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Emergency Relief Fund - Round One Wrap-up

The first round of the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) is nearly in the books. The Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) and the ERF panel met several times to create the process under which local jurisdictions could apply for ERF Funding. It was decided that the \$50 million ERF appropriation would be awarded over three rounds with application deadlines of May 15, June 15 and July 1, 2017. The first two rounds will award up to \$15 million each in projects with the final round awarding \$20 million.

The first round produced 180 project applications with requested funds of just under \$32 million. Projects were scored using a matrix approved by the ERF panel. Three engineers from the Idaho Military Division scored each application. IOEM and the ERF Panel are in the final stages of awarding projects from the first round:

- 54 applications from 19 different jurisdictions were tentatively approved.
- 61 applications were forwarded to Round 2 for consideration
- 6 applications were disqualified or did not meet eligibility criteria
- 59 applications didn't provide enough information to be properly scored and will be returned to the applicant for re-submission

All applicants will be informed of the status of their application no later than June 9th. Unsuccessful applicants in round one who fell short of an award due to the funding limit will automatically roll over to round two for consideration. Applicants that fell short of an award due to incomplete or inadequate information will be returned to the applicant to allow for potential resubmittal.

For those project applications that have been conditionally awarded and are potentially eligible for FEMA or Federal Highway Administration funding, applicants are required to pursue federal funds before final funding from the ERF award would be available. This allows IOEM to stretch the ERF funds as much as possible by taking advantage of the opportunity for federal funding whenever available.

IOEM is currently accepting applications for the second round of funding with a deadline of June 15th. The deadline for the third round is July 1. Based on the volume of applications for round one, we expect the application process to be very competitive. Please use due diligence when completing project applications. Project location, damage descriptions, scope of work and impacts on the community are all critical pieces of information necessary for applications to be properly scored. Please take the time to fill out the application with as much information and detail as possible.

If you need technical assistance with your application, the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) is available to help. You can contact them at lhtac.org or 208-344-0565. For application information, please go to our website at IOEM.idaho.gov or contact IOEM at 208-258-6591.