



Program Funding

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Statewide: ~\$234 million
 - State set aside
 - Based on 30-day estimate, may increase or decrease at 12-month lock-in
- County Allocation (voluntary)
 - County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Groups may reallocate a portion of their Hurricane Helene or Milton County Allocation to Elevate Florida
 - 30-day Estimate will be published soon
 - Funds will be utilized for your county's residents
 - FDEM will reach out soon to gauge interest and determine percentage

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current

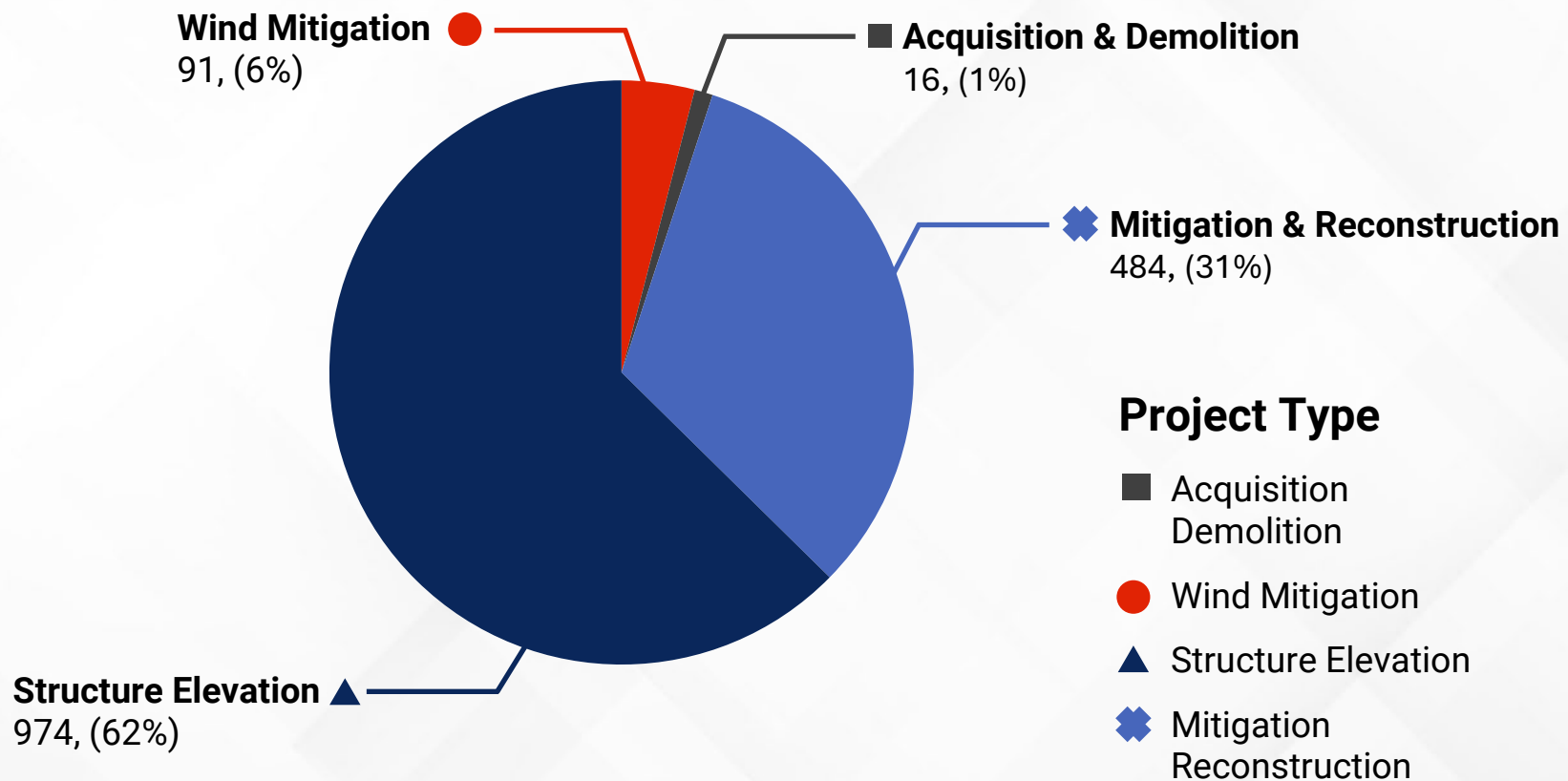
- Statewide: \$100 million
 - Allocated to State of Florida for Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton
 - Funding will prioritize NFIP-insured severe repetitive loss (SRL) and RL properties



Overall

- Applicants representing 32 counties have submitted applications.
- Almost 78% of submitted applications identified NFIP insurance.
- 93% of submitted applications statewide are for mitigation reconstruction and structural elevations.
- Pinellas, Lee, and Pasco counties make up over 97% of the total applications submitted statewide.

Breakdown of Project Type





County View – Submitted Applications by County



County	Count of Applications	Percentage of All Applications
Alachua	1	0.09%
Brevard	1	0.09%
Broward	29	2.67%
Charlotte	73	6.73%
Citrus	52	4.79%
Collier	12	1.11%
Columbia	2	0.18%
DeSoto	3	0.28%
Dixie	54	4.98%
Escambia	2	0.18%
Flagler	7	0.65%
Hernando	28	2.58%
Hillsborough	63	5.81%
Lee	172	15.85%
Leon	3	0.28%
Levy	17	1.57%
Manatee	28	2.58%

County	Count of Applications	Percentage of All Applications
Miami-Dade	1	0.09%
Monroe	8	0.74%
Okaloosa	1	0.09%
Orange	3	0.28%
Osceola	3	0.28%
Palm Beach	4	0.37%
Pasco	76	7%
Pinellas	814	75.02%
Polk	3	0.28%
Sarasota	37	3.41%
St. Johns	1	0.09%
St. Lucie	2	0.18%
Taylor	10	0.92%
Volusia	2	4.98%
Wakulla	1	0.09%
Total	1,565	



County View – Project Types

County	Wind Mitigation	Acquisition & Demolition	Structure Elevation	Mitigation & Reconstruction
Alachua			1	
Brevard			1	
Broward	2		7	2
Charlotte	13	1	47	12
Citrus			32	2
Collier			11	1
Columbia	1		1	
DeSoto	1		2	
Dixie		1	2	33
Escambia			1	1
Flagler			6	1
Hernando	1	2	17	8
Hillsborough	3		31	29
Lee	7		147	18
Leon	3			
Levy		1	11	5
Manatee			21	7

County	Wind Mitigation	Acquisition & Demolition	Structure Elevation	Mitigation & Reconstruction
Miami-Dade	1			
Monroe			5	3
Okaloosa	1			
Orange	1		2	
Osceola	2		1	
Palm Beach	3		1	
Pasco	1	3	51	21
Pinellas	23	6	489	296
Polk	2		1	
Sarasota	3		25	9
St. Johns			1	
St. Lucie	1		1	
Taylor			4	6
Volusia	4	2	36	12
Wakulla			1	
Total	91	16	974	484



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

QUESTION

What activities are ineligible under Elevate Florida?

Each project type has different eligible and ineligible activities. In general, activities for purely aesthetic purposes are considered ineligible unless required by local ordinance or historical review findings. For Mitigation Reconstruction and Structure Elevation, work on auxiliary structures on the lot (detached garages, storage sheds etc.), are ineligible.

Second story conversion and first floor abandonment are not considered eligible techniques in Florida mitigation grant programs. This is due to a variety of factors, the most predominant being concerns regarding structural integrity during the conversion process and for the life of the structure. Please keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list.

QUESTION

Will Elevate Florida affect the Community Rating System (CRS) rating for my jurisdiction?

Activities that reduce the risk of flood damage, such as structural elevation and acquisitions, may improve the CRS rating for your community.

As of October 2024, 265 communities throughout the state participate in CRS. For more information, and to see if your community participates in this system, visit [fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system](https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system).



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

QUESTION

Will property owners need to hire a contractor or builder? How will vendors be assigned?

Elevate Florida will use contractors from a preselected list to complete projects, procured according to state laws and regulations. Applicants will be required to use a contractor procured and assigned by FDEM to participate in the program. Vendors will be assigned based on availability.

QUESTION

Can property owners start construction before being approved for the project?

No. Construction cannot begin until a project has been reviewed, approved, and finalized under a signed contract. Any work completed prior to grant approval is not reimbursable. Additionally, beginning construction related to the project's scope of work prior to approval and contract signing will make the project ineligible.

QUESTION

What is the property owner's financial responsibility for the project?

Federal grant funding will cover at least 75 percent of the project cost, requiring property owners to invest up to 25 percent. Property owners must provide up to 25 percent of initial inspection costs before inspections are completed, and the total construction cost will be determined following award based on various factors. Approved property owners will receive a detailed breakdown of their cost-share, including relocation expenses, and will have time to decide whether to proceed with the next phase of the project.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

QUESTION

What is the reality of being our residents receiving funded?

FDEM is estimating enough funding for approximately 950 properties. The only way to guarantee funding and increase the number of your residents receiving assistance is to reallocate a portion of your HMGP Helene and/or Milton funding.

QUESTION

What will be done if a resident applies and has applied under a previous funding cycle?

Residents will be allowed to apply for Elevate Florida regardless of prior submission. FDEM will work with the County LMSWG to determine a best course of action and avoid negatively impacting the County's allocation from previous disasters (HMGP).



ELEVATE
FLORIDA

Questions?