



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - January 31, 2025

In 2023, 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**. A few weeks ago, it was also announced that the County will receive an additional allocation of \$33,357,000 to address remaining needs resulting from **Hurricane Milton** (more information provided below).

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.



Public Services Program - Request for Applications (RFAs)

In February of 2025, Orange County will release a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Public Services program. Qualified non-profit organizations will be eligible to apply for funds. Non-profits agencies will be able to learn about program requirements, eligibility, and the application process during a Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshop that will be held in February, shortly after the application window opens.

The purpose of the Public Services Program is to enhance community resiliency and economic stability by providing new or expanded access to public services for individuals and households impacted by Hurricane Ian.

Minimum Eligibility Criteria

All projects submitted for consideration during the RFA process must:

- Address a direct or indirect impact from Hurricane Ian;
- Be an eligible activity under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program; and
- Meet one or more of the national objectives of the CDBG program (1) Benefit persons of low- to moderate income; 2) Aid in the prevention or elimination of slum or blight; or 3) Meet other urgent community development needs).

Additionally, Public Services activities funded under the CDBG-DR program must address the unmet needs identified in the approved CDBG-DR Action Plan, which are listed below:

- Self-sufficiency Services (i.e. financial literacy, housing search and counseling, legal assistance);
- Health Services/Mental Health Services;
- Job Training/Job Placement Services; and
- Other economic related recovery related services.

Current Requests for Applications (RFAs) to Close

The current Requests for Applications for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation, and Planning Studies programs are set to close on Wednesday, **February 5, 2025, at 5 p.m.** These funding opportunities were made available to County Departments and Divisions and Local Municipalities. Once RFAs close, the application review and scoring process will begin.

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, which was formed in consultation with the Local Mitigation Strategy group to provide the technical expertise necessary for scoring the project submissions, will be responsible for reviewing and scoring projects based on the established evaluation criteria (posted on the program website: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR).

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

Orange County is currently working with our grant management consultant to develop and implement the Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program. This program aims to rehabilitate owner-occupied homes in Orange County that sustained damages during Hurricane Ian and still have remaining repair needs. The program will be open to eligible homeowners residing within Orange County and its municipalities. More information will be provided on the program website and in the newsletter as it becomes available.



New CDBG-DR Allocation for Hurricane Milton

Orange County expects to receive a **\$33,357,000** allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) to assist with recovery and mitigation efforts related to Hurricane Milton.

The County is in the early planning stages and will seek input from the residents, community partners, and local municipalities in determining remaining unmet needs and developing an Action Plan for the proposed use of funds, based on the needs assessments and the community input. Updates will be posted on the website and detailed in the monthly newsletter.



CDBG-DR TIMELINE

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

- **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 Plans were reviewed and approved by HUD.
- **Summer 2024:** Program policies and procedures are being developed for the Infrastructure & Public Facilities, Planning Studies, and Public Services programs.
- **December 5 & 8, 2024:** Notice of Funding Availability was posted for the CDBG-DR Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning Studies programs.
- **December 10, 2024:** Request for Applications (RFA) for Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning Studies 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.
- **February 2025:** RFA for Public Services program to open for qualified non-profit organizations.
- **Spring 2025 (Tentative):** 2nd RFA under the Infrastructure & Public Facilities program to open for non-profit organizations; Application portal for the Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program to open.

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

Stay Tuned!

Help us spread the word about CDBG-DR

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Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

We're here to help! Contact us here:

Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net

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