

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT

AUGUST 6 – AUGUST 10, 2012

Below is an informal overview of the Washington D.C. activities of the Miami-Dade County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

THE SENATE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

THE HOUSE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

PORTMIAMI GRANTED FEDERAL AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER COUNTY'S NEXT FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

On Thursday, PortMiami hosted U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Import Administration Paul Piquado at PortMiami's Terminal J. PortMiami officially received authority by the federal government to administer Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) No.281. The ceremony included remarks by Assistant Secretary Paul Piquado and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

This is the fourth FTZ located within the County. The new FTZ is intended to create jobs and spur investment in light manufacturing throughout the county. Assistant Secretary Piquado indicated that there are 500 active zones and sub-zones across the country, "which generate 330,000 jobs and export around \$30 billion worth of goods."

In February, OIA coordinated letters of support among the county's congressional delegation for the FTZ application. Both Senators Rubio and Nelson sent strong letters of support of the county's application, along with Reps. Ros-Lehtinen, Diaz-Balart, Wasserman Schultz, Wilson and Rivera.

CONGRESSWOMAN WILSON ISSUES STATEMENT ON VOTING RIGHTS ACT

In press release earlier this week, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson issued the following statement on the 47th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965:

“Today, we commemorate the 47th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, a historic milestone in the Civil Rights Movement. So many people died so that we could have the right to vote. I never thought that in my lifetime we would have to fight again for our Constitutional right to vote.”

“There has never been any evidence of mass voter fraud in Florida. The changes to Florida’s voting laws are a cynical voter suppression effort targeted at people who tend to support Democrats – college students, minorities and seniors. Shrinking the early voting window and purging voters from the rolls are the Florida Republicans’ latest attempt to disenfranchise voters for their own political gain.”

“Don’t let anyone stop you from exercising your Constitutional right to vote. The best way to guarantee that your vote counts is to get an absentee ballot.”

To contact the Miami-Dade Elections Department, call (305) 499-8444 or visit http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/vote_absentee.asp.

REP. ROS-LEHTINEN PRAISES DOCUMENT REJECTING COMMERCIAL TIES WITH CUBA

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen issued the following statement this week congratulating a dozen former U.S. Ambassadors and foreign policy makers who announced their support for “Commitment to Freedom”, a document that rejects ties with Cuba as long as the Castros are in power. When the document was drafted in June, prominent Cuban exile business leaders reaffirmed their support to not do business with the Castro brothers.

Ros-Lehtinen’s statement:

“I commend these foreign policy makers for endorsing what we know works best against the Castro dictatorship: the clenched fist and not the diplomatic niceties of the Obama Administration.”

The Castro regime is bankrupt after more than half a century of communist economic policies and its hope of finding oil off Cuban waters is quickly diminishing. The regime is desperate for hard currency to avoid making the economic and political reforms it knows can be its demise.

“Now, more than ever, is certainly not the time for the U.S. to throw an economic lifeline to the decrepit yet ruthless tyranny of the Castro brothers.”

“Commitment to Freedom” does not support the possibility of business ties with communist Cuba while the Castro regime is in power. The document unequivocally states that normal commercial relations can begin once the Castro dictatorship has ended.

BIPARTISAN SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING CUBAN DISSIDENT OSWALDO PAYÁ

Last week before adjourning for the August recess, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá. The resolution also calls for an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. The resolution was introduced by Senators Rubio, Menendez (NJ) and Nelson. Sen. Rubio issued the following statement:

“Oswaldo Payá’s death is a tragedy for his family as well as the Cuban people and those of us who want to see a free and democratic Cuba. It’s important that the U.S. Senate speak with one voice and join the international community and others inside Cuba insisting that the regime be forthcoming with the truth about his death.”

FY2013 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS AND SEQUESTRATION UPDATE

Congress is currently in recess for the month of August and for the two party conventions. It will reconvene on September 10 for two or three weeks before adjourning again for the elections. It will then meet again in mid-November for the lame duck session.

Congressional leadership of both parties and both chambers have agreed to enact a Continuing Resolution to keep the government operating for the first six months of the federal fiscal year. While there may be significant grumbling over this agreement by rank and file members of both parties, in the end, some form of the Continuing Resolution will pass. This means that Congress will have six months, until March 31, 2012, to finalize the federal budget.

The looming sequestration is a fiscal item pending that requires substantial attention. OIA and the federal lobbying team believe that sequestration, which is scheduled to begin in January 2013, will not ultimately happen. Congress will amend, repeal or postpone the sequestration law. However, the law is on the books and requires congressional action one way or another.

Sequestration is part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25). As you will recall, last year the United States was running up against its debt ceiling and Congress needed to pass legislation to raise it. The House Republicans opposed raising the debt ceiling unless that action was accompanied by significant deficit reductions. After weeks of negotiating, the Congressional leadership agreed to a bill that would raise the debt ceiling, but would also impose some spending cuts immediately and would create a mechanism to obtain additional future cuts. This agreement became the above-mentioned Budget Control Act of 2011. To achieve the future savings, the Act created a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (also known as the "Super Committee"). The Joint Committee included House and Senate Republicans and House and Senate Democrats. The purpose of the Joint Committee was to identify \$1.2 trillion in deficit reductions over 10 years. The reductions could be in the form of spending cuts or tax increases or both. If the Joint Committee could not reach agreement on the deficit reduction, then the law would automatically impose a sequester.

A sequester is a spending reduction applied to a wide number of agencies on an equal across-the-board manner. The sequester is designed to cut all programs, projects and activities an equal amount. While a sequester is not a smart way to budget, it does have the advantage that everyone is treated equally.

The Joint Committee did not reach agreement. As a result the sequestration will happen in January. For Fiscal Year 2013 the sequestration will cut \$108 billion. Of that total, \$55 billion will come from defense spending and the remaining \$53 billion will come from non-defense accounts.

The Budget Control Act did make some exceptions to the sequester. On the defense side, the

President could exempt personnel costs -- which President Obama did. On the domestic side the following programs were exempted:

- Social Security;
- Medicaid;
- Low income support programs like children's health, food stamps, welfare payments;
- Veterans Affairs programs;
- Pell Grants;
- Medicare cuts are limited to 2% (the cuts affect payments to providers only, not beneficiaries);
- Interest on the debt.

Taking out the exempted programs, all other defense programs would be subject to an 11.2% cut. All non-defense programs would be subject to an 8% cut.

In other words, for Fiscal Year 2013, if you are receiving government funding for any program or grant, it will be cut by 8% if Congress does not change the law.

As stated above, there are many leaders in Congress that want to find a way to avoid sequestration. Republicans feel that the defense cuts are too big and some Democrats object to the cuts in the non-defense programs. Several bills have been introduced to defer or abandon the sequester. The problem is that there is no agreement on how to find the money to pay for it.

Congress will probably not be able to find a workable plan before the elections. However, during the lame duck session, Congress will likely find a way to defer the sequester for a year while they try to again forge a comprehensive budget plan. *(Compiled with assistance of the Akerman Senterfitt Federal Lobbying Team)*

PRESS CLIP: SEC. PANETTA SAYS PENTAGON WILL DROP BASE CLOSURE PLANS FOR FY13, SIGNALS STRONG OPPOSITION TO

LOOMING SEQUESTRATION CUTS (APPEARED IN 'THE HILL' BY CARLO MUÑOZ - 08/06/12)

The Defense Department (DOD) is abandoning its push for wide-scale base closures in the continental United States, focusing instead on plans to draw down military installations overseas, Secretary Leon Panetta announced Monday. "I had no illusions that [base closures] would be an easy sell politically, but we had a responsibility ... to put everything on the table," Panetta said in a speech at the annual conference of the Association of Defense Communities in Monterey, Calif. "It is now clear that there will not be a round of [closures] authorized in 2013."

Beginning in 2005, previous base closures ordered by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) netted DOD roughly \$8 billion in savings, according to Panetta. But each round proved to be a politically painful battle, the defense chief noted.

"I know from my own experience that there still is a great deal of frustration with the way that BRAC has been carried out in the past," Panetta said.

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle were quick to pounce on DOD's most recent BRAC proposal, declaring it unacceptable the moment it hit Capitol Hill in January. Lawmakers feared additional base closures and the financial toll that would bring on local communities. Sens. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) put out a joint statement calling the new BRAC round "dead on arrival."

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich.) suggested there were plenty of overseas bases to close before getting to domestic ones, a sentiment echoed among several Senators at the time. In the end, DOD was not willing to take on Congress over base closure, with lawmakers already charged over partisan fights on spending and taxes.

However, Pentagon officials will forge ahead with plans to shutter several U.S. bases overseas that will no longer be needed to accommodate the smaller total force DOD plans to have in the coming decade. The majority of those bases scheduled for closure will be in Europe, as U.S. forces begin to draw down their military footprint in that region. That presence will get smaller, as DOD's total force is expected to shrink significantly over the next decade.

Maintaining unnecessary U.S. bases across the globe as the department sheds thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from its payrolls is "the very definition of hollowing out the force," Panetta said during Monday's speech. As the Pentagon stares down the barrel of a \$500 billion budget cut passed by Congress under last year's debt-ceiling deal, and possibly an additional \$500 billion in automatic cuts under sequestration, it would have been "irresponsible" to not consider cutting back U.S. military installations around the world, Panetta said. "I felt that it was an important debate to have, and it is a debate we must continue," Panetta said. "Now may not be the time for BRAC as our economy recovers, but sooner or later, one way or another, [DOD] is going to need to take a hard look at its basing infrastructure as we seek to reduce our overhead costs."

On sequestration, Panetta reiterated DOD's claims that the looming automatic cut is "a mindless, indiscriminate formula" to lower the federal debt, after the so-called congressional supercommittee failed to trim \$1.2 trillion from the federal budget. "Congress must find a solution to avert this fiscal disaster," Panetta said. "At some point they are going to have to find the strength and the will ... to do the right thing."

SENATE FINANCE EXTENDERS MARK UP

On August 2nd, the Senate Finance Committee marked up the "tax extenders" bill, renewing some of the tax provisions which expired at the end of 2011 and some of those which expire at the end of 2012. Please find attached the summary of the Chairman's Mark and Modified Mark from the Senate Finance Committee. Also attached is a summary of the mark up, with opening statements and the amendments that were offered.

Among those extenders included in the package are:

- R and D tax credit;
- New Markets Tax Credit;
- Alternative Minimum Tax on middle class tax payers;
- Parity for mass transit and parking;
- State and local tax deduction;
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit;
- Empowerment Zones;

- Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property;
- Biodiesel and renewable fuels;
- New Energy Efficiency Home Credit.

Of particular note during mark up:

- An amendment was offered and **agreed to** which would ensure utilization of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit at a minimum 9% rate through 2013;
- An amendment which **was rejected** to strike the credit for energy efficient appliances;
- An amendment which **was rejected** to prohibit any recipient of New Markets Tax Credit from also receiving other federal tax benefits, federal grants or loans for the same project;
- An amendment which **was withdrawn** to restore State's sovereign rights to enforce state and local sales and use tax laws. It would allow states to have out state retailers collect sales tax due on all sales including on line, catalogue and in store.
- An amendment which **was withdrawn** to support development of advanced supercritical coal fired power plants by a 30% investment tax credit for those facilities.

Although the Committee reported out the legislation by a vote of 19-5, it is not likely to be brought to the Senate floor prior to the November elections. The House is not expected to act on an extender bill, either in Committee or on the floor, until after the elections. *(Compiled by the Patton Boggs Federal Lobbying Team)*

PROVISION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT EXTENDED BY CONGRESS

Last week before Congress adjourned for its summer recess, the House and Senate voted to renew the third country fabric provision (TCF) of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) beyond September 30, 2012 to September 30, 2015.

This action is expected to impede the decline in factory orders for exports of African apparel under AGOA. AGOA is widely considered to be the foundation for modern US-Africa economic cooperation and trade ties was signed into law in May 2000 by President Bill Clinton, and subsequent amendments to AGOA were signed by President George W. Bush in 2004 and 2006. Both Congress and the Administration received criticism by activists and private sector stakeholders during the Civil Society Session of the 2012 AGOA Forum held in June, for what was perceived as their lack of political support for the legislation.

AGOA supporters would like to see AGOA reformed into a more inclusive, more accessible and more permanent framework under which expertise can be provided to AGOA eligible countries via certain agreements such as, Trade, Investment and Development Cooperative Agreements (TIDCA's); bilateral investment treaties, investment and development friendly double taxation agreements. These agreements, supporters argue, could address customs and trade barriers, sanitary phyto sanitary (SPS) technical barriers, protection of investment, avoidance of excessive taxation, small and medium enterprise participation and supply chain issues for participants.

RECENT FEDERAL LEGISLATION AFFECTING JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES – UPDATE

Federal funding for juvenile justice programs is funded through the Department of Justice. The House passed its version of the FY2013 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations (CJS) bill in May. Overall, the bill provides \$209.5 million for Juvenile Justice Programs, which is \$53 million below the FY2012 level, and \$35.5 million below the President's FY2103 budget request.

Of the \$209.5 million, the programs will be funded as follows:

- \$33 million for State Formula Grants;
- \$90 million for Youth Mentoring Grants;
- \$18 million for Victims of Child Abuse Programs;
- \$67 million for Missing and Exploited Children programs;
- \$1.5 million for Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel.

The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its version of the FY2013 CJS Appropriations Bill in April. The full Senate has not yet considered the bill. The Senate bill includes \$278

million for Juvenile Justice Programs, which is \$15.5 million above the FY2012 level and significantly more than the House CJS bill. The \$278 million in funding is divided up as follows:

- \$55 million for State Formula Grants;
- \$61 million for Youth Mentoring Grants;
- \$30 million for Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants;
- \$19 million for Victims of Child Abuse Programs;
- \$30 million for Juvenile Accountability Block Grants;
- \$14 million for Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives;
- \$65 million for Missing and Exploited Children Programs;
- \$2 million for Training for Judicial Personnel;
- \$2 million for the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.

The 2013 fiscal year begins on October 1, 2012. The CJS and other appropriations bills were not going to be completed by that date so Congress was going to have to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government operating until they could complete the bills. It was expected that the CR would go until the lame duck session when they would complete the spending bills. However, last week before adjourning for the August recess, the Congressional leadership reached an agreement on a six-month CR that will fund the government through March 31, 2013. That means that the funding for the juvenile justice programs will not be resolved until next spring when they finish the FY2013 bills. It also means funding for the formula programs and discretionary grants will be released later in the year than usual. Congress is expected to take up the six-month CR in September.

In terms of authorizing legislation related to juvenile justice, the House Judiciary Committee has recently marked up two juvenile justice related bills. They are:

H.R. 6019, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2012: The House Judiciary Committee approved H.R. 6019 on June 28. The bill would reauthorize and expand the use of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants for programs to prevent and address occurrences of bullying, including cyber-bullying, and for gang-prevention programs. It authorizes \$40 million annually for the grants from FY2013 to FY2017. The bill was scheduled to be voted on by the House the week of July 9th, but the vote was postponed. It may be taken up in September when Congress reconvenes but the bill has recently drawn some criticism from both conservatives and liberals so it's not clear when the House may vote on it.

H.R. 3796, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act Reauthorization Act: The House Judiciary Committee also marked up H.R. 3796 on July 18. The bill would reauthorize for five years grants that help states meet standards for monitoring sex offenders. The House passed the bill on August 1, and it has been referred to the Senate for consideration. The Senate may also take it up in September. If not, it could be considered during the lame duck session, but if it is not acted on before the end of the year, it would die with all other legislation when this session of Congress ends in December and would have to be re-introduced next year when the new session begins.

In the Senate, Senator Lautenberg re-introduced the *JUMP Reauthorization Act (S.3328)*. The Juvenile Mentoring Program Act or JUMP Act amends the JJDPa to direct the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to and enter into contracts with state and local education agencies or nonprofit organizations to implement mentoring to programs that link at-risk youth with responsible adult volunteers who provide supportive relationships and exposure to new experiences that enhance the youth's ability to become responsible citizens. The bill was introduced in 2010, but no action was taken on the bill last session. Senator Lautenberg re-introduced the bill in June, but I would not expect any action of the bill before the end of the year.

The other big juvenile justice issue in general is the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPa). However, I would not expect there to be significant movement on this issue for the remainder of the year given the fact that they will only be in session for another 2-3 weeks before adjourning for the elections and the major issues (expiring tax cuts, sequestration, etc.) that must be addressed in the lame duck session. *(Prepared by Akerman Senterfitt Federal Lobbying Team)*

SEN. RUBIO MOBILE OFFICE HOURS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

On Thursday August 23, 2012, Sen. Rubio's staff will be hosting "Mobile Office Hours" to meet with Miami-Dade County constituents and assist them with federal issues.

Thursday - August 23, 2012

Miami-Dade County

10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Lobby of Rebecca Towers Senior Center

150 Alton Road South

Miami Beach, FL 33139

ROMNEY TO MAKE CAMPAIGN STOP IN MIAMI

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney will travel to Miami on Monday. This will be his final stop on a one-day bus tour of Florida that includes stops in St. Augustine and Orlando.

LOOKING AHEAD

The week of August 13 – 17:

The House will not be in session next week.

The Senate will not be in session next week.

The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session through August 3 and then break for recess until September 10.

If you would like to stop receiving this report please send an email to the following address - intergov@miamidade.gov - with "REMOVE" in the subject line.

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT

AUGUST 13 – AUGUST 17, 2012

Below is an informal overview of the Washington D.C. activities of the Miami-Dade County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

THE SENATE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

THE HOUSE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

COUNTY RECEIVES \$1.36 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) grant award to the EFSP National Board for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), and the National Board's determination of funding allocations to jurisdictions throughout our country. The EFSP allocation and notification cycle resulting from the FY12 funds is referred to as Phase 30. Miami-Dade County, through the United Way of Miami, was allocated \$1,362,868.

The EFSP is administered by a National Board of voluntary agencies chaired by FEMA. The National Board qualifies local jurisdictions for annual EFSP allocations based on criteria involving current population, unemployment, and poverty levels. Local Boards, convened in the qualifying jurisdictions, decide which nonprofit and government agencies are to receive the allocated funds, and funds are then disbursed directly to the agencies by the National Board. In addition, 8% of the year's total EFSP appropriation will be allocated by the National Board to "set-aside committees" at the state level. These State Set-Aside Committees will make funding determinations to aid those in jurisdictions with the greatest needs.

This funding will support social service agencies in cities and counties across the country to help feed and shelter the Nation's hungry and homeless. EFSP funds are used to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs for people with non-disaster related emergencies.

EFSP funds were first appropriated by Congress in 1983 and subsequently authorized to be appropriated annually under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (PL 100-77). With the FY12 appropriation, more than \$3.844 billion in federal aid will have been disbursed through the EFSP since its inception. Member agencies of the National Board are: American Red Cross; Catholic Charities USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; United Way Worldwide; and FEMA.

ROMNEY CHOOSES REP. PAUL RYAN AS RUNNING MATE

Who is Congressman Paul Ryan?

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan is in his seventh term in Congress representing Wisconsin's First Congressional District. He is Chairman of the House Budget Committee, where he has worked to rein in federal spending and increase accountability to taxpayers. He also serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, where he has focused on simplifying the tax code and making health care more affordable and accessible.

In January 2010, Ryan gained attention nationwide after unveiling his "Roadmap for America's Future," a proposal to eliminate the federal deficit, reform the tax code, and preserve entitlements for future generations.

Rep. Ryan was born in Janesville, Wisconsin on January 29, 1970. A fifth-generation Wisconsin native, Ryan was the youngest of four children born to Paul Ryan Sr., who worked as an attorney, and Betty, a stay-at-home mom. In April 2000, Ryan proposed to Janna Little, a native Oklahoman, and later that year, the two were married in Oklahoma City. Rep. Ryan and his wife reside in Janesville with their three children, Liza, Charlie and Sam. The family attends St. John Vianney Catholic Church.

Upon entering Congress in January of 1999, Ryan was the youngest member of the freshmen class at the age of 28. Prior to running for congress, Ryan served as an aide to Republican Senators Robert Kasten Jr. and Sam Brownback, former U.S. Rep. and Vice Presidential Candidate Jack Kemp and as a speechwriter for Education Secretary William Bennett.

Ryan is a graduate of Joseph A. Craig High School in Janesville and earned degrees in economics and political science from Miami University in Ohio. He is an avid outdoorsman and is a member of his local archery association, the Janesville Bowmen.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION STARTS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR “DREAM ACT ALTERNATIVE” PROGRAM

On Wednesday, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it will begin accepting requests, effective immediately, for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals. On June 15, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet other key guidelines may request, on a case-by-case basis, consideration of deferred action.

“USCIS has developed a rigorous review process for deferred action requests under guidelines issued by Secretary Napolitano,” said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. “Childhood arrivals who meet the guidelines and whose cases are deferred will now be able to live without fear of removal, and be able to more fully contribute their talents to our great nation.”

Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion. USCIS will review requests and make decisions on a case-by-case basis. While it does not provide lawful status or a pathway to permanent residence or citizenship, individuals whose cases are deferred as part of this process will not be removed from the United States for a two-year period, subject to renewal, and may also apply for employment authorization.

NACO: FUTURE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS IN QUESTION

There have been recent proposals and interest in limiting the tax exempt status of municipal

bonds. State and local governments benefit hugely from being able to issue tax-exempt bonds. Often investors are willing to accept lower interest payments on municipal bonds because the interest income is tax exempt. This aids in maintaining a high level of demand for municipal bonds and therefore aids local governments in providing the critical resources for local infrastructure.

Additionally, State and local governments experience lower borrowing costs because of the lower interest rates they have to pay on the bonds. Limiting or “capping” the tax-exempt status on municipal bonds could have the effect of increasing borrowing costs for local governments as well as a significant diminishing demand for bonds making it harder to finance local infrastructure projects.

To learn more on this issue visit the NACO Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee webpage at <http://www.naco.org/legislation/policies/Pages/FIGA.aspx>.

REP. ROS-LETINEN RECEIVES FIU OUTSTANDING ALUMNA MEDALLION

On Monday August 13th, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen received a Florida International University (FIU) Medallion for Outstanding Alumna during the university’s Summer Commencement event. The Congresswoman said she honored to accept this distinction and looks forward to spending time with the faculty and student body of her former alma mater. Said Ros-Lehtinen:

“It’s always a treat for me to visit my alma mater and witness the incredibly great changes taking place at FIU. The campus has grown tremendously, but the high educational standards and caring faculty continue to be the same as when I completed both my Bachelors and Masters Degrees. I look forward to spending a special afternoon with friends.”

FEMA CATASTROPHIC HOUSING ANNEX TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING 2012 HURRICANE SEASON

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a Catastrophic Housing Annex to the 2012 Federal Interagency Response Plan-Hurricane. The Catastrophic Housing Annex’s goal is to transition disaster survivors from shelters to temporary housing and/or sustainable housing as quickly as possible following a catastrophic disaster by engaging the Whole Community in disaster recovery.

The Annex provides a scalable, understandable approach to how the Federal government will support state, local, Tribal, territorial partners housing missions after a disaster and adopts several new concepts to quickly analyze needs, categorize areas of impact, and provide atypical courses of action in order to efficiently manage resources, processes, and expectations. The concepts and options found in this Annex focus on increasing capacity and adjusting timelines to improve efficiency of transitioning households out of sheltering to temporary housing or directly into long-term sustainable or permanent housing. This Annex identifies the considerations necessary to implement options in the most efficient and effective manner possible by working with the Whole Community.

FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION MATCHUPS - FLORIDA

Federal, state and local primary elections were held across the state of Florida on Tuesday, August 14. The biggest surprise of the day occurred in North Florida, where incumbent Rep. Cliff Stearns lost his primary bid to Gainesville veterinarian and tea party darling Mr. Ted Yoho. Florida holds a closed primary, which allows only registered Republicans or Democrats to vote in their parties' respective primaries. Below is a list of the general election matchups that will be decided on Election Day – Tuesday November 6, 2012.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES -

President Barack Obama/Vice President Joe Biden (D)

Gov. Mitt Romney/Rep. Paul Ryan (R)

U.S. SENATE -

Sen. Bill Nelson (D) - incumbent

Rep. Connie Mack IV (R) - Congressman, Former State Rep., Son of former U.S. Sen. Connie Mack III

Chris Borgia (I) - Iraq War Veteran

Bill Gaylor (I) - Insurance Agency Owner

Ron McNeil (I) - Businessman, Inventor, Ex-Republican & '82/'10 US Rep. Candidate

Piotr Blass (Write-In) - College Professor & Frequent Candidate

Naomi Craine (Socialist Workers/Write-In) - Political Organizer

Lionel Long (Write-In)

Robert Monroe (Write-in)

Lawrence Scott (Write-In)

U.S. HOUSE (Statewide) -

DISTRICT 1:

Jeff Miller (R) - incumbent

Jim Bryan (D) - Businessman, Vietnam War Veteran & '08/'10 Candidate

Calen Fretts (Libertarian) - Website Developer

William "Cleave" Drummond II (Reform) - Artist, Calligrapher & Website Designer

DISTRICT 2:

Steve Southerland (R) - incumbent

Al Lawson (D) – Former State Senate Minority Leader, former State Rep., Insurance Agency Owner & '10 Candidate

Floyd Miller (Write-In)

DISTRICT 3:

Ted Yoho (R) - Veterinarian & Tea Party Activist

Jacques "J.R." Gaillot Jr. (D) - Businessman & former congressional intern

Phil Dodds (I) - Software Product/Sales Manager

Michael Ricks (Write-In)

Ken Willey (Write-In) - College Student, Tea Party Activist & Retired Navy NCO

****Cliff Stearns (R) - incumbent, lost primary race to Mr. Yoho***

DISTRICT 4:

Ander Crenshaw (R) - incumbent

Jim Klauder (I) - Novelist & '84 Candidate

Gary Koniz (Write-In) - Self-Published Author & '10 Candidate

DISTRICT 5:

Corrine Brown (D) - incumbent

LeAnne Kolb (R) - Karate School Owner & '10 Candidate

Eileen Fleming (I) - Blogger & Pro-Palestinian Activist

Bruce Ray Riggs (Write-In) - Tea Party Activist, Chef & '10 US Sen. Candidate

DISTRICT 6: *Open Seat*

Ron DeSantis (R) - Attorney & Iraq War Veteran

Heather Beaven (D) - Non-Profit Foundation CEO, Navy Veteran & '10 Nominee

DISTRICT 7:

John Mica (R) - incumbent- Current CD-7 Incumbent

Jason Kendall (D) - Law Student & Environmental Activist

Fred Marra (Write-In)

****Sandy Adams (R) - current member from 24th CD lost primary race to Rep. Mica***

DISTRICT 8:

Bill Posey (R) - incumbent

Shannon Roberts (D) – Former Cape Canaveral City Councilwoman, Retired NASA Official & '10 Nominee

Richard Gillmor (I) - Sebastian City Councilman & Retired Insurance Executive

DISTRICT 9: - *Open Seat*

Alan Grayson (D) – Former Congressman & Attorney

Todd Long (R) - Attorney & '08 Candidate

Mike Nieves (I) - Business Development Manager

Roberto Sanchez (I)

DISTRICT 10:

Daniel Webster (R) - incumbent

Val Demings (D) - Retired Orlando Police Chief

Naipaul Seegolam (Write-In) - Businessman & USAF Veteran

DISTRICT 11:

Rich Nugent (R) - incumbent

Dave Werder (D) - Disabled former Truck Driver & Frequent Candidate

DISTRICT 12:

Gus Bilirakis (R) - incumbent

Jonathan Michael Snow (D) - Drugstore Photo Specialist

Paul Elliott (I)

John Russell (I) - Nurse, former Democratic Activist & Frequent Candidate

DISTRICT 13:

C.W. "Bill" Young (R) - incumbent

Jessica Ehrlich (D) - Attorney & Former Congressional Aide

DISTRICT 14:

Kathy Castor (D) - incumbent

E.J. Otero (R) - Retired USAF Officer & Military Intelligence Contractor

Bill Kee (I) - Pro-Life Activist

DISTRICT 15:

Dennis Ross (R) - incumbent

DISTRICT 16:

Vern Buchanan (R) - incumbent

Keith Fitzgerald (D) - former State Rep. & College Professor

DISTRICT 17:

Tom Rooney (R) - incumbent

Bill Bronson (D) - Minister, Retired Airline Pilot, Navy Veteran, Ex-Republican & Frequent Candidate

Tom Baumann (Socialist Workers/Write-In) - Communist Political Organizer

DISTRICT 18:

Allen West (R) - incumbent

Patrick Murphy (D) - Construction Executive & Accountant

Marilyn Davis Holloman (Write-In)

DISTRICT 19:

Trey Radel (R) - Radio Talk Show Host, Public Relations Executive & Ex-TV News Reporter

James Roach (D) - Technology Consultant, Ex-Automotive Engineer, Vietnam War Veteran & '10 Nominee

Brandon Smith (I) - Software Programmer

Connie Mack IV (R) – held seat, candidate for US Senate

DISTRICT 20:

Alcee Hastings (D) - incumbent

Randall Terry (I) - Pro-Life Activist & Frequent Candidate

Anthony Dutrow (Socialist Workers/Write-In) - Communist Political Organizer & Frequent Candidate

DISTRICT 21:

Ted Deutch (D) - incumbent

Cesar Henao (I) - Technology Professional & Former Congressional Intern

W.M. "Mike" Trout (I) - Musician & Progressive Activist

DISTRICT 22: *Open Seat*

Adam Hasner (R) - Former State House Majority Leader & Attorney

Lois Frankel (D) - Former West Palm Beach Mayor, Former State House Minority Leader, Attorney & '92 Candidate

DISTRICT 23:

Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D) - incumbent

Karen Harrington (R) - Restaurant Owner, Community Activist & '10 Nominee

Ilya Katz (I) - Cartoonist, Retired College Lecturer & Conservative Activist

DISTRICT 24:

Frederica Wilson (D) - incumbent

DISTRICT 25:

Mario Diaz-Balart (R) - incumbent

Stanley Blumenthal (I) - Retiree, Socialist Activist, US Merchant Marine Veteran & '10 Candidate

Eddie "VoteForEddie.com" Gonzalez (I) - College Student

DISTRICT 26:

David Rivera (R) - incumbent

Joe Garcia (D) – Former Miami-Dade County Democratic Chair, Political Consultant & '08/'10 Nominee

Jose Peixoto (I) - Construction Worker & '10 Monroe County Mosquito Control Board Candidate

DISTRICT 27:

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R) - incumbent

Manny Yevancey (D)

Thomas Joe Cruz-Wiggins (I) - Teacher & Navy Veteran

LOOKING AHEAD

The week of August 20 – 24:

The House will not be in session next week.

The Senate will not be in session next week.

The House and Senate are scheduled to be in recess until September 10.

If you would like to stop receiving this report please send an email to the following address - intergov@miamidade.gov - with "REMOVE" in the subject line.

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT

AUGUST 20 – AUGUST 24, 2012

Below is an informal overview of the Washington D.C. activities of the Miami-Dade County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

THE SENATE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

THE HOUSE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

ISAAC STRENGTHENS OVER CARIBBEAN, BARRELS TOWARD FLORIDA AND SOUTHERN GULF COAST

As Tropical Storm Isaac bears down on Florida, emergency management officials throughout South Florida geared up for the possibility of a hurricane making landfall in South Florida for the first time since 2005. To ensure maximum awareness, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, the Board of County Commissioners, Emergency Management Director Curtis Sommerhoff and the county's congressional delegation have engaged in outreach to the public through Miami-Dade County's Emergency Operations Center, and the National Hurricane Center located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami.

Miami-Dade County's Office of Emergency Management and OIA will continue to provide updates on this weather system as it evolves. Detailed information on this system can be found at www.nhc.noaa.gov (Mobile: www.nhc.noaa.gov/mobile). For forecast information specific to your area please visit <http://weather.gov/miami>.

Current FEMA Coordination Efforts:

- FEMA maintains strategically-located commodities at all times, including millions of liters of water, and a similar amount of meals and blankets, at distribution centers throughout the United States and its territories to support states as requested. FEMA has distribution centers in Atlanta, Ga. and Denton, Texas and in coordination with the Department of Defense, has prepositioned supplies closer to potentially affected areas.
- Through our Regional offices in Atlanta, Ga., and Denton, Texas, FEMA officials remain in close coordination with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness in Louisiana.
- FEMA has activated an enhanced National Watch in Washington, D.C., and activated its Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center, to proactively support state requests for assistance, if needed.
- As during any large response, FEMA is in close contact with our partners across the federal family. Because Haiti may feel the direct impact of Tropical Storm Isaac, FEMA is in close coordination with the State Department and USAID, the lead U.S. federal agencies for international response, and stands ready to provide assistance as requested.

Preparedness Actions for those in the Watch and Warning areas:

- FEMA urges residents in the southeastern states to listen to your NOAA Weather Radio and local news stations to monitor for all severe weather updates and warnings.
- Always follow the instructions of local emergency management officials. If your area is ordered to evacuate, be sure to know your evacuation route in advance and have a plan for where you will stay.
- History shows that storm tracks can change quickly and unexpectedly, so FEMA encourages coastal residents to monitor weather conditions, follow the directions of local officials and visit Ready.gov to learn about a few simple steps they can take now to be prepared.
- The National Weather Service is the official source for weather information. It's important to listen to NOAA Weather Radio and local news and to monitor for severe weather updates and warnings, and follow instructions of state tribal, territory, and local officials.
- Now is the time to prepare your family, home or business to lessen the impact of severe weather. Tropical weather systems can bring heavy rains, flash flooding, and high winds, so

if you haven't already, visit Ready.gov (Listo.gov para español) for tips on creating your family emergency plan and getting an emergency kit.

- Everyone should also familiarize themselves with the terms that are used to identify a severe weather hazard. Terms used to describe severe tropical weather include the following:
 - A Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within 48 hours. Monitor local radio and television new outlets or listen to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest developments.
 - A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected within 36 hours. If local officials give the order to evacuate, leave immediately.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

U.S. ARMY CORPS SIGNS OFF ON AGREEMENT ALLOWING PORTMIAMI TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DEEP DREDGE

PortMiami and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have signed the construction agreement allowing PortMiami to move forward to the next step in the Deep Dredge project and officially bid out the construction project. The so-called PPA, or "Project Partnership Agreement," was finalized and executed on August 21, 2012.

"The project agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the final step prior to advertising for the construction contract..." "The agreement solidifies our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the [Federal] agency that will manage the project." said PortMiami Director Bill Johnson. "We are on schedule to complete the Deep Dredge at the same time the expanded Panama Canal opens," Johnson added.

This important project will deepen the County's existing port channels to minus 50/52 feet to prepare for the Panama Canal expansion, which is now scheduled for completion in early 2015. PortMiami's deeper channel will provide cargo ships with an economically efficient, reliable and safe navigational route into the county's Port. The project is expected to create more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs and help the Port to meet its goal of doubling its cargo traffic over the next decade.

REP. DAVID RIVERA VISITS MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Congressman David Rivera recently visited patients and physicians at Miami Children's Hospital (MCH) to learn more about MCH's nationally ranked programs. The Congressman observed a cardiac procedure, spent time with patients in the Cardiac and Pediatric Intensive Care units and discussed MCH's campus development plan with President and CEO, Dr. M. Narendra Kini.

The Congressman's visit also shed light on the need for reauthorization and adequate funding of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program. The CHGME Program is critical to allowing children's hospitals to sustain their teaching programs. Congressman Rivera added:

"Miami Children's Hospital is an extremely valuable part of our community. MCH's groundbreaking practices and cutting edge vision for pediatric medicine improve the health and well-being of children from South Florida and all over the world. MCH goes the extra mile to ensure that while their patients are being well cared for, they are also comfortable and comforted during what can be a frightening time for families with sick children. I thank Dr. Kini and the MCH staff, not only for their hospitality during my visit, but for the important life-saving work that they do day in and day out."

REP. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ AT THE MIAMI-DADE COALITION ON AGING – DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE ACT AND ID THEFT BILL

Earlier today, Rep. Wasserman Schultz spoke at the Miami-Dade Coalition on Aging's Annual Luncheon in Miami Shores. She talked about the importance of continuing to work with the Coalition in order to help our seniors find secure housing, access affordable health care, avoid fraud and manage the day-to-day challenges of trying to age with dignity. She mentioned legislation she's filed to help in these efforts, among them the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Act in 2011 and the STOP Identity Theft Act, which would strengthen penalties for identity thieves, as well as expand the definition of an identity theft victim to include not only individuals, but also businesses and organizations that have had their identities stolen for phishing schemes in an attempt to get sensitive information from consumers.

CONGRESSWOMAN WILSON RECOGNIZES UN WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY – AWARDS \$10,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Congresswoman Frederica Wilson issued the following statement in recognition of the United Nations World Humanitarian Day, which urges people to help others in any way possible. This week, in the spirit of UN World Humanitarian Day, Congresswoman Wilson awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to students in her district who graduated high school in 2012 as well as to those who are currently continuing their education. The Congresswoman said:

“It is imperative that we give of ourselves to help improve the quality of life for the less fortunate and the lives of those oppressed by tyranny in countries and nations where even the most basic of human rights are denied.

“I join with the United Nations in recognizing those who have died and continue to put their lives on the line each day fighting for the rights of others around the world. I urge people to get involved in improving their communities and neighborhoods. The smallest gesture can make a big difference.”

World Humanitarian Day also commemorates the deaths of 22 UN staff members who were killed on August 19, 2003, when the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, was bombed.

CLIMATE COMMUNITIES – IBM'S SMARTER CITIES CHALLENGE

Technical Assistance Available to Overcome Local Sustainability Obstacles:

On Thursday’s Climate Communities webinar, Lyell Sakaue, an IBM Program Manager, joined the group to discuss the Smarter Cities Challenge. Lyell provided an overview of the initiative, highlighted the work that IBM is conducting with previous winners, and described the types of problems that IBM seeks to help communities solve.

In 2010, IBM developed the Smarter Cities Challenge to help communities develop more vibrant and livable communities through technology. The program provides selected cities with access to teams of experts to analyze challenges facing municipalities. IBM teams work closely with local leaders and deliver recommendations on how to make the city smarter and more effective. Issues that can be addressed

include sustainability, energy, transportation, economic development, education, jobs, public safety, health, and social services.

The program is working with a total of 100 cities around the world. Earlier U.S. winners include: Atlanta, Boston, Boulder, Durham, Houston, Jacksonville, Louisville, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Newark, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, St. Louis, and Syracuse. IBM recently announced the third round of the competition; applications are due September 7, 2012. IBM is looking for submissions that:

- Clearly outline a problem or opportunity to explore, rather than a solution to be implemented;
- Provide evidence that the proposal is connected to top priorities and challenges of city and community leadership; and
- Emphasize cross-system or services challenges that demonstrate that the city is composed of a system of systems.

YOUNG IMMIGRANTS SEEKING DEFERRED ACTION: BEWARE OF SCAM ARTISTS, UNSCRUPULOUS “NOTARIOS”

Rep. Wasserman Schultz held a press event in South Florida on Wednesday where she highlighted a new rule affecting young immigrants. In June, the Obama Administration implemented provisions of the stalled “DREAM Act” – whereby the Department of Homeland Security ordered an end to deporting young people who pose no threat to society. Starting last week, those who met certain criteria became eligible to receive deferred action for a period of two years.

In light of the progress made on this issue, immigration attorneys and community activists want the public to be aware of possible scam artists known as “notaries” who could be offering false information or charging large fees to fill out paperwork.

Participants in the event to raise awareness on this issue included Cheryl Little, the Executive Director of Americans for Immigrant Justice, Monica Lazaro, a Miami Dade Honors College student who moved to the U.S. when she was 8 years old and who recently lost her mother to cancer, in addition to Miami-Dade County Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvahlo. Information for clinics offering “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” can be found here - <http://fdream.swer.org/appointments/>

LOOKING AHEAD

The week of August 27 – 31:

****The Republican National Convention begins next week in Tampa, Florida****

The House will not be in session next week.

The Senate will not be in session next week.

The House and Senate are scheduled to be in recess until September 10.

If you would like to stop receiving this report please send an email to the following address - intergov@miamidade.gov - with "REMOVE" in the subject line.

WASHINGTON WEEKLY REPORT

AUGUST 27 – AUGUST 31, 2012

Below is an informal overview of the Washington D.C. activities of the Miami-Dade County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs:

THE SENATE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

THE HOUSE WAS NOT IN SESSION THIS WEEK

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

On Thursday, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, current United States Senator Marco Rubio and U.S. Senate candidate and current Congressman Connie Mack IV gave speeches during the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida.

The weeklong event was capped off by former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney formally accepting the party's presidential nomination. Next week, the Democratic National Convention will commence on Labor Day in Charlotte, North Carolina.

JUDGE TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION

According to a report by the Associated Press and Reuters, a federal judge has said that he intends to issue a permanent injunction of proposed voter registration laws enacted by the Florida State Legislature. The judge indicated that a final ruling would come down once the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta dismisses the state's appeal of a preliminary injunction that was issued on May 31, 2012, or once the appeals courts sends the case back. The decision effectively prohibits Florida from enforcing certain portions of a broad overhaul of Florida's voter registration laws.

Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz released the following statement in response to the judge's decision:

"A thriving democracy depends on the ability of voters to cast their ballots and have their votes count. Today's announcement puts us one step closer to ensuring that voters will be able to do just that. Judge Hinkle said in May that the state cannot require groups to submit registration forms within 48 hours or face \$1,000 fines. By striking down this law, groups that help millions of Americans register through voter registration drives, like the non-partisan League of Women Voters, will now have 10 days to submit voter forms, as they did before the law was changed.

"We must keep fighting to ensure that all citizens who are eligible to vote can vote, and work to tear down barriers like those created by this onerous state law."

Congresswoman Frederica Wilson issued the following statement in response to the reports:

"This is great news for Florida's voters. The purpose of voter registration drives is to help Americans exercise their most basic constitutional right. Anything that makes it easier for U.S. citizens to register to vote – including voter registration drives and motor-voter programs – should be encouraged. The 15th, 19th and 26th amendments ensured the right to vote to every American who is at least 18 years old regardless of race and gender."

REP. ROS-LEHTINEN RECOGNIZES UPS AS IMPORTANT JOB CREATOR IN SOUTH FLORIDA DURING VISIT

On Tuesday, August 28, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen spoke with the many employees of United Parcel Service (UPS) during its Founders Day celebration. The Congresswoman visited the central Miami UPS facility and met with the drivers, mid level and senior company officials of the package and freight delivery company to thank them for their commitment to South Florida. The Congresswoman also told the employees that she appreciated their ongoing role in improving our local economy.

Said Ros-Lehtinen:

"I thanked the wonderful employees of UPS for their dedication and long term commitment to our South Florida community. UPS is a major job creator across the nation and indeed the world. Locally, it employs hundreds of employees in Miami-Dade County and more than 15,000 across the State of Florida.

This multibillion dollar company has left a strong footprint in our community. Through its distribution centers, drivers and other employees it has made it clear it is here to stay and continue growing as it branches out to Central and Latin America. UPS sets a high example for other major companies to follow.”

FYI: FEMA INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY REGARDING SUPPORT FOR STATE PARTNERS IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY FOLLOWING ISAAC

Earlier today, FEMA provided the following update to local and state governments regarding its coordination, response and recovery efforts following Hurricane Isaac's impact with the continental United States:

- FEMA continues to support joint coordination efforts together with our state, local, Tribal, private sector, and non-profit partners, as the Gulf Coast states move from a response to recovery phase in the wake of Hurricane Isaac.
- The coordinated response efforts so far are due in large part, to the excellent planning by state, tribal and local emergency managers and first responders.
- The leadership demonstrated by state, Tribal and local officials during the Hurricane Isaac response effort shows the years of training, planning, and commitment to preparedness by the whole community.

Current Coordination Efforts

- At the direction of President Obama, FEMA continues to coordinate the federal government's response and recovery efforts. FEMA and its partners continue to monitor recovery efforts and remain in constant contact with state emergency management partners in affected states. FEMA remains watchful for any additional impacts from flooding as the remains of the storm moves northeastwards towards the Ohio Valley.
- Administrator Craig Fugate has been in the Gulf Coast states since Wednesday, visiting Governors, state and local emergency managers, and speaking with individuals impacted by Hurricane Isaac. Yesterday he toured the damage in southern Louisiana with Governor Bobby Jindal and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

- FEMA's National Business Emergency Operations Center has been in constant coordination with large and small businesses located in the path of Hurricane Isaac. As businesses begin to reopen after the storm, the NBEOC helps them collaborate on best practices and find resources they need to restart the local economy fast.
- FEMA has hundreds of Community Relations members staged throughout Louisiana and Mississippi ready to canvass the worst hit areas and provide assistance information and support to individuals impacted by the disaster.
- FEMA continues to work with its partners across the non-profit and faith-based communities, including the American Red Cross, to support sheltering, clean-up kits, and feeding needs in the Gulf Coast states.
- FEMA's National Response Coordination Center in Washington, D.C., remains activated to 24/7 operations and its Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center in Atlanta, Ga., and Region VI Regional Coordination Center in Denton, Texas, are also activated to support state requests for assistance.
- At all times, FEMA maintains strategically-located commodities throughout the United States including millions of liters of water, and a similar amount of meals and blankets. In close coordination with our state partners, FEMA moved pre-staged federal commodities in Louisiana and Mississippi even closer to heavily impacted areas.
- FEMA recently transferred more than 500,000 liters of water, 390,000 meals, 50,000 blankets, 30,000 cots and 3,500 traps to the State of Louisiana for distribution to individuals at the state's Points of Distribution (POD) sites. The state PODs will be supported by the Louisiana National Guard and will open today, to provide food, water, and supplies to those affected by Isaac. Contact your local emergency manager for more information.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

This week's Climate Communities Webinar highlighted two new community sustainability grant opportunities.

Local Sustainability Matching Fund & Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant were discussed by Julia Parzen, a coordinator with Urban Sustainability Directors Network and a partner of the Funders' Network, and Ashley Grosh, a project manager for Environmental Affairs with Wells Fargo. Julia and Ashley provided overviews of the funding opportunities.

The two grant opportunities, which combined could fund up to \$325,000 of local sustainability projects, include:

1. Local Sustainability Matching Fund: Supports local sustainability projects with grants up to \$75,000. Localities must match grant funding 1:1 from a community foundation. The Funders Network has identified 7 funding priorities for the second round:

- Alternative financing for building energy efficiency
- Funding sustainability offices and their initiatives
- Large scale behavior change
- Local food systems
- Sustainability indicators
- Sustainability marketing campaigns
- Waste systems

2. Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant: Grants up to \$250,000 to localities for sustainability projects. Localities that meet or exceed the 1:1 matching requirement will be more competitive. Eligible project activities include (among others):

- Green infrastructure
- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Water quality
- Land stewardship
- Urban forestry

LOOKING AHEAD

The week of September 3 – 7:

****The Democratic National Convention begins next week in Charlotte, NC****

The House will not be in session next week.

The Senate will not be in session next week.

The House and Senate are scheduled to be in recess until September 10.

If you would like to stop receiving this report please send an email to the following address - intergov@miamidade.gov - with "REMOVE" in the subject line.