



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - August 29, 2025

Orange County Government received \$219 million in federal disaster recovery funding (CDBG-DR funds) to help communities in hard-hit areas recover from Hurricane Ian. Additionally, the County received an allocation of \$33 million to address the remaining needs resulting from Hurricane Milton.

Orange County aims to provide our residents and community partners with the most up to date information as the County moves forward with its implementation of the CDBG-DR programs. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from this information.

Please visit our website at www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR for more information about the CDBG-DR Program, timeline, and other related information.



Request for Applications Now Open!

Orange County, through its Housing and Community Development Division, is soliciting applications for Public Facilities and Housing projects, and Planning Studies, to be implemented as part of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. Applications must be completed and submitted online through ZoomGrants, which can be accessed through the website: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR.

The Request for Applications (RFA) process began on **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, and will end on **Friday, October 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** The Public Facilities and Housing Projects RFA is open for state certified 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations and Public Housing Authorities (PHA). The Planning Studies RFA is open to Orange County Departments and Divisions, local municipalities, and quasi-governmental agencies (such as water management districts and a regional planning council). Proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation committee(s) for consistency with federal regulations, unmet needs and priorities detailed in the CDBG-DR Action Plan, feasibility of the project(s), and other criteria outlined in the RFA.

CDBG-DR Program Information

Public Facilities and Housing Projects:

- Funding Available: \$31,576,714 for public facilities, \$15,000,000 for housing projects
- Public Facilities Purpose: Funding for the rehabilitation and/or construction of public facilities serving low- to moderate-income persons or limited clientele, or facilities located in low- to moderate income areas.
- Housing Purpose: Funding for rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing affordable rental units; funding for construction of new affordable housing units specifically for permanent supportive housing and/or housing for individuals with special needs (such as group home facilities).

Planning Studies:

- Funding Available: \$3,500,000
 - Purpose: Funding for planning activities, to include data gathering, studies, analysis, plan preparation, and the identification of actions that will implement such plans. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to, infrastructure studies (stormwater, floodplain studies); resilience and sustainability studies; mitigations studies, etc.
-

Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Public Facilities :

- The proposed project:
 - Demonstrates a tie-back to Hurricane Ian,
 - Benefits low-moderate income persons,
 - Benefits a low-moderate area, and/or;
 - Enhances resiliency.

Housing Projects:

- The proposed project:
 - Demonstrates a tie-back to Hurricane Ian,
 - Benefits low-moderate income persons,
 - Enhances resiliency.

Planning Studies:

- The proposed study must address the impact of disaster through mitigation and resiliency related activities.
-

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be scored on a scale of 0 to 100 points for each evaluation criteria listed below.

- Project Description and Need
- Agency Competency
- Budget Justification and Leverage of Funds
- Project Feasibility
- Implementation and Outcomes

To ensure that projects are selected fairly, an evaluation committee composed of a variety of stakeholders will conduct an extensive review of all application submissions. The evaluation committee will provide the expertise necessary for scoring the project submissions and will be responsible for reviewing and scoring projects based on the evaluation criteria.

Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshops

The mandatory pre-award technical assistance workshops will be conducted in person on **Thursday, September 4, 2025**, at the **Orange County Internal Operations Center (IOC) 1** located at **450 East South Street, Orlando, Florida 32801**. The workshops will be conducted as follows:

The workshops will be conducted as follows:

- CDBG-DR Public Facilities and Housing Projects – 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.;
- CDBG-DR Planning Studies– 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The workshops will provide technical assistance and information about the program requirements, funding criteria for project submissions, and details about the application process. Organizations interested in submitting proposals are required to attend the workshop(s). To confirm attendance, please e-mail Victoria.Colon@ocfl.net.

Click on the links below to access the applications:

- [Application for Public Facilities and Housing Projects](#)
- [Application for Planning Studies](#)

The application must be completed and submitted online through ZoomGrants™. No paper copies will be accepted. If you experience difficulty finding the RFA in ZoomGrants, please contact: Inabert.Ramos@ocfl.net for additional information and assistance.

All funding recommendations are contingent upon the Board of County Commissioner's approval and HUD's final approval of the selected projects. Orange County, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications, and to fund applications that best serve the interest of Orange County.

If you have additional questions about the RFA process and requirements, please contact Sherry Julien, CDBG-DR Project Manager, at (407) 836-5169, or via email at Sherry.Julien@ocfl.net.

Orange County Recovers



Orange County's CDBG-DR Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation, Replacement, and Reconstruction program — Orange County Recovers — remains open and actively accepting applications. If your home was damaged by Hurricane Ian and you still have unmet housing needs, now is the time to apply. Visit [OrangeCountyRecovers.com](https://www.OrangeCountyRecovers.com) or call 321-382-3514 for assistance.

The program has seen strong community interest and is making steady progress in helping residents recover. To date, 335 applications have been received, with 122 applicants already determined eligible. Each case is being handled by a dedicated team of case managers working diligently to move homeowners through the next steps in the process.

Program Progress Snapshot:

- Total Applications Received: 335
- Eligible Applicants: 122

Damage Assessment and Review Status:

- Pending Site Inspection: 10
- Pending Damage Assessments: 64
- Pending Environmental Reviews: 48

This comprehensive and multi-step process ensures that each home is properly evaluated and compliant with federal and local requirements. As the program continues, more residents will move toward receiving the critical assistance they need to rebuild.

Don't wait — apply today and be part of the recovery.

REMINDER: You can always check your application status online or call 321-382-3514.

CDBG-DR Hurricane Milton Program Update

On July 22, 2025, Orange County and HUD officially executed the Grant Agreement for the CDBG-DR funds. County staff are now moving forward with the next phases of the program, which include administrative tasks, development of program documents such as marketing materials, program guidelines, and policies and procedures, as well as community outreach efforts. Additional updates will be provided as the program moves into the implementation phase. We appreciate the continued engagement of residents, partners, and stakeholders as we move forward with building a stronger, more resilient Orange County.

For more information on the CDBG-DR Hurricane Milton program and to stay informed on upcoming developments, please visit www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR.

Hurricane Preparedness

Just a reminder, Hurricane season is here. Now is the time to take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones. Don't wait—start preparing today! Click [HERE](#) for tips and resources on how to stay ready.



CDBG-DR Timeline

The full updated CDBG-DR timeline can be found here: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR.

Hurricane Ian

- **January 9, 2024:** BCC public hearing for the CDBG-DR Action Plan. Please click [HERE](#) to view the public hearing recording.
- **January 17, 2024:** Orange County submitted the final CDBG-DR Action Plan to HUD for review and approval. Please click [HERE](#) for the final CDBG-DR Action Plan.
- **April 9, 2024:** Grant Agreement for CDBG-DR funds executed between Orange County and HUD.
- **June 17, 2024:** Orange County CDBG-DR Final Public and DRGR Action Plan was reviewed and approved by HUD.
- **Summer 2024:** Program policies and procedures are being developed for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs.
- **December 5 & 8 2024:** Notice of Funding Availability was posted for the CDBG-DR Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs.
- **December 10, 2024:** Request for Applications (RFA) for Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs opened.
- **December 11, 2024:** Mandatory Pre-Award Technical Assistance workshops held on the RFA process.
- **January 6, 2025:** The CDBG-DR General Grant Management Services contract was issued.
- **February 5, 2025:** RFAs for Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning Studies programs to close.
- **March 4, 2025:** RFA for the Public Services program opened for qualified non-profit organizations.
- **March 5, 2025:** Applications for the Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program opened.
- **March 13, 2025:** Mandatory Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshop for Public Services RFA.
- **April 2, 2025:** RFA for the Public Services program will close.
- **April 11, 2025:** Request for Proposals (RFP) for general contractors to open.
- **May 21, 2025:** The Community Development Advisory Board approved funding recommendations for Public Services totaling \$3,406,904.
- **May 23, 2025:** RFP for general contractors closed.
- **June 3, 2025:** The BCC approved funding for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning Studies programs totaling \$85,434,862.
- **August 27, 2025:** Release of Requests for Applications for Public Facilities and Housing Projects (for non-profit agencies and PHAs) and Planning Studies (the County, local municipalities, and quasi-governmental agencies).
- **September 4, 2025:** Mandatory Pre-Award Technical Assistance workshop to be held on the RFA process.
- **Fall 2025 (Tentative):** Launch RFA for New Affordable Housing Construction

Hurricane Milton

- **April 15, 2025:** Draft Hurricane Milton Action Plan posted for public comment.
- **May 15, 2025:** Public comment period for the Hurricane Milton Action Plan to close.
- **June 3, 2025:** Public hearing for the Hurricane Milton Action Plan conducted by the BCC.
- **June 18, 2025:** Hurricane Milton Action Plan submitted to HUD for review and approval.
- **July 3, 2025:** Orange County CDBG-DR Action Plan received the final approval from HUD.
- **July 22, 2025:** Grant Agreement for CDBG-DR funds executed between Orange County and HUD.
- **Fall 2025:** Update program policies and procedures for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs to comply with Milton requirements
- **Early 2026:** (Tentative) Program Implementation

More information will be available in our next newsletter, coming soon!

Stay Tuned!

Help us spread the word about CDBG-DR

**Sign Up for our Newsletter
Here**

Connect with us on our social media



Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

We are here to help! Contact us here:
Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net

Orange County Government | 525 E. South St | Orlando, FL 32801 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!