



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

June 21, 2018

The Honorable Chris Constance, M.D.  
President  
Florida Association of Counties  
100 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

The Honorable Gil Ziffer  
President  
Florida League of Cities  
301 South Bronough Street, Suite 300  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Commissioner Constance and Commissioner Ziffer:

Since Hurricane Irma devastated the state last September, we have worked nonstop to ensure that every family in Florida has been able to fully recover. Since cities and counties in Florida play such a large part in our state's recovery after a storm, it is imperative that your members understand the steps that the state takes to help navigate local governments through the complex federal reimbursement process. A large part of the Florida Division of Emergency Management's (DEM) duty is to work with local governments and organizations to make sure they get properly reimbursed following a disaster. DEM has made a lot of progress in streamlining this process.

I want to be very clear - the state's objective is to ensure that local governments are reimbursed for disaster expenditures by the federal government as quickly as possible while being accountable to taxpayers.

As you may know, years ago, the Florida Legislature implemented significant accountability and due diligence processes for local governments to be reimbursed by the federal government following a disaster. Prior hurricanes left communities across Florida devastated with billions in damage. Under the previous process, federal funds were immediately given to local governments, without paperwork being checked, due diligence or accountability measures on the front end. This led to local governments having to write checks and give significant money back to the federal government - harming taxpayers.

In fact, before Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew, dating back to the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons, Florida was provided more than \$5.1 billion to reimburse local governments. Of that, local government had to pay back almost \$1.6 billion to the federal government, leaving many communities vulnerable to future disasters. In many cases this was due to lack of local documentation and in some cases money had to be returned because it was spent improperly. For Hurricane Gustav, approximately 64 percent of the federal money that provided to cities and counties had to be paid back to the federal government. This caused local budget problems years after the storms. By working together through this complex federal process, we are

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significantly reducing the risk of local governments having to write checks back to the federal government following Irma.

Currently, FEMA has authorized more than \$110 million to reimburse local governments in Florida Hurricane Irma to pay for public projects such as road works and sheltering operations. Unfortunately, **more than \$87 million of this funding has not been requested by local governments - which is required for them to be reimbursed for these projects.** Nearly \$14 million has been requested, and is moving quickly through state reviews mandated by the federal government. More than \$8 million is in the final stages of state review and will be disbursed to Florida communities very soon.

I know that DEM, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, will continue to work hard every day to deliver these important funds as quickly and transparently as possible. In fact, since Hermine and Matthew impacted Florida, the state has disbursed to local governments more than \$237 million in federal reimbursements attributed to these storms. Because of enhanced checks on the front-end of the enhanced process, local governments and taxpayers have significantly reduced the risk of having to repay these dollars years from now back to the federal government as they had to in the past.

Attached to this letter is a list of local governments which DEM is actively working with and who still need to provide the state information for their reimbursements. Any local government experiencing difficulty should contact the DEM Recovery Bureau, whose staff stand eagerly ready to assist, at [PArecovery@em.myflorida.com](mailto:PArecovery@em.myflorida.com). Working together, I am confident we will see continued progress and ensure the common goal of recovery and preparedness for every Florida family.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
Governor

cc: Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis  
Division of Emergency Management Director Wesley Maul  
Mayors  
County Commission Chairmen



STATE OF FLORIDA

# DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RICK SCOTT  
Governor

WESLEY MAUL  
Director

## Outstanding Hurricane Irma Public Assistance Requests for Information (RFI)

June 20, 2018

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Seminole County Sheriff's Office	375	\$ 658,486.98
City of Belle Isle	464	\$ 363,203.32
City of Belle Isle	489	\$ 490,372.63
City of Palm Bay	577	\$ 276,292.44
Flagler County Sheriff's Office	309	\$ 346,982.77
Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc.	468	\$ 1,941,955.21
Clay County	555	\$ 232,466.56
Collier County	173	\$ 11,779,822.00
Collier County Sheriff's Office	698	\$ 5,821,016.00
Manatee County Sheriff Office	283	\$ 1,020,529.00
Charlotte County Sheriff's Office	329	\$ 785,995.00
NCH Healthcare System	516	\$ 244,804.00
City of Moore Haven	147	\$ 154,905.00
South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue Service District	693	\$ 143,081.00
Inverness	620	\$ 143,516.00
Auburndale	602	\$ 189,171.00
City of Key West	239	\$ 187,848.00
City of Key West	87	\$ 1,888,968.00
		\$ 26,669,414.91