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PUBLIC NOTICES

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES
OFFICE OF FLOOD HAZARD RISK REDUCTION MEASURES**

46 N.J.R. 2200(a)

Notice of Availability of Grant Funding

Flood Hazard Risk Reduction And Resiliency Grant Program

Take notice that the Department of Environmental Protection, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4*, hereby publishes notice of the availability of the following grant funds:

A. Name of grant program: Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency Grant Program.

B. Purpose: The purpose of this competitive grant program is to fund projects that will reduce storm surge and flood hazard risks and enhance resiliency in the areas impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

C. Amount of money in the grant program; The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved Community Development Block Grant -Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) to fund the Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency Measures, with \$ 50 million initially allocated to fund the grant program from a total of \$ 100 million approved for Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency Measures. Additional information on this funding source is available in the New Jersey Action Plan, Amendment 7, for the Second Allocation of CDBG-DR Funds located on the New Jersey Department of Communities Affairs website at: www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/. Additional Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Program funding may be added to the grant program at a later date should it become available. Any subsequent rounds of funding will be announced on the Department's Grant and Loan Program webpage www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/ and on www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/grants.htm.

The Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures (FHRRM) will oversee the competitive application process and program. Grant awards will vary based on the size and complexity of the projects. The FHRRM will determine the amount of the award based on set criteria that will be used to evaluate the application and submitted materials. Please note that no grant award will exceed the \$ 15 million dollar cap per project.

D. Eligible applicants: Applicants of the Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency Grant Program must be counties and [page=2201] municipalities in one of the nine most affected counties (Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union Counties). Regional coordination by counties and municipalities on projects is encouraged. Because FHRRM is required to meet an overall funding goal of 25 percent low and moderate

income area benefit for this community development block grant, preference may be given to areas of low and moderate income in accordance with HUD's National Objectives.

E. Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding: To be considered for funding, applicants must meet all of the following:

- Eligible applicant (as defined in Section D);
- Eligible project location (as defined in Section D); and
- Project must show:
 - Impact caused by Superstorm Sandy and the proposed risk reduction and resiliency measures;
 - Need for funding; and
 - Cost effectiveness and benefit.

The Flood Hazard Risk Reduction and Resiliency Grant Program is a competitive grant program and only projects considered ready for construction will be selected.

Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to manage and oversee the project construction including the financial management of all project costs. Project costs incurred will be reimbursed through the FHRRM.

F. Eligible projects: The following is a list of eligible construction ready flood hazard risk reduction and resiliency project types:

- Coastal lake projects that reduce flood risk (surge reduction, increased discharge);
- Flood risk reduction infrastructure projects (levees, tide gates, flood barriers);
- Stormwater management projects (pump station, capacity increase, storage areas); and
- Beneficial use of dredge materials.

Projects will be prioritized based on the following criteria as outlined in the New Jersey Action Plan, Amendment 7, for the Second Allocation of CDBG-DR funds:

-- The proposed project area must present a high vulnerability or risk to storm surge or flooding, as developed by a science-based analysis;

-- The proposed project or improvement must result in storm surge or flood risk reduction through infrastructure construction, installation, or repair;

-- The proposed project or improvement must be analyzed using a robust benefit-cost analysis, which will consider the benefit of the project, including consideration of environmental impacts, public health and safety impacts, social impacts, environmental impacts, and population data;

-- The proposed project or improvement must meet minimum resilience performance standards. The performance standards developed must consider a wide range of risks, including potential future extreme weather events and other hazards. In addition, the Federal government's available sea-level rise tools will be employed to consider project design enhancements, where such enhancements are cost-effective and reasonably practical given the inherent uncertainty in sea-level rise modeling;

- Nature-based infrastructure will be considered where possible, practical, and cost-effective; and

-- Recovery need, and the amount of need, will be a minimum requirement in selecting projects.

G. Application and required submissions: Information on the application process, the application, and all required information and documents for this grant program will be posted on www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/grants.htm. Required information and documents to be provided with the grant application shall include information such as the following:

-- Acknowledgement that a resolution by the county or municipality authorizing the agency to enter into the grant agreement and certifying that the matching funds and in-kind support will be provided for the project if approved and funded;

-- A completed grant application;

-- A detailed scope of work including:

-- Description of project area and impact by Superstorm Sandy that will be mitigated; and

-- Description of all risk reduction and resiliency measures built into the project to minimize future storm damage and benefit of project;

-- Design plans, with specifications that are signed and sealed by a licensed New Jersey engineer;

-- Itemized project costs (budget);

-- Estimated Construction Schedule; and

-- Description of the Agency that will directly manage and monitor the project:

-- List key in-house personnel who will be involved and key outside consulting and contractor support necessary for the project;

-- Describe any projects comparable to the one in this application that the entity has engaged in the last five years; and

-- List project costs, project time to completion (from start to finish).

-- Please note that an applicant can submit no more than three projects in total.

H. Address for application submittal and inquiries, and filing deadline: All inquiries must be made via e-mail to Rebecca.Jones@dep.nj.gov by November 21, 2014. Inquiries and responses will be posted on this website: www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/grants.htm. Problems with electronic submission of the application should be directed to Rebecca Jones, who can be contacted at (609) 292-1246 during State business hours from Monday through Friday.

Both electronic and hard copies of the application are required to be submitted as indicated below:

The FHRRM must be in receipt of one electronic copy of an application by 5:00 P.M. EST on December 15, 2014, for the application to be eligible for the first round of funding. Applications must be submitted electronically according to the instructions on www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/grants.htm,

Three hard copies of the application and all of the required documentation including signed and sealed design plans by a New Jersey licensed engineer must be postmarked on or before December 15, 2014, and must be sent to:

Attn: Rebecca Jones
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Natural and Historic Resources

Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures
P.O. Box 420 Mail Code 501-01A
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

FHRRM shall send a notice of receipt for each application received to the applicant. An applicant that submits an incomplete application shall be deemed ineligible.

I. Deadline by which the application must be submitted: Applications for the first round of funding must be submitted to the FHRRM on or before December 15, 2014.

J. Date by which applicants shall be notified: Applicants will be notified of conditional approval for the first round of funding by January 15, 2015. Applicants whose proposals have not been accepted will be notified and their projects may be considered in subsequent funding rounds if funding becomes available.

K. Information session: An information session will be held for interested applicants on November 14, 2014, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Public Hearing Room, located at 401 E. State Street in Trenton, New Jersey.