



2021 **FEDERAL ACTION** **AGENDA**



INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide federal funding to help strengthen infrastructure to meet the needs of Floridians and maintain funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Our most essential infrastructure needs include:

- ▶ **Water supply and water quality through grants, low-interest loans and technical assistance.**

An estimated \$48.71 billion is needed over the next 20 years to meet needs for drinking water, wastewater, flood control, nutrient pollution, Everglades restoration and beach and inlet erosion.

- ▶ **Transportation infrastructure.**

Failing infrastructure and the lack of available funding options for cities hinder our ability to build and maintain safe transportation systems that not only handle everyday traffic concerns but also withstand emergencies like hurricane evacuations.

- ▶ **Broadband infrastructure funding opportunities.**

Making broadband more accessible, reliable and affordable in underserved or unserved areas can dramatically improve the quality of life for Floridians. Nearly half a million Floridians do not have access to a wired connection with speeds of 25 Mbps or faster. Additionally, one million people in Florida have access to only one wired provider, which creates an unfair market condition in which users have no options to switch providers.



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to advocate for a long-term NFIP reauthorization package that provides:

- ▶ **Affordability for existing and future policyholders.**
- ▶ **More accurate flood mapping.**
- ▶ **Resiliency incentives.**

BACKGROUND

The NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2021, and Congress continues to pass short-term extensions to a flawed program. We need a long-term comprehensive rewrite to the NFIP that adheres to insurance principles and ensures the following:

- ▶ **Rates.** Rates must not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.
- ▶ **Premiums.** Any necessary increases in premiums should be implemented with regard to customers' ability to absorb those increases.
- ▶ **Property ratings.** Properties should be rated based on their ability to withstand risk, not on their use or ownership structure.
- ▶ **NFIP participation.** Incentives should be created to encourage participation in the NFIP for property owners not located in high-risk flood zones. This participation will not only help protect those who are caught off guard by unpredicted flooding, but it also will help the program become more financially stable.
- ▶ **Mapping.** Nationwide, NFIP flood maps are generally outdated and don't accurately measure a community's flood risk.



RISK RATING 2.0

ACTION NEEDED

We urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide more details on Risk Rating 2.0 to better comprehend the impact for Floridians.

- ▶ **Methodology.**

What methodology will be used to price and sell flood insurance policies?

- ▶ **Grandfathered properties.**

How will Risk Rating 2.0 affect “grandfathered” properties and structures that precede the Flood Insurance Rate Map (pre-FIRM)?

- ▶ **Affordability controls.**

Will there be affordability controls that limit the percentage increase policyholders will face?

BACKGROUND

FEMA is scheduled to launch a new risk rating system to address deficiencies in the traditional mapping process. Risk Rating 2.0 will determine a customer’s flood risk by incorporating multiple rating characteristics (i.e. types of flood, the distance a building is from the coast or other flooding source, or the cost to rebuild a home). Risk Rating 2.0 is set to go into effect on October 1, 2021. To be prepared for this new flood rating system, Florida’s cities need detailed information on how this new flood rating system will be implemented.



CYBERSECURITY

ACTION NEEDED

We support federal funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection to help cities be better prepared for the next cyberattack.

BACKGROUND

Local governments are entrusted with gigabytes of personally identifiable, confidential and proprietary information about the businesses and citizens that live and operate within their jurisdictions. Numerous high-profile cyber incidents in the public sector have highlighted the emerging challenges that cities face in protecting this data. The “hidden” impact on local government operations when a system is compromised – whether it is longer response times for police and fire personnel, delays in service delivery to utility customers or holdups in the permitting process for businesses – may be more significant than any ransom payment.



FEMA LOAN INTEREST PAYMENT RELIEF ACT

ACTION NEEDED

We support legislation that would require FEMA to reimburse local governments for interest incurred on loans used to restore essential functions after natural disasters.

BACKGROUND

More than half of Florida's cities, towns and villages have a population of under 15,000. When a natural disaster strikes, these smaller cities may not have enough financial resources to cover the costs of post-storm cleanup and recovery and must secure loans to offset these expenditures. Requiring FEMA to cover the interest incurred from these loans provides certainty to local governments and electric cooperatives while they await FEMA reimbursement.



For more information, contact:

Allison Payne
apayne@flcities.com
850.701.3602

Scott Dudley
sdudley@flcities.com
850.701.3656