

SEM-PP-03 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

PROPOSED POLICY: FAC SUPPORTS the protection of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Funding.

- The Legislature should acknowledge and protect the current HMGP fund allocation process outlined in 27P-22, FAC. The process ensures that a county's fund allocation is based on its share of total disaster damages compared to all other declared counties.
- The Legislature should acknowledge the locally driven and vetted HMGP project selection process and not divert HMGP funds for non LMS initiatives.
- The Legislature should set up a process that provides matching funds for HMGP projects.

STAFF ANALYSIS/BACKGROUND:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Funding:

HMGP funds are made available following a major disaster declaration. The total HMGP award is based sliding scale as a percentage of the estimated amount of total federal assistance for the disaster. While funds are available to all counties in the disaster declaration, they are administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and provided on 75/25 cost share.

The process of selecting eligible mitigation projects for funding consideration has been delegated to each county's Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) in accordance with 27P-22, FAC. The code reflects federal law that requires counties adopt local mitigation plans that assess risks and vulnerabilities and identify actions (policies and projects) to reduce or eliminate future losses. Local mitigation plans (a.k.a. Local Mitigation Strategies) are required by FEMA as a condition of receiving HMGP funds

FISCAL IMPACT: Following the 2004/05 storm seasons, the Legislature redirected nearly all HMGP funds for projects deemed essential for hurricane preparedness and mitigation (New EOCs; Generators, etc.). By taking this action, the Legislature ignore the established county LMS review and selection process.