

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



PRESS CONTACT

Rebekah Harp
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
239-338-2550 Ext. 217
rharp@swfrpc.org

**Requesting Contributions to fund the
Disaster Resistance Planning & Recovery Program**

FORT MYERS, FL – (February 27, 2009) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) announced today that we are submitting a grant application to EDA (Economic Development Administration) to fund a Disaster Resistance Planning & Recovery Program for the region. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is requesting \$675,000 from EDA and upon award of the grant a cash match of \$225,000 is needed from our partners and economic development stakeholders within the region. The Regional Planning Council already has a commitment of \$50,000.

This project consists of the following four components:

- Regional Climate Change/Hurricane Disaster Resilience Adaption Plan
- Analysis of Structural Hurricane Hardening Needs
- Plan for Temporary Housing
- Associated Outreach Materials to Educate the Communities

The SWFRPC is seeking financial contributions from \$1,000 up to the full \$175,000. The grant application requires letters of support/commitment from the community, i.e., businesses, governments and organizations to demonstrate to EDA the high level of support for the grant.

This project is of strategic importance to the region; the Disaster Resistance Planning & Recovery Program will reduce recovery time due to disaster-related environmental and economic challenges.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Pellechio at the SWFRPC office, (239) 338-2550, ext 218 or by email at jpellechio@swfrpc.org or visit our website at www.swfrpc.org.