



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Ben Albritton
SUBJECT: Update on the My Safe Florida Home Program
DATE: March 26, 2025

Earlier this month, the Senate was notified by CFO Patronis' Office that the My Safe Florida Home Program can award about \$103 million in existing funds by reallocating previously obligated funding from homeowners who have not followed-through with the grant process after the award.

We have been working with CFO Patronis and Department of Financial Services (DFS) to reopen the grant portal to homeowners who had an initial inspection, but did not receive a grant. Data indicates there are about 10,000 homeowners who completed both their inspection and application questionnaire (which assigns applications in groups based on income). There are over 30,000 inspected properties where the homeowner has not completed the questionnaire.

The My Safe Florida Home Application Portal will reopen until April 30 for homeowners who have already had an inspection to update and complete their application questionnaire information. Eligible homeowners should receive a communication from DFS alerting them that the portal is reopening. I would encourage you to reach out to your constituents to make them aware of the more than \$100 million in additional grants available in the coming months.

Background:

As you are aware, in recent years the Legislature has taken several steps to stabilize Florida's property insurance market, and passed pro-consumer reforms to increase transparency, ensuring claims are paid quickly and fairly. We also cut \$500 million in taxes associated with flood insurance and property insurance premiums, which is important for families trying to make ends meet as our insurance market strengthens.

These reforms are working. New companies are entering the market. Larger, national companies are re-committing to Florida, citing new reforms. Insurance costs are starting to stabilize and in

certain areas, companies are filing for rate reductions. Nonetheless, the high cost of insurance remains a major affordability issue in our state. The My Safe Florida Home Program has been a helpful bridge to support families across the state who are seeking to fortify their homes against natural disasters, while at the same time reducing property insurance premiums. High-priced items like a new roof or storm windows can make homes safer, while reducing insurance premiums, yet these resiliency enhancements can be financially out of reach for many. Last session, we increased funding for this program, prioritizing lower-income Floridians and seniors and began the process of expanding coverage to condominium associations, which will help many of our coastal residents.

In total, the Legislature has appropriated \$576 million in funding for grants and over \$28.5 million for 178,184 homes to be inspected. To date, 58,796 grants have been obligated. Over 32,000 homeowners have been paid a total of \$310,719 million and many more grants have been awarded where work is currently in progress.