



HURRICANE MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM Information Statement



This program is made available through the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. The purpose of the HURRICANE MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM is to help homeowners retrofit property to be better prepared and protected in the case of a hurricane. The program provides home retrofit grants to low and moderate-income homeowners and helps with the home retrofit process including identifying needed upgrades, developing work plans, helping the owner to review proposals, and helping make sure the contracted work is completed before funds are released to contractors.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROPERTIES

Applicants must meet income guidelines at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), and either currently occupy the home being rehabilitated or plan to occupy the home immediately after work is completed. The chart below shows the maximum gross household income for program eligibility. Eligibility is determined by household size as shown in the chart. The household cannot earn any more than the amount shown. Household income includes all income for all household members including employment income, interest income, social security, alimony and child support.

MAXIMUM ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY <i>(Effective 05/31/11 Incomes are updated annually)</i> Number of People in Household						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yearly	\$31,650	\$36,200	\$40,700	\$45,200	\$48,850	\$52,450

Properties may be located either within the unincorporated area of Pinellas County or within the municipal boundaries of one of the cooperating cities listed below. The **just value** of the property cannot exceed **\$151,000** as listed by the Property Appraiser's office. Applicants who are delinquent on property taxes, mortgages, or have a foreclosure filing (lis pendens) on the property are not eligible. Applicants who have received a County grant within the last five (5) years are not eligible for this grant.

Belleair	Indian Shores	Oldsmar	St. Pete Beach
Belleair Bluffs	Indian Rocks Beach	Pinellas Park	Seminole
Belleair Beach	Kenneth City	Redington Beach	South Pasadena
Dunedin	Madeira Beach	Redington Shores	Tarpon Springs
Gulfport	North Redington Beach	Safety Harbor	Treasure Island

Property title must be recorded in the applicant's name in the Pinellas County Official Records. The property may be a single-family structure, or manufactured home, occupied by the applicant. Rental and income producing properties are not eligible. Mobile homes built prior to 1976 are not eligible. Before approval for this program, each unit will be inspected to determine if the property meets the Housing Quality Standards as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Units failing to meet these basic standards will not be

eligible for this program.

ELIGIBLE UPGRADES

Grant funds are limited to improvements that reinforce the structure’s ability to withstand a hurricane. Examples include reinforcement or replacement of roof systems and soffit/fascia; hurricane roof straps; sealing cracks and painting of exterior walls; sealing air leaks around windows and exterior doors; impact resistant windows; permanent hurricane shutters; wind resistant exterior doors, including wind-rated garage doors or retrofitting/bracing of existing garage doors; permanent, interior “safe rooms”; mobile home tie-downs and anchors.

The HURRICANE MITIGATION PROGRAM may not be used for items that are not a part of the permanent structure, such as plywood panels for windows, portable “safe rooms”, etc. No funds can be paid to the homeowner or anyone other than a licensed contractor for labor and materials used on the structure. Grants cannot be used to reimburse for work already completed or expenses incurred prior to application approval.

GRANT AMOUNT AND TERMS

Grant funds are available up to \$20,000 to eligible applicants. Applicants will be required to sign an Acceptance of Grant form acknowledging receipt of the grant.

GRANT PROCEEDS

Grant funds are dispersed as work is completed or costs incurred. No advance payments will be authorized. No application fees or processing fees are charged. There are no out-of-pocket expenses to the applicant.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

This program is administered through Processing Agencies who are under contract to the County. To apply, call (727) 464-8210.

Pinellas County makes reasonable accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If an applicant needs special accommodations such as home visits, large print documents, sign language interpreter, documents on audiotape, etc., please contact our office as indicated below.

Review criteria and processing guidelines are determined by the Processing Agencies and approved by Pinellas County Community Development. It is not practical to list all possible requirements and terms in this abbreviated format. Any applicant who has a complaint or inquiry regarding eligibility or any other determination made by Community Development personnel are entitled to have their complaint or inquiry reviewed. If any applicant has questions or needs more information about program requirements or processing, or has not received an adequate response to their complaint or inquiry, please contact Single-Family Programs Administrator, at the address and phone number listed below.

Pinellas County Community Development
600 Cleveland Street, Suite 800
Clearwater, Florida 33755
Phone (727) 464-8210 FAX (727) 464-8254

Our goal is to offer the residents of Pinellas County the highest quality service possible. We are always interested in any comments about the quality of our services or suggestions for ways to improve them.