



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - July 31, 2024

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. 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.

To achieve this, a monthly newsletter containing the latest CDBG-DR program updates will be released on the last calendar day of each month. This newsletter will be made available online via MailChimp. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from this information. This month, we are focusing on the CDBG-DR Infrastructure and Public Facilities program.

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



## INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM

program through a competitive RFA (Request for Applications) process geared towards public entities, jurisdictions, and municipalities located within the County boundaries. The unmet needs analysis determined that the Infrastructure and Public Facilities program should account for \$59,322,240, or 27% of the total allocation, making it the second largest allocation of CDBG-DR funds right after the Housing program.

To learn more about the CDBG-DR unmet needs analysis and program budget, please visit page 136 of the Final CDBG-DR Action Plan and/or [click here](#).

Additionally, Orange County received a significant number of requests from residents, stakeholders, county departments, and local municipalities to prioritize infrastructure projects that address an unmet need related to the impacts of Hurricane Ian. This program will provide CDBG-DR funds to local municipalities, Orange County departments, and divisions to carry out eligible projects related to long-term resiliency and infrastructure improvements which are critical to the ongoing recovery of Orange County.

Due to the potential complexity of these projects, infrastructure and public facilities projects will be the first to be funded to ensure that time constraints and contingencies can be met.

These types of project activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Flood and Drainage Improvements
- Storm Water and Sewer Improvements
- Restoration of Damaged Infrastructure
- Rehabilitation of Public Facilities,
- Drinking Water Infrastructure
- Emergency Shelters, and
- Broadband Needs



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## INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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### [Program Requirements](#)

mitigation needs related to Hurricane Ian, and these projects will also be associated with general infrastructure activities. The grant funds will allow recipients to design and construct infrastructure and public facilities projects that directly benefit residents and the larger Orange County community. Eligible projects must meet the national objective, long-term resilience and mitigation requirements, disaster tie-back, affirmatively furthering fair housing initiatives, and other federal regulations.

### Long-Term Resilience

Orange County recognizes the importance of resiliency against future storms. All CDBG-DR infrastructure projects and/or activities must be designed and constructed in a manner to withstand extreme weather events and impacts of climate change. Infrastructure projects must also be designed to reduce the risks associated with floodwater. Mitigation improvements will focus on creating more resilient infrastructure systems to withstand the increased intensity of storms.

The maximum award for infrastructure projects will be \$15,000,000.

### National Objective

All eligible projects or activities must meet a national objective under CDBG in accordance with HUD guidelines in 24 CFR 570.208.

Orange County will only consider projects or activities that benefit low- to moderate-income persons (LMI) or LMI areas.

### Program Eligibility

Local jurisdictions and Orange County Departments and Divisions will receive the first round of RFAs. Eligible participants will include all municipalities in Orange County, specifically Orange County Departments and Divisions that provide services to LMI persons or areas.

### Program Budget

The estimated budget for infrastructure and public facilities projects is \$59,322,240.

Programs by Category	Budgeted Amount	% of Total Allocation
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES</b>		
Flood and Drainage Related Repairs and Improvements	<b>\$59,322,240</b>	<b>27%</b>
Storm water Management Projects		
Restoration of Damaged Infrastructure		
Rehabilitation of Public Facilities		

## **INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM SELECTION**

Orange County will utilize Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) packages to solicit projects and gather information necessary to assess each project and potential subrecipients, which will be consistent with the program's policies and procedures.



meet for funding consideration under any NOFA, such as:

- Is the proposed activity eligible under CDBG-DR?
- Does it meet a national objective? or
- Does the applicant have the capacity to carry out the activity?

Additional evaluation criteria might be used to select projects that address equal and equitable access to public resources and provide opportunities to historically disadvantaged communities in Orange County. Project selection must also adhere to the procurement standards outlined in 2 CFR Part 200, HUD guidelines for cost-reasonableness, and follow all of the County regulations related to procurement.

### **Project Qualifications**

The applicants must ensure that projects meet at minimum the following qualifications.

1. **National Objective**: Benefits low- to moderate income (LMI) persons, eliminates slums or blight; or meets an urgent need.
2. **Disaster Tieback**: Has a tieback to Hurricane Ian or is a mitigation only project.
3. **Project Design**: Rehabilitates or constructs public facilities and infrastructure.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Orange County will evaluate applications based on the evaluation criteria that, at a minimum, take into account the national objective requirements, organizational capacity, financial capacity, leveraging of funds, project readiness, project impact, project disaster tieback, and mitigation measures. The evaluation criteria will be available on the program website and provided in advance of the RFA.

## **TIPS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR CDBG-DR**

**TIP 1**: Applicants should inquire about the CDBG-DR email listserv. This listserv serves as a potential applicant contact list for the County, and recipients will receive up to date RFA (Request for Applications) information via email.

**TIP 2**: Applicants must have an active ZoomGrants™ account in order to submit an CDBG-DR application. Visit [www.zoomgrants.com/get-started](http://www.zoomgrants.com/get-started) for more information.

**TIP 3**: Update the required documents. This includes, but is not limited to: mission statements; financial audits; UEI on [SAM.gov](http://SAM.gov); and organizational charts; by laws; etc.

**TIP 4**: Ensure project design aligns with the Orange County [CDBG-DR Action Plan](#). And, we encourage all applicants to read our Action Plan thoroughly.

**TIP 5**: Continue to check the Orange County CDBG-DR website for updates.

CDBG-DR Website: [www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR](http://www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR)



## CDBG-DR TIMELINE

The full updated CDBG-DR timeline can be found here: [www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR](http://www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR).

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- **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:** Community engagement and outreach activities for residents and stakeholders to provide additional CDBG-DR updates and solicit input.
- **August / September 2024 (Tentative):** Request for Applications (RFA) for Infrastructure & Public Facilities projects to open for local jurisdictions and municipalities.
- **August / September 2024 (Tentative):** Pre-Award Technical Assistance and Informational Session will be held on CDBG-DR Infrastructure & Public Facilities RFA process.

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

Stay Tuned!

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**Help us spread the word about CDBG-DR**

Connect with us on our social media



## Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

We're here to help! Contact us here:

**Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net**

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