

Shelter Development Program



Section 215.559(b), Florida Statutes

"Three million dollars in funds shall be used for programs to construct or retrofit facilities used as public hurricane shelters. Each year the division shall prioritize the use of these funds for projects included in the annual report of the Shelter Development Report prepared in accordance with s. 252.385(3). The division must give funding priority to projects in regional planning council regions that have shelter deficits and to projects that maximize the use of state funds."



Shelter Development Program

- The Division's Infrastructure Section maintains the Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan (SESP) to ensure sufficient shelter space is available to meet demands statewide.
- Division structural analysts survey existing public facilities and recommend retrofit projects as appropriate.
- Division structural analysts review plans for public facilities to be constructed for viability as hurricane shelter space and survey the facility when construction is complete.
- Funding for cost-effective shelter development projects (retrofit projects or new construction projects) is offered as available in accordance with the prioritization established by the Division. Shelter development projects are completed when counties accept funding offers.
- Shelter spaces are added to the SESP when the shelter development projects are complete.





Least Risk Decision Making (LRDM) Survey

- Structural analysts complete an LRDM for each building surveyed. Surveyors will review all potentially viable public structures in a county. Counties are reviewed every 10-15 years.
- The LRDM survey process includes review of construction drawings and site conditions for the following criteria:
 - Storm Surge Inundation
 - Rainfall/Dam Safety
 - Hazmat and Nuclear Power Plant Considerations
 - Lay-down hazard Exposure
 - Wind and Debris Exposure
 - Wind Design
 - Construction Type/Continuous Load-path
 - Building/Site Condition/Wind Damage History
 - Exterior wall Construction
 - Fenestrations/Window Projection
 - Roof Construction/ Roof Slope



Shelter Development Project Prioritization

- Recommendations for cost-effective retrofit and new construction projects are prioritized annually and identified in the Shelter Development Report.
- Prioritization is given to projects as follows, with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority:
 - 1. Buildings located within Regional Planning Council (RPC) regions having a deficit in shelter space and within counties having a deficit in shelter space.
 - 2. Buildings located within RPC regions having a deficit in shelter space.
 - 3. Buildings located within counties having a deficit in shelter space.



Retrofit Projects

- A Division structural analyst surveys a structure and recommends a minor or major retrofit, as applicable.
 - Division structural analysts work with a county to survey all potentially viable structures every 10-15 years.
 - The County Emergency Manager can request the Division survey a specific structure.
- Grant funds offered for retrofit projects are dependent upon the needs of the building to meet minimum criteria to serve as a shelter.
- Grant funds offered for new construction projects are provided to supplement the added cost of construction to American Red Cross Hurricane Shelter Selection Standards (ARC HESSS), Enhanced Hurricane Protection Area (EHPA), and International Code Council (ICC-500) standards.



Examples of Retrofit Projects

- Installing Large Missile Impact-Resistant Fenestration Protection:
 - Impact windows, shutters, or screens,
 - Replacement of doors and/or door hardware.
- Removal or relocation of lay-down hazards such as communications towers.
- Gen Set:
 - Installation of an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) for special needs shelters. The Shelter Development Program does not provide funding for generators.
- Additional projects as approved by the Division.



New Construction Projects

- The County Emergency Manager requests the Division review plans for proposed new construction to determine eligibility for grant funds.
- Grant funds supplement the increased construction costs.



Points of Contact

- For additional information please contact:
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