

CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Community Meeting Summary October 24, 2023



Christ The King Episcopal Church - 6 p.m.
26 Willow Dr.
Orlando, FL 32807

Persons in attendance:
24

Comments/Concerns/Clarifications

- **Areas impacted:** Rio Pinar Country Club Estates, El Prado Canal, Little Econ river basin, Lake Azalea, Semoran Blvd.
- **Infrastructure:** Issues with power outages, downed power poles (private and county-owned), fallen trees, maintenance of canals and stormwater drains. Drainage issues caused by new construction/new development are a concern (new flooding). Water management in older neighborhoods, especially those without closed pump systems, is essential.
- **Mitigation:** Need to upgrade water retention/drainage plans for older neighborhoods to reflect changes in water levels/storm intensity. Elevation of structures, upgraded storm-water management systems, and development of a backup plan were offered as potential solutions (example: Blanchard Park Pump station malfunctioned). Protection of wetlands. Additionally, better collaboration needed between jurisdictions to maintain/improve existing infrastructure.
- **Program eligibility:** Funding assistance needed for home owners who did not qualify for FEMA or may not meet CDBG-DR income limits, although living on a fixed income and/or living paycheck-to-paycheck.
- **Program requirements (insurance):** Homeowners receiving federal assistance are required to maintain a flood insurance. CDBG-DR funds can be used to supplement FEMA and insurance funding gaps for eligible homeowners.
- **Housing:** Home rehabilitation should be the top priority. In some cases, repairs exceeded home values. Will County reimburse additional cost to owners forced to rebuild/rehab older homes to current codes? Timeline of CDBG-DR funding does not address immediate needs. (Resources were provided on the existing Homeowner Rehabilitation Program).
- **Housing resources:** Need additional resources for displaced homeowners without insurance. On Rio Drive, 60% of homes flooded, and residents had to be evacuated by boat.
- **Public services:** Emergency shelter (Timbercreek HS) was not ready for residents; no food, blankets, toiletries etc. Mental health services for post-disaster trauma are needed. Homeless services, shelters, special services for elderly, etc.

Priorities Identified

HOUSING - 5

New construction - 0
Homeownership assistance - 1
Rental assistance - 0
Rehabilitation/Reconstruction - 4
Property buyout - 0

INFRASTRUCTURE - 26

Public facilities - 4
Drainage/Utilities - 13
Water and wastewater facilities - 9

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION - 0

Business retention program(s) - 0
Loans and grants to businesses - 0

PUBLIC SERVICES - 1

Legal assistance - 0
Housing counseling - 0
Mental/Health services - 1
Housing stability services - 0
Job training/Placement - 0

