



Commissioners Larry Harvey – Putnam, Susan Adams – Indian River, and John Meeks – Levy deliver supplies to Commissioner Kelly Owens Okeechobee for delivery to DeSoto County.

Counties Helping Counties!

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian Officials from around the state have stepped up to help those areas impacted! Many examples of counties in North Florida returning the favor of assistance that was provided to them in other disasters! Many examples are larger counties helping smaller counties.

Best way to help – have your local EM Office communicate resources to FDEM!



Commissioners Larry Harvey – Putnam and John Meeks – Levy, deliver pallet of Blue Tarps to Okeechobee for transport to DeSoto. Assisted by Commissioner Kelly Owens – Okeechobee and her husband.

The Briefing – Thursday – October 6 –2022

The last Briefing was Wednesday – October 5 – 2022

The Briefing is compiled almost daily by Chris Doolin – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

[Here's the College Football TV Schedule for Week Six](#)

How's your weather - <https://weather.com/>

State Broadband Program

Heads Up – DEO has Officially Begun the Rule-Making Process for the Broadband Grant Program

There are significant concerns with the proposed rules!

The Florida Office of Broadband has released its [Notice of Proposed Rule \(NPR\)](#) establishing the rules and criteria for the Broadband Opportunity Program (BOP). The BOP [Grant Application](#) and [Scoring & Evaluation Criteria](#) are now available on DEO's website.

Revised Rules for State Grant Program Do Not Accommodate Critical Concerns

- The proposed rules provide funding on a reimbursement basis - Rural Areas Need Advance funding.
- The proposed rules do not include a waiver of match for fiscally constrained counties - Many counties cannot afford a 50% match. Waiver of match is authorized in statutes.
- Rural Areas need to be given special consideration to ensure unserved areas are targeted.
- Application Requirements are arduous and embody unnecessary requirements
- The grant program does not include any provision of upfront assistance for Local Technology Planning Team functions.

If additional changes are not made, the rules impose obstacles that many rural areas will not be able to address, and, in effect, the proposed rules will undermine the intent of the program it is created to serve.

Changes were made from the initial draft rules, DEO has modified the rules to include a requirement that engages LTPT's in project development -

- Local Support/LTPT language included in the rule:(4) To be considered for grant funding under the Program, Applicants **must** show community support from the local community within and near the project area and/or engagement with the county’s Local Technology Planning Team when submitting a Broadband Opportunity Program Grant Application, which is incorporated by reference in Rule 73C-50.001, F.A.C., and available on the Office’s website, www.floridajobs.org/broadband, to the Office within the noticed application window.

Major Concerns still exist with the proposed rules –

- The grant requirements still provide grant funding on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursements create an additional financial burden on all counties especially fiscally constrained counties. This method of funding will deter government applicants from applying for generational investments. There are 29 fiscally constrained counties in the state that are likely “underserved” or “unserved” - a reimbursement policy will effectively undermine participation . Reimbursements fail to align with local government budgeting processes. Counties may be unable to offset initial expenses due to budget constraints/fiscal year/budget timeline.
- Waiver of Match – the rules still require a 50% match for grant funds. The statutes provide agencies with authority to waive match in grant programs and to provide special consideration in the grant review process. The proposed rules are silent on these issues and beg the question as to whether the DEO will implement these statutory provisions outside the existing rules. See statutes - Waiver of Match for REDI projects—F.S. 288.06561 , Rural considerations in grant review and evaluation processes -288.019 - Rural considerations in grant review and evaluation processes.
- Technical Assistance Funding for LTPT Activities – Counties need additional technical assistance funding to support LTPT assessments. The Small County Coalition has consistently indicated that the success of the LTPT’s are foundational to the success of the overall provision and expansion of broadband across the state. These entities are overseeing planning, mapping, community involvement, collaboration with Internet Service Providers and much more. It is again, requested that the DEO OofB establish as part of the Broadband Opportunity Grant Program a Technical Assistance category that would provide initial funding to assist the LTPT’s in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Comments can be submitted at this link: [Notice of Proposed Rule \(NPR\)](#) . There is a 21-day public comment period closing on Friday October 21st.

Ian Update

For the best and latest information use the Division of Emergency Management Link-

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/>

Power Restoration

In past 24 hr. another 100,000 customers were brought back online.

[DEM Website for Tracking Progress on Power Restoration](#)

As of this morning, 217,450 customers remain without power or 1.923% of the population.

In Charlotte County – 33.34% of population remains without service.

In DeSoto County – 31.49 % of population remains without service.

In Lee County – 28.83% of population remains without service.

In Sarasota County – 8.5% of population remains without service.

In Collier County – 2.82% of population remains without service.

In Hardee County – .78% of population remains without service.

In Hendry County – .51% of population remains without service.

In Highlands County – .56% of population remains without service.

In Glades county – .32% of population remains without service.

In Okeechobee County - .02% of population remains without service.

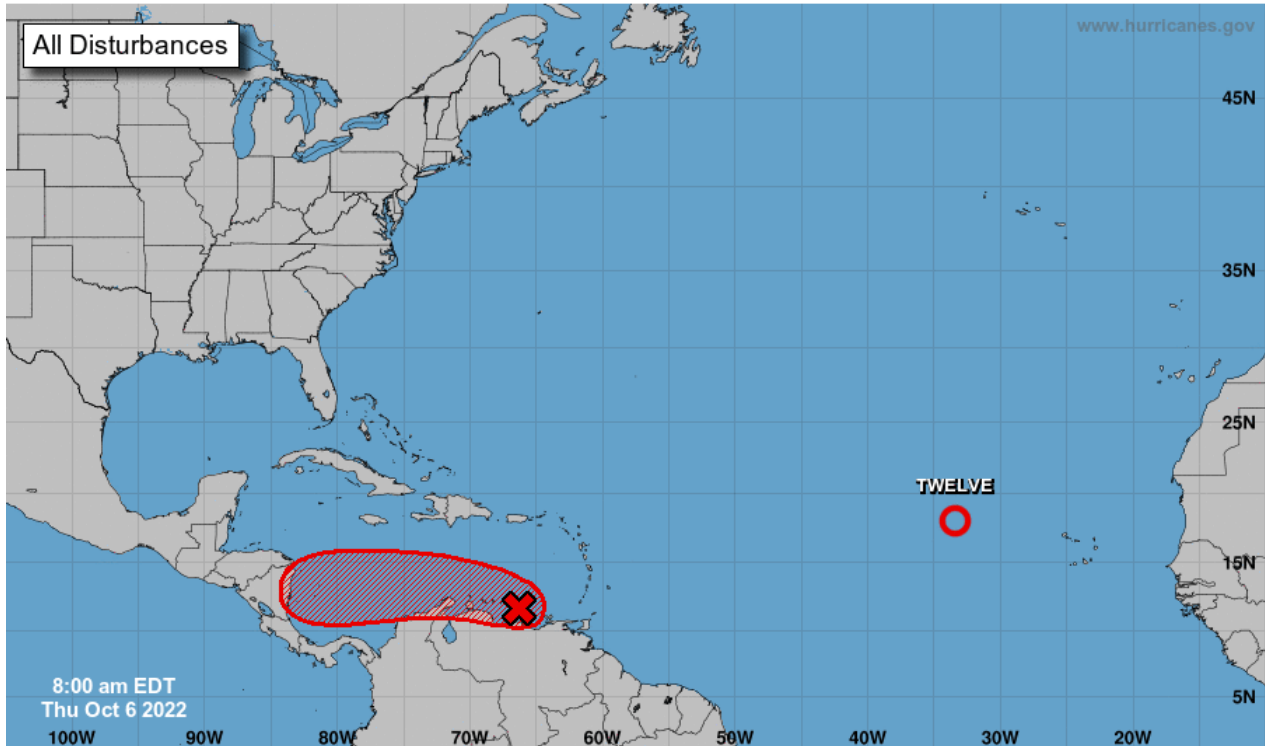
Tropical Outlook

www.nhc.noaa.gov



Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Five-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%
 Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

Headlines Around the State

Herald: 'We appreciate working together.' DeSantis, Biden tout hurricane response in Fort Myers

WUSF: Alongside DeSantis, Biden tells Hurricane Ian victims: 'We're not going to leave'

My News 13: 'Completely lockstep': Biden surveys Hurricane Ian damage in Fort Myers alongside DeSantis

Politico: Biden and DeSantis project unity amid Ian's devastation

The Capitolist: Biden visits Florida, warns that rebuild could take years

WUSF: In Florida visit, Biden says he will focus on Hurricane Ian victims and not politics

Democrat: Silenced Florida voters: Races for Congress, Legislature decided before voting even begins

Democrat: Senator Rick Scott says Florida needs more money for Ian relief, which he voted against

Herald: In Miami, Trump says hard-line immigration policies are driving Latinos to the right

CBS Miami: Trump addresses Hispanic Leadership Conference in Miami

The Capitolist: Biden Administration tells court Florida can't name specific harm from federal immigration practices

FlaPol: Former Florida GOP Chair Al Cárdenas endorses Annette Taddeo for Congress

NBC Miami: Florida Mayor Laughs Off Biden's Hot Mic F-Bomb

CBS Miami: Florida mail-in ballots cast top 13,000

AP: Florida's island dwellers dig out from Ian's destruction

Herald: Deaths linked to Ian keep rising in Florida as the Keys reported its first fatalities

FlaPol: Report: 72 Florida residents, young and old, have died from Hurricane Ian

AP: Florida to reimburse Indiana National Guard \$130,000

USA Today: Migrants are helping rebuild Florida after Hurricane Ian. They might not get paid for it.

CBS Miami: Clemency records, legal agreements and "the president's calls" among records separated by Justice Department filter team in Mar-a-Lago search

WUSF: An 'army' of line crews is reconnecting the power in Southwest Florida

Herald: Massive coral bleaching event hits Florida. It's not a good sign for struggling reefs

TCPalm: Army Corps awards key contract to build EAA reservoir foundation for walls

The Capitolist: Chevron commits \$500,000 to support Hurricane Ian relief efforts

Sun-Sentinel: Authorities accuse Virginia men of exploiting Parkland gunman's brother

Democrat: People killed in Gadsden 'mass fentanyl poisoning' had cocaine in their systems, records say

The Capitolist: FGCU remains closed amid storm damage; will hold weekend classes to make up lost time

FlaPol: Joe Biden praises Gov. DeSantis' response to Hurricane Ian

USA Today: Ian is disrupting voting in a GOP region critical for Gov. Ron DeSantis and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio

Politico: Ian destroyed parts of GOP-leaning Lee County. But Republicans are confident ahead of November.

FlaPol: With damage at Lee election offices and sites, Gov. DeSantis evaluates accommodations

NWF Daily News: Rescheduling efforts underway for TV DeSantis-Crist debate

Times: DeSantis committees have raised over \$100M. A national GOP group is giving him more.

WLRN: DeSantis seeks to shield redistricting documents

FlaPol: Lawmakers poised to approve additional \$360M in emergency spending for Hurricane Ian

Politico: Florida scrambling to restore bridges to cut-off communities

WUSF: DeSantis: Sanibel Causeway will have access by the end of October

Herald: Pine Island bridge temporarily repaired after Ian. First responders, Publix truck cross it

FlaPol: Pine Island reconnected to Lee County mainland

Times: Despite DeSantis' claim, Ian's cone forecast accurate, experts say

The Floridian: DeSantis Activates Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan After Ian

FlaPol: Email insights: Democrats dog Gov. DeSantis for 'insurrectionist' interview

FlaPol: Shevrin Jones launches supply drive for Hurricane Ian recovery

Democrat: Maddox mailer puts Rep. Allison Tant in "very awkward position"

FlaPol: Environmental groups back Raquel Pacheco for Senate

FlaPol: Eunic Ortiz vows to 'stand up to corporations' in new ad for SD 18

WLRN: 'It's total destruction': After warm welcome in South Florida, evacuees return to devastation in Lee County

NBC Miami: 'Very Sad': Residents Return to Devastated Sanibel Island for First Time Since Ian

WUSF: A North Port resident's experience with a roofer shows the need to watch for potential scams

Sun-Sentinel: 7 tornadoes tore through Broward, Palm Beach counties ahead of Hurricane Ian. Kings Point residents still need help

WLRN: From recreational pontoons to the Cajun Navy, Pine Island evacuation draws strong, mixed feelings

News4Jax: Hurricane Ian couldn't topple this popular Florida landmark

Herald Tribune: The story and long legal battle behind the late-night levee breach text alert in Sarasota

WUSF: A cybersecurity incident impacts the city of Dunedin

The Capitolist: University of Miami receives \$3.25 million grant to help fund nursing scholarships

On the Docket

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

- **FAMU TRUSTEES:** The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will meet. (Thursday, 8:30 a.m., Florida A&M University, Grand Ballroom, Tallahassee. <https://famu.zoom.us/j/94906121517?pwd=Y05QMW12NTUxTjQvcE1lL25lZm9XZz09>. Webinar ID: 94906121517. Code: 738230. Call-in number: 1-646-931-3860)
- **GAMBLING ISSUES:** The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. (Thursday, 9:30 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- **NORTHEAST FLORIDA COUNCIL:** The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet in Duval County. (Thursday, 10 a.m., Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491)
- **SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS:** The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release its weekly opinions. (Thursday, 11 a.m.)
- **SOCIAL WORK BOARD:** The Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling will meet. (Thursday, 11 a.m. <https://meet.goto.com/862593893>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 862593893)

- **HALEY SPEAKS IN PALM BEACH:** Former United Nations Ambassador and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will speak to the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches. (Thursday, noon, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.)
- **NURSING BOARD:** The Florida Board of Nursing is scheduled to meet in Hillsborough County. (Thursday, 1:30 p.m., Embassy Suites Tampa, USF, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa.)
- **HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE BOARD:** The Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees will meet. (Thursday, 4 p.m., Hillsborough Community College, Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson District Administration Center, 39 Columbia Dr., Tampa.)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

- **BOARD OF MEDICINE:** The Florida Board of Medicine is scheduled to meet. (Friday, 8 a.m., The Westshore Grand, 4860 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.)
- **NURSING BOARD:** The Florida Board of Nursing is scheduled to meet in Hillsborough County. (Friday, 8:30 a.m., Embassy Suites Tampa, USF, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa.)
- **PRISON MEDICAL ISSUES:** The Correctional Medical Authority is scheduled to meet. (Friday, 9 a.m., Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 344085830)
- **FINANCE REPORTS DUE:** State candidates and political committees face a Friday deadline for filing reports showing finance activity through Sept. 30.

Upcoming Meetings

Small County Coalition Fall Breakfast Meeting

*Wednesday – November 30 - St. Pete – Coinciding with the FAC Winter Meeting
Greet New Commissioners and Adopt Legislative Program
[Registration for FAC Legislative Annual Conference](#)*

Small School District Council Consortium - Breakfast Meeting

*Thursday – December 1 – Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay -Coinciding with the FSBA Winter Meeting
Greet New School Board Members and Adopt Legislative Program
[FSBA/FADSS 77th Annual Joint Conference – Florida School Boards Association](#)*

Florida Rural Economic Development Summit

Tentative Agenda for Summit

If you are a local official in a small county – you should consider participating

The Annual Rural Economic Development Summit will be held December 7-9, 2022 - Renaissance World Golf Village Resort in St. Augustine. The coordinators of the summit are encouraging local elected officials in our rural communities to attend. Here is the registration information - [Registration for Summit](#)

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email – doolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

Website Links

[Small County Coalition Website](#)

[Small School District Council Consortium Website](#)

