

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: May 17, 2010

Date Submitted: May 12, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Timothy P. Barden, Assistant County Administrator
Eva Thorpe, OMB Analyst

Subject: Request Board Acceptance of \$459,261 in Grant Funds and Authorize the Chairman to Execute the Contract and Resolution for the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Grant and Request Approval of Budget Amendment

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board acceptance of \$459,261 in grant funds and authorize the Chairman to execute the Contract and Resolution for the Florida Department of Community Affairs's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grant Program (DCA-CDBG) for road stabilization in Wakulla Gardens and requests approval of budget amendment.

Background:

At the January 25, 2010 meeting, the Board adopted Resolution #10-2 approving staff to submit an application to the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Disaster Recovery Grant Program for funding in the amount of \$459,261.

Under the 2008 Supplemental CDBG Appropriations, Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act Congress appropriated funding to the State of Florida CDBG for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in areas affected by hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters that occurred during 2008 such as Gustav, Ike and T.S. Fay, for which the President declared a major disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.). The availability of the funding was originally announced in the Federal Register on February 13, 2009 and August 14, 2009. The deadline for the submission of applications was January 15, 2010.

Federal requirements clearly state that the funds must only be used for disaster related relief, long-term recovery in communities affected by the specified disasters and that the funds be directed to areas of greatest need. Additionally, the State of Florida, CDBG Action Plan submitted to the federal government required that a minimum of 14% of the total funds allotted be used towards affordable rental housing activities. If the County chooses not to use the \$459,251 pre-allocated amount, the funds would revert for use elsewhere in Florida. The amount of \$459,251 pre-allocated to Wakulla County is based on the DCA's compilation of preliminary damage assessment data from FEMA.

The County proposed to use \$391,221.60 for gravel surfacing of 21.17 miles of roads or 111,777.60 linear feet at a cost of \$3.50 per linear feet. ESG will provide \$65,625 for labor and equipment support. The balance of \$68,029.40 or 15% will be used for affordable housing replacement, rehabilitation and flood mitigation through the County's Housing Department. The gravel surfacing of the roads at the historic Wakulla Gardens subdivision is intended to stabilize the roads so the gravel remains pervious as to not exacerbate flooding, and yet keep the road surface stable enough for ease of access by the residents, emergency service providers and responders, and school system transport vehicles.

Analysis

These funds are pre-allocated and specifically intended for Wakulla County. If the County does not accept these funds, the funds will be redirected for use elsewhere. The use of the funds is restricted to disaster recovery activities for events specifically related to Gustav, Ike and T.S. Fay for which the President declared a major disaster. Additionally, the County was required to consider the needs of municipalities and to determine the greatest need for the use of the funds. The County has complied with this and with the publishing of a notice to provide a 10-day period for citizen input. In addition, the criteria mandates that 14% of the \$459,251 or more be used to address affordable housing needs of low and moderate income residents affected by Gustav, Ike and T.S. Fay. The County will use 15% of these funds for housing assistance activities. The service area for the housing-related activities is county-wide, while the road gravel surfacing service area is limited to the historic Wakulla Gardens subdivision.

Summary

During disaster and heavy rainfall events the roads in the historic Wakulla Gardens subdivision become impassable causing obstruction to emergency responders such as emergency management, medical and fire services, law enforcement, humanitarian providers and to school system transport vehicles. In addition, the impassability of the roads hamper FEMA, State SERT and local Emergency Management Officials from entering the area to perform critical preliminary damage assessments required for reporting to FEMA for timely assistance to the County and to affected residents. The residents of the historic Wakulla Gardens subdivision are confronted with road flooding conditions that obstruct and delay critical health and safety assistance from local emergency management, law enforcement, emergency and medical providers and public works.

These funds and the support of ESG in the amount of \$65,625 will enable the County to provide a workable mitigation solution to the road flooding situation at this historic subdivision while enabling the County to continue to seek ways and means to identify the necessary funds to eventually pay for a permanent stormwater solution and paved roads. Additionally, the use of 15% of these funds for county-wide housing rehabilitation and rental assistance disaster related

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activities for low and moderate income recipients will help the families affected by these storms to repair their homes and/or assistance with rent.

A budget resolution (Attachment #2) demonstrating the Board's acceptance of the grant funds is required, along with a budget amendment (Attachment #3) to increase the County's budget by \$459,261 and establish the proper revenue and expenditure accounts with the Clerk's Office. Additionally, the County will pay the costs upfront and submit reimbursement requests to the Florida Department of Community Affairs' accordingly.

Cleve Fleming, Director of ESG Public Works will oversee the road stabilization portion of this project and Alfred Nelson, Director of Housing will oversee the housing rehab – rental assistance part to ensure that tasks are expediently performed, in accordance with contractual requirements, rules and regulations. OMB will oversee the purchasing aspect of the project as well as prepare and process eligible vendor payments and file all reimbursements, including the final reimbursement and closeout of grant documents.

The grant contract documents, budget resolution and budget amendment documents have been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney.

Options:

1. Accept \$459,261 in grant funds and authorize the Chairman to execute all grant related documents for the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Grant, and approve resolution and budget amendment.
2. Do not accept \$459,261 in grant funds and do not authorize the Chairman to execute all grant related documents for the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Grant, and do not approve resolution and budget amendment.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment(s):

1. Contract Documents for CDBG- Disaster Recovery Funding
2. Budget Resolution
3. Budget Amendment
4. January 25, 2010 Agenda Item