

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: April 22, 2025
SUBJECT: **Resilient SRQ CDBG-DR Economic Recovery Program Update for the Building Industry Institute Project**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Presentation on the Resilient SRQ Economic Recovery Program with the Building Industry Institute, Inc., regarding the proposed construction of a workforce development training facility in Sarasota County, with a conditional award of \$7,500,000.00 as requested by the Board.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On May 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a Notice in the Federal Register allocating \$201,535,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to Sarasota County. Funds are to be used to support Sarasota County's recovery and mitigation efforts following Hurricane Ian, primarily for low- to moderate- income (LMI) persons. Eligible use of funds includes housing, infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation. CDBG-DR funds must also meet criteria set by HUD.

As a requirement of CDBG-DR funding, the County completed an Action Plan, which was approved by HUD on November 21, 2023. The CDBG-DR grant agreement was signed on February 28, 2024, which begins the six-year time period for grant expenditure. Using CDBG-DR funds, the Resilient SRQ program was created.

Of the \$201,535,000.00, \$15,000,000.00 is dedicated to fund projects under the Workforce Development and Training (Economic Recovery) Program ("Program"). Non-profit organizations and public entities were eligible to submit applications for this Program through a competitive application and scoring process. On September 10, 2024, the Board took action to allocate \$15,000,000.00 to the following organizations and projects:

- School Board of Sarasota County for Suncoast Technical College - North Port Expansion \$7,500,000.00
- Building Industry Institute, Inc. for The Building Industry Institute \$7,500,000.00

On October 23, 2024, the Board provided policy direction regarding principles and terms of the subrecipient agreement with The Building Industry Institute. On February 25, 2025, the Board approved a motion that the County Administrator not execute the subrecipient agreement and to have staff and the subrecipient return to the Board at a future meeting for further discussion and a project update.

RELEVANT PRIOR BOARD ACTION:

1. May 24, 2023 – Staff provided a presentation on the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery grant, or “Resilient SRQ” providing details on the eligible activities, timeline, and actions taken.
2. July 11, 2023 – The Board considered a presentation on the Resilient SRQ CDBG-DR Program and draft funding uses. The Board approved Resolution No. 2023-142, delegating authority to the County Administrator or designee to take all actions necessary to manage, administer, allocate, and expend CDBG-DR funds and manage and administer the programs related thereto; and authorizing acceptance of electronic signatures for CDBG-DR Applications, Agreements, and related documents. The Board authorized the selected CDBG-DR projects and project allocations, based on the adjusted spreadsheet figures, for public comment, and to be brought back to the Board in September, which included the below breakdown (carried by a 5-0 vote).

Program/Project		Total by Project	Total by Program
Housing	Voluntary Buyouts	\$6,458,250.00	\$101,458,250.00
	Homeowner Reimbursement	\$15,000,000.00	
	Housing Rehabilitation/Reconstruction	\$40,000,000.00	
	New Multifamily Affordable Housing	\$40,000,000.00	
Infrastructure and Public Facilities	Sarasota County, municipalities, not-for-profits	\$45,000,000.00	\$70,000,000.00
	South River Road Evacuation Corridor	\$25,000,000.00	
Economic Recovery	Career/trades training	\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00
Planning/ Administration	Planning	\$5,000,000.00	\$ 15,076,750.00
	Administration	\$10,076,750.00	
		\$201,535,000.00	\$201,535,000.00

3. September 12, 2023 – Staff presented public comments and the final Action Plan. The Board approved the final Action Plan for submission to HUD (carried by a 5-0 vote).
4. April 23, 2024 – The Board approved the recommended eligibility and scoring criteria for the Resilient SRQ Economic Recovery Program (carried by a 5-0 vote).
5. September 10, 2024 – Staff presented to the Board on paused allocation of \$11,718,092.00 from Resilient SRQ Multifamily Affordable Housing Program. The Board selected additional projects for Multifamily Affordable Housing Program (carried by a 5-0 vote). The Board authorized transferring \$721,592.00 to infrastructure and awarding it to additional project (carried by a 5-0 vote). The Board selected two projects totaling \$15,000,000.00 for the Economic Recovery Workforce Development and Training Program (carried by a 3-2 vote, Commissioner Neunder and Commissioner Cutsinger voted No).
6. October 23, 2024 – The Board approved principles and terms of the Resilient SRQ Subrecipient Agreement and the conditional award of the \$7,500,000 to the Building Industry Institute, Inc. Economic Recovery Project (carried by a 3-2 vote, Commissioner Neunder and Commissioner Cutsinger voted No).

7. February 25, 2025 – The Board approved motion that the County Administrator pause the contract regarding Resilient SRQ funds for Building Industry Institute (carried by a 4-0 vote, Commissioner Mast abstained). The Board requested to schedule a time for the Building Industry Institute, Inc. to appear before the Board at a future date for project update and discussion.

OUTREACH:

During the unmet needs assessment, input was requested from individuals, organizations, and municipalities in Sarasota County. 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 health community – reality and perception.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will follow Board direction regarding the CDBG-DR funds conditionally awarded to Building Industry Institute, Inc.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S):

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation
2. Agreement
3. Project summary and application