



Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Program - Q&A

Updated November 2023

GENERAL

What is DEMES?

- DEMES stands for the **Division of Emergency Management Enterprise Solution**, which was enhanced utilizing existing buildouts of the Salesforce Platform.

How long does it take to get the approval of the Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Application?

- Once the portal opens on November 17, we will start reviewing applications. The portal will close on January 12. A funding consideration will be made to FDEM's Executive Team and will need to be approved by the House and Senate. FDEM has estimated that funding agreements will be sent out the first week of March.

How do I know if my Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Application was approved?

- The grant manager, who is assigned to your application, will notify you if your application is approved. You will receive an award letter from FDEM followed by a funding agreement.

After I get the approval of my Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Application, when will I get the funds?

- Once the funding agreement is fully executed, we can then distribute the funding. FDEM will must disburse all funds by June 30, 2024.

Is there a Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Application deadline?

- We will be accepting application through January 12, 2024.

Can I apply to the Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Program if I am not registered in DEMES?

- You must apply for this funding through DEMES. If you need any support with registering for an account in DEMES, please reach out to Melissa Hancock (contact info) or visit <https://www.fdemportal.com/grants> to create an account.

What if I am unable to access DEMES?

- Anyone who experiences access issues, should contact DEMES.Support@em.myflorida.com for assistance.

I'm new to using DEMES - where can I go to learn about the basics?

- Assisting agencies and FDEM partners can visit the [DEMES site](#) for general information, project updates, training tools, and resources.



Hurricane Idalia Legislative Appropriation Program

The division will be accepting applications for 3 types of categories.

1. **Public Assistance** will be funding for Local Governments that have, or will have, a Public Assistance Project Worksheet on file.
 - a. FDEM is accepting applications for Category A Debris Removal, and permanent work Categories C-G.
 - b. This will be a 0% loan to fast forward your recovery process and get your projects started.
 - c. When FEMA obligates the funds for these projects, the Division will retain the funds that have already been paid to you through this program. This is how the loan will be repaid.

2. **Infrastructure repairs** for local governments that are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement due to eligibility, if you received a determination memo, or there was some other disqualifying reason.
 - a. The types of projects that you can apply for in this category will be for road repairs or dirt roads that are not maintained, sewers, water facilities, dredging of public waterways, and beach renourishment that needs repair from Hurricane Idalia.
 - b. Projects in this category will be considered for a grant. There will be a 50% project match, that the local government will need to show the ability to cover 50% of the project cost. The grant amount will be the other 50%.
 - c. If you are a fiscally constrained county, (Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Taylor, Lafayette, Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrest, and Levy) the 50% match has been waived. The Division agreed to waive this requirement to help you better recover.

3. **Local and county revenue losses and operating deficits** will be considered for grant funding when the DEO's Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan funding has been exhausted or upon an applicant's denial of that program.

What type of documentation will I need to upload in my application?

- Based on the type of project you are applying for; your grant manager may request additional information.
 - FEMA Project Worksheets, PA Grant Portal Number, Damage Inventory
 - Determination memo(s).
 - Insurance claims or insurance denials
 - Proof of damages, pictures of damages, and estimates.
 - Engineering recommendations, scopes of work.
 - Previous 3 years of tax revenue and the current projected tax revenue.
 - If there is information that you have relating to your project that you think is important, please provide that information.



If there is information that you have relating to your project that you think is important, please provide that information in the upload document section.

If you have hired a consultant to do work on your behalf, will they be able to log into the system, and see the application files?

- Yes, but they would need to create an individual account under that agency and specify in the DEMES registration the reason of requesting access.

How does this program differ from current FEMA projects that have already been submitted?

- The applications received for the Public Assistance category to fund permanent work projects will be for a 0% loan. This funding will allow for you start your projects faster. Once reimbursements from FEMA are deposited in FDEM's Smart Link account, these funds will be returned to general revenue.

Can the city apply directly, or does it need to go through the county?

- This program is available to cities and counties declared for IA and PA (Cat A-G) for Hurricane Idalia. A City may apply directly. You may want to communicate with the county that you are applying.

Are tribes eligible?

- Tribes are not included in the proviso language.

Would charter schools apply on their own or under a school districts application?

- Charter schools may apply on their own. We encourage you to communicate with your respective school board for the applications you are submitting.

Do you receive a status update on your application?

- As we go through the review and approval process, your grant managers will update you on your application status.

Is there a requirement to apply for all other possible funding before the project would be eligible for this program?

- Yes, you need to try other revenues before going through this one.

For which project types or school districts eligible to apply?

- All categories are open to all eligible applicants.

Where can we find details on the terms of the loan advance, such as dates for repayment, etc.?

- FDEM will not be asking for repayment for any grant, and the loan will be a 0% loan. The terms for the repayment of the loan will be dependent upon the subrecipients receiving federal funds.

Is there a cap on the amount per project that you can request?

- There is no cap on the amount per project, but funds are limited as the Division was appropriated only \$50 million.



Will funds be paid incrementally? Or in full?

- Should your project be approved, you will receive a one-time payment of funds.

Is the funding reimbursement based?

- This funding is not a grant reimbursement program.

Are private roads covered?

- The city or county can apply for the infrastructure grant.

Which counties are eligible?

- Eligible Counties include: Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Taylor, Lafayette, Suwanee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte counties.

If we are applying for Category A, we will have 2 projects due to the cost share periods. Is that how the request should be entered?

- You should submit two separate applications for Category A.

SUPPORT

Where do I go for troubleshooting?

- If you are having access or troubleshooting issues, please contact DEMES.Support@em.myflorida.com for assistance.

Where can I go to obtain updates and information on what is changing?

- Assisting agencies and FDEM partners are encouraged to visit the [DEMES site](#) for project updates, training tools, and resources. FDEM will share updates on new functionality that impacts your operations, as needed. Agency contacts will be asked to cascade messages, shared by FDEM, to their respective partners to further drive awareness and adoption.

Where can I find tools to help me learn about DEMES and its new functionality?

- Assisting agencies and FDEM partners are encouraged to visit the [DEMES site](#) for training tools and resources.

Where can I find training sessions to help me learn about new processes and functionality?

- FDEM will be offering training sessions to introduce DEMES and its functionality to our Assisting agencies and FDEM partners. Training sessions will be posted on the [DEMES site](#) and Agencies will be notified via email.