

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Financial Management

TO: Sarasota County Commission
THROUGH: Jonathan R. Lewis, County Administrator
FROM: Kimberli Radtke, Director, Office of Financial Management
DATE: November 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Resilient SRQ Infrastructure Program – Dredging of Major Waterways Project Selection

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

To select and approve applications, up to the program cap of \$30 million, submitted under Dredging of Major Waterways within the Resilient SRQ Infrastructure Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Overview

On January 16, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a Federal Register Notice (FRN) which included a direct allocation of \$210,094,000 of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to Sarasota County to support Sarasota County's recovery and mitigation efforts following the 2024 storms Debby, Helene, and Milton.

As a requirement of CDBG-DR funding, the County completed an Action Plan, which was approved by HUD on June 4, 2025. The CDBG-DR grant agreement was signed on June 30, 2025, which begins the six-year time period for grant expenditure.

To date, Resilient SRQ has launched all programs identified in the Action Plan, including Housing Recovery, Infrastructure and Public Facilities, and Multi-family Affordable Housing program.

Infrastructure and Public Facilities Program – Dredging of Major Waterways

Of the \$210,094,000, \$132,089,300 is dedicated to fund projects under the Infrastructure & Public Facilities Program ("Program"). Within this amount:

- \$57,089,300 is dedicated towards general infrastructure and public facilities projects (including a \$27,404,000 mitigation set aside);
- \$45,000,000 is directly allocated for dredging of Phillippi Creek; and
- \$30,000,000 is dedicated for Dredging of Major Waterways projects.

On June 4, 2025, the Board approved the recommended eligibility and scoring criteria for the Program. The Program launched applications on September 5, 2025 and closed on October 17, 2025. Public entities located within Sarasota County were eligible to apply.

Scoring Criteria

Applicants applied providing project details, financial resources and planned use of CDBG-DR funds, project impact, mitigation measures, and dedicated project resources to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations for their proposed project(s).

The minimum eligibility criteria for public entities includes meeting a HUD national objective (LMI, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or meet a need having a particular urgency), CDBG-DR eligible activity (flood control and drainage repair and improvements, including the construction or rehabilitation of storm water management system).

Applications that met the minimum eligibility criteria, were evaluated on the following:

1. LMI National Objective (25pts): Projects will serve an LMI area or benefit LMI persons.
2. Financial Plan (15pts): Steps taken to secure adequate funding for the project.
3. Leverage of Funding (15pts): Amount of CDBG-DR funds that will be needed to cover project costs.
4. Project Readiness (15pts): Level of planning that remains and demonstrated ability to complete the project within five years.
5. Project Impact (20pts): Project benefits the community and has demonstrated a reasonable cost benefit analysis that is proportional to their requested amount.
6. Tie Back to the Disaster (10pts): Project has a tie back to 2024 Storms.

As part of the application, public entities were able to submit projects for mitigation specific projects or projects that have a tie back to the 2024 Storms.

Entities submitting multiple projects were required to prioritize their submissions. Detailed eligibility criteria are provided. The detailed eligibility criteria are included as Attachment 1.

Application Window and Review Process

Applications remained open for six weeks, allowing public entities an opportunity to seek approval from their respective governing bodies, if applicable. All eligible applications underwent a thorough review by the Resilient SRQ team and eligible applications were evaluated using the scoring criteria for each project.

Project Selection Process

A summary of the applications received under this Program are included as Attachment 2. Eligible applications will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for project selection.

RELEVANT PRIOR BOARD ACTION:

1. January 28, 2025 – The Board received an update on the new CDBG-DR HUD allocation under the County Administrator Report (No vote).
2. February 11, 2025 – The Board delegated authority to County Administrator or designee to take all actions necessary to manage, administer, allocate, and expend CDBG-DR funds. The Board approved Budget Amendment No. B2025-025, amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to appropriate funding for the 2024 storms CDBG-DR allocation (carried by a 5-0 vote).
3. February 25, 2025 – Staff provided a presentation on the draft Action Plan and included results of the Unmet Needs Assessment Survey and proposed funding allocations. The Board approved the proposed funding allocations to be in the draft action plan (carried by a 5-0 vote), which included the following:

Program/Project		Total by Project	Total by Program
Housing	Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction	\$25,000,000	\$63,300,000
	Homeowner Reimbursement	\$8,300,000	
	New Multifamily Affordable Housing	\$30,000,000	
Infrastructure and Public Facilities	Sarasota County, Public Entities, Non-Profits	\$57,089,300	\$132,089,300
	Dredging of Phillippi Creek	\$60,000,000	
	Dredging of Major Waterways	\$15,000,000	
Planning/Administration	Planning	\$4,200,000	\$ 14,704,700
	Administration	\$10,504,700	
		\$210,094,000	\$210,094,000

4. April 22, 2025 – Staff provided a presentation on the final proposed programs and allocations for inclusion in the final Public Action Plan for submission to HUD. The Board approved the final proposed funding allocations to be in the final Public Action Plan (carried by a 5-0 vote), which included the following:

Program/Project		Total by Project	Total by Program
Housing	Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction	\$25,000,000	\$63,300,000
	Homeowner Reimbursement	\$8,300,000	
	New Multifamily Affordable Housing	\$30,000,000	
Infrastructure and Public Facilities	Sarasota County, Public Entities, Non-Profits	\$57,089,300	\$132,089,300
	Dredging of Phillippi Creek	\$45,000,000	
	Dredging of Major Waterways	\$30,000,000	
Planning/Administration	Planning	\$4,200,000	\$ 14,704,700
	Administration	\$10,504,700	
		\$210,094,000	\$210,094,000

5. June 4, 2025 – Staff provided a presentation of an update on the Resilient SRQ Program for 2024 Storms. The Board approved the recommended eligibility and scoring criteria for the Resilient SRQ Infrastructure & Public Facilities and Multifamily Affordable Housing Programs (5-0 vote).

OUTREACH:

Since the publication of the federal register notice, staff have conducted a significant and rapid outreach effort to spread awareness of this disaster recovery opportunity and receive feedback from stakeholders, to include the general public (individuals), the business community, non-profits, and governmental entities. Additional outreach was conducted to eligible applicants for each program including information sessions, handouts, e-mails, and media engagements.

PROCUREMENT ACTION:

N/A

FUNDING:

Funding will be allocated directly to Sarasota County through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. There are no additional county match requirements for use of these funds.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Goal: Great Place to Live

Objective: Maintain a safe and healthy community – reality and perception.

NEXT STEPS:

With approval and selection of eligible projects, Resilient SRQ team will notify applicants and begin drafting Subrecipient Agreements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S):

Staff recommends the Board to select eligible projects for the Dredging of Major Waterways program.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation
2. Public Entities Eligibility and Scoring Criteria
3. Project Summary Applications
4. Project Selection Spreadsheet
5. Project Application Packets