

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and/or Wetland**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed actions under the Orange County Housing Rehabilitation Program (grant numbers B-21-UC-12-0003, B-22-UC-12-0003, B-23-UC-12-0003, and B-24-UC-12-0003), the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Orange County Recovers Program for Hurricane Ian (grant number B-23-UN-12-0003), and the CDBG-DR Program for Hurricane Milton (grant number B-25-UU-12-0005) may include properties located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and/or wetland, and the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain/wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain/wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 and/or Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project(s) will be located in Orange County, Florida. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a 0.2 percent flood approach.

Orange County is conducting a Tier I Broad Level environmental review of proposed single-family rehabilitation/ reconstruction project activities. Project activities will include rehabilitation, reconstruction, replacement, and elevation of owner-occupied single-family homes. The proposed project(s) will be located in multiple locations throughout Orange County, with the exact location of site-specific projects determined at a later date. Site-specific project activities will be conducted on previously developed residential properties and no project activities will result in new construction in a wetland. Homes located in the 1-percent-annual-chance (100-year) floodplain or the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (500-year) floodplain, that receive assistance for reconstruction, repair of substantial damage, or substantial improvement, will be elevated with the lowest floor, including the basement, at least two (2) feet above the most applicable Base Flood Elevation. All homes assisted through the program within the 100-year floodplain will require the maintenance of floodplain insurance in perpetuity. When replacement of a mobile home unit (MHU) is not feasible at the same location as the original structure, the MHU will be replaced at an alternative location. The alternate location must be a previously developed residential property/parcel, zoned to allow for installation of an MHU and have ready access to sewer, water, and electric connections. Additionally, the alternate site cannot be located in the 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

According to the FEMA Flood Map Service Center there are approximately 210,769 acres of 100-year floodplain and 10,038 acres of 500-year floodplain, within Orange County. However, there are no Coastal High Hazard Areas (V Zone), or Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LIMWA) areas within the County. Additionally, Orange County contains approximately 250,511 acres designated as wetlands on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory. Floodplains and wetlands are beneficial for wildlife, creating a variety of habitats for fish and other animals. In addition, floodplains are important to the storage and conveyance of storm water, water quality protection, and recharge of groundwater

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain/wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetland, alternative methods to serve the

same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain/wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain/wetland can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in a floodplain/wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division at the following address on or before March 11, 2025, Orange County Housing and Community Development Division, 525 E. South St, Orlando, FL 32801 and (407) 836-5150, Attention: Byron Brooks, County Administrator. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at the same address as above and www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR. Comments may also be submitted via email at Inalbert.ramos@ocfl.net.

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