



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #VI.C

DATE: MAY 29, 2020

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Council has served as the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's designated [Economic Development District](#) for South Florida since 1994. The Economic Development District service area is Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties where the Council helps lead a locally-based, regionally driven, economic development process. EDA has invited Economic Development Districts to apply for supplemental awards to help respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of the coronavirus pandemic. EDA has determined that the Economic Development Districts, by virtue of the longstanding and substantial investment in building capacity to respond to economic shocks and ongoing partnership with EDA, are best suited to support the CARES Act Recovery Assistance initiative.

The Council has been invited to apply for a supplemental financial assistance award of up to \$400,000 to undertake one or more preapproved activities: (1) development of an economic recovery and resilience plan; (2) the deployment of disaster recovery coordinator(s); (3) the provision of technical assistance; and (4) the funding of appropriate technology and staff support for these pandemic-response activities. The period of performance is 24 months. EDA is funding the supplemental award at a 100 percent federal grant rate.

Additionally, EDA has invited the Council to apply for a single supplemental financial assistance award with two components: (1) up to \$5,380,000 to capitalize a new revolving loan (RLF) fund to alleviate sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the pandemic and (2) up to an additional ten percent of that amount to defray administrative costs necessary to establish the new RLF and facilitate rapid and prudent lending to the pandemic. EDA is funding the supplemental RLF at a 100 percent federal grant rate.

Council staff is working on both applications.

Information Only



South Florida Regional Planning Council
1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, Florida 33020
954-924-3653 Phone, 954-924-3654 FAX
www.sfrationalcouncil.org



**Economic Development District
Funding and Information Opportunities
Week of May 17, 2020**

The [South Florida Regional Planning Council](#) is the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration’s designated [Economic Development District](#) for South Florida. The Economic Development District service area is Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties where the Council helps lead a locally-based, regionally driven economic development process. We work with local government, public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic partners to provide information, technical assistance, and support.

SFRPC Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

The South Florida Regional Planning Council is expected to receive \$5,380,000 in supplemental financial assistance to capitalize a new revolving loan (RLF) fund to alleviate sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The RLF lending area is Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Additional information to follow. Senior Loan Officer: Jeff Tart (jtart@sfrpc.com)

U.S. EDA FY 2020 Disaster Supplemental

- This [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) covers \$1.5 billion in EDA funding nationally, of which \$248 million is for the eight-state Atlanta Region. Florida is competing with Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- For this funding, the entire nation has been recognized as impacted, special need, and eligible for funding. There is no need to spend time on articulating and documenting the

normal economic distress criteria that is normally required for Public Works or Economic Adjustment investments (unemployment rate, per capita income, special need).

- For the CARES Act Recovery Assistance, one needs to look at the 5-page Addendum (5 pages) and the original Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs NOFO (45 pages). The attached EDA handout provides easy reference to EDA's five (5) investment priorities. The website is important for updates and other information: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=321695>.
- **Eligibility:** Proposals must clearly identify how the proposed project would “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus” or respond to “economic injury as a result of coronavirus.” The priority that every application needs to advance first and foremost is Priority # 1: Recovery & Resiliency. Every project must be consistent with the [South Florida CEDS plan](#) and advance investment priorities. The investment priorities are: Recovery & Resiliency, Critical Infrastructure, Workforce Development & Manufacturing, Exports & FDI, and Opportunity Zones. Eligible applicants are found on page 2 of the Addendum.
- **Cost sharing:** EDA generally expects to fund at least 80% and up to 100% of eligible project costs. 20% match is preferred.
- Proposals should be submitted as soon as possible as it is expected that funds will be allocated quickly.
- Projects must be completed by December 2022.
- Other **general information** is available here: <https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/>
- **FAQ** guidance available here: <https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/faq/index.htm>

U.S. EPA Grant Funding – Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19

EPA is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income and minority communities through our daily efforts to ensure all Americans have clean air, safe water, and access to information to make decisions to protect personal and public health. As part of these efforts, EPA has re-opened the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program (SEJCA) and expanded its availability to include states, local governments, tribes and territories.

EPA is giving a special consideration to those applications aimed at addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on urban and rural low income and minority communities.

EPA anticipates making five awards in amounts of up to \$200,000 per award for a two-year project period. EPA encourages applicants to develop innovative plans and processes to conduct effective outreach to underserved communities in the midst of social-distancing and local stay-at-home orders, especially in places where internet access may not be readily available to all residents.

The opportunity closes on **June 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM (ET)**.

Read the full funding solicitation document at link: [FY2020 Request for Applications](#) (amended 05/08/2020)

All applications are required to be submitted through Grants.gov. To see the funding opportunity on Grants.gov, visit the following link:

- [RFA listing on Grants.gov](#)

Pre-application Assistance Calls

Applicants are invited to participate in conference calls with EPA to address general questions about the SEJCA Program, eligibility, and this solicitation. Interested persons may access the pre-application assistance calls by dialing **866-299-3188** and entering the code **202-564-6349#** when prompted. Conference calls will be recorded for parties who may miss the calls and/or if conference lines reach capacity. For call recordings, interested parties should contact the Agency Contact listed in Section VII of the RFA.

[For the hearing impaired, please click on this link to view captions of the live calls.](#)

See the table below for a schedule of the conference call dates and times:

Date	Time (Eastern Time)
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 (LIVE)	4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (ET)
Thursday, May 7, 2020 (LIVE)	4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (ET)
Thursday, May 21, 2020 (LIVE)	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)
Tuesday, June 2, 2020 (LIVE)	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program#tab-2>

Additional information regarding Federal Funding opportunities can be found at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Rebuild Florida's Mitigation Programs

<https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation>

CDBG-MIT

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that \$633 million in first-of-its-kind funding would be available to the state of Florida for disaster mitigation projects in [areas impacted](#) by presidentially declared disasters in 2016 (Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine) and 2017 (Hurricane Irma). These funds are available through HUD's newly created Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) and will be used to fund disaster mitigation programs to better protect Florida from future disasters:

- **Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program** (\$75,000,000 - Launched April 15, 2020)

This program assists units of general local government and state agencies to harden critical buildings that serve a public safety purpose. A [Webinar](#) to provide information about the program was held on April 22nd.

- **Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program** (\$20,000,000 - Launched May 15, 2020)

Provide funding opportunities to units of general local government (UGLG), educational institutions, state agencies, and non-profits for the purpose of developing and updating state, regional and local plans. A Webinar providing an overview of the program will be held on May 21, 2020 at 2 p.m. EST. Register [here](#).

- **Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program** (\$475,000,000 - Launches June 15, 2020)

Additional detail: <https://floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida/mitigation>

[CDBG-MIT Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Spanish](#)

State Action Plan

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) led the state's efforts in creating the federally required State Action Plan that provides a high-level strategy for how the funding will be used to address eligible communities' disaster mitigation needs. The State Action Plan was developed in partnership with state agencies working on resiliency efforts, as well as with input from local communities and stakeholders to determine Florida's most critical disaster mitigation needs. The State Action Plan approved by HUD is posted here: [CDBG-Mitigation State Action Plan](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Haitian Creole](#)

Informational Webinars and Phone Calls

Tuesday, May 19: EDA NOFO CARES Act

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Administration (EDA) will offer a free webinar focused on the \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding that EDA received in the CARES Act on Tuesday, May 19th at 11:30 a.m. EST.

To attend this free webinar, please [register here](#).

EDA leadership and experts featured during tomorrow's webinar will discuss the **EDA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) addendum** that guides the administration of this supplemental EDA funding. EDA will also discuss the **non-competitive funding process** through which Economic Development Districts (EDDs), EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) operators, and EDA University Centers may be eligible to receive expedited funding.

Thursday, May 21 and Tuesday, June 2

U.S. EPA Grant Funding – Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19

Pre-application Assistance Calls: Applicants are invited to participate in conference calls with EPA to address general questions about the SEJCA Program, eligibility, and this solicitation.

Interested persons may access the pre-application assistance calls by dialing **866-299-3188** and entering the code **202-564-6349#** when prompted. Conference calls will be recorded for parties who may miss the calls and/or if conference lines reach capacity. For call recordings, interested parties should contact the Agency Contact listed in Section VII of the RFA.

[For the hearing impaired, please click on this link to view captions of the live calls.](#)

Thursday, May 21, 2020 (LIVE)	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)
Tuesday, June 2, 2020 (LIVE)	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)

Webinar Replay: Original Airdate: Wednesday, May 13

Preparing for the Cascade of Federal Funding: Catch the Wave

Sponsored by the Center for Creative Land Recycling, an organization specializing in Brownfields and Land Revitalization, this session spotlights federal grants, loans and technical assistance to support brownfield activities throughout all stages of the redevelopment process. We will hear how EPA is working to expand the brownfields redevelopment sandbox by coordinating with other federal agencies. We will also learn what's new with Opportunity Zones and how to layer funding with other federal agencies and programs including EDA, HUD, USDA, USDOT, Community Development Block Grants, and Clean Water Funds.

Register to view the Recording [Here>>>](#)

Speakers: Toby Rittner, CDFA | David Lloyd, USEPA | Matt Ward, Sustainable Strategies

Resources: ["Preparing for the Cascade of Federal Funding" Complete Slide Deck](#)
[EPA Brownfields Redevelopment Resources and Guides](#)

The **South Florida Regional Planning Council** operates a **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund** and provides technical assistance in the area of brownfields. For assistance with brownfields related issues, please contact Senior Loan Officer Jeff Tart (jtart@sfrpc.com) and Mark-Anthony Smith, Regional Planner (msmith@sfrpc.com).

Contacts:

Isabel Cosio Carballo, MPA
Executive Director
isabelc@sfrpc.com; (954) 924-3653

Arlene Davis-Walcott, AICP
Director of Planning & Economic Development
adavis-walcott@sfrpc.com