



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MAY 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 do so, a monthly newsletter containing the latest CDBG-DR updates will come out on the last calendar day of each month. In the next few days, you will also be able to access the newsletter on our website listed below. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from it.

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



UPCOMING EVENT: ORANGE COUNTY HURRICANE EXPO 2024

Come meet the Orange County Team!

We will be attending the upcoming Orange County Hurricane Expo on Saturday, June 15, 2024. The Expo will be held at Evans High School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please come and join us at the event. We will be there to answer CDBG-DR related questions and hand out up-to-date information on the programs.

More information on the event: The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30 of each year. Go beyond the forecast by attending Orange County's annual Hurricane Expo. Central Florida Meteorologist Amy Sweezey will provide updates on this year's hurricane season. During this free event, residents will also learn storm preparedness and recovery tips and meet in person with safety professionals.

Don't be late! Free preparedness items will be available for families to pick up while supplies last.

For more information about the expo, please email ocoem@ocfl.net.

A poster for the Orange County Hurricane Expo. The background is a dramatic image of a hurricane with dark, swirling clouds and a bright light source on the left. At the top left, there is a red flag with a black square in the center. The text "ORANGE COUNTY" is in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, "HURRICANE" and "EXPO" are in a much larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "BEYOND THE FORECAST" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, enclosed in quotation marks. A dark horizontal band across the middle contains the date and time "June 15, 2024 - 9 A.M. – 1 P.M." in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by the location "EVANS HIGH SCHOOL" and the address "4949 Silver Star Road, Orlando, FL 32808" in a smaller white font. Below this band, the text "EXPO HIGHLIGHTS:" is in white, bold, sans-serif font. There are four red rectangular boxes arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each box contains a small image and text. Top-left: A woman in a pink shirt, text "2024 hurricane predictions with meteorologist Amy Sweezey". Top-right: A person in a blue shirt working on a door, text "Learn how to survive a hurricane and receive great safety tips". Bottom-left: A person in a fire department uniform, text "Speak one-on-one with emergency responders and safety vendors". Bottom-right: A person in a blue shirt working on a door, text "Get your FREE preparedness items while supplies last". At the bottom, there are two logos: the Orange County Emergency Management logo on the left and the Orange County Government logo on the right. Below the logos, the text "For more information: Call 407-836-9140 • Email ocoem@ocfl.net" is in white font.

LET'S GET READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON!

HURRICANE PREPARDNESS & SAFETY GUIDE

It's Hurricane Season, and Orange County Government is here to ensure you have the information you need before, during and after any severe tropical system affects our

Hurricanes can bring hazards in many forms to coastal and in-land communities. From high winds to tornadoes and flooding, hurricanes can present a variety of severe weather impacts. Your ability to plan ahead will be your best protection against injury and damage to your home and property.

How to Prepare

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to learn what actions to take in the event of a hurricane watch or a severe weather alert in your area.

- Create a family emergency communication plan.
- Prepare a disaster supply kit.
- Know the local hurricane evacuation route and shelter locations.
- Protect your home.

For information on preparing for a hurricane or other disaster, visit the Florida Division of Emergency Management at [FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org).

Storm Preparedness

Here are some of the ways that you and your family can be better prepared for the next storm:

- Review your insurance coverage.
- Plan an evacuation route.
- Have a plan. Know where nearby shelters are located, and which routes you would take if you needed to evacuate.
- Find the “safe zones” in your home.
- Inspect your roof, each window and door, and reseal if necessary.
- Make sure that all family members know what to do during a hurricane.

Read the [Orange County Hurricane Safety Guide](#) for detailed information on storm and hurricane preparedness in Orange County, Florida.

Disaster Supply Kit Checklist

Make sure you are disaster ready!

For disaster preparedness tips, review the [Disaster Supply Kit Checklist](#).

Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

Consumers can purchase qualifying disaster preparedness supplies tax-free during the following time periods:

First Exemption: Saturday, June 1 – Friday, June 14

Second Exemption: Saturday, August 24 – Friday, September 6

Visit the [Florida Department of Revenue](#)'s website for a complete list of qualifying tax-free items.



Hurricane Preparedness Resources

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Orange County Office of Emergency Management

Email: ocoem@ocfl.net

Phone: (407) 836-9140

Fax: (407) 737-2489

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/EmergencySafety.aspx>

Florida Division of Emergency Management

Email: FDEM.STO@em.myflorida.com

Phone: (850) 815-4000

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Phone: (800) 621-3362

<https://www.fema.gov/>

For disaster assistance, please visit <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or call the direct line at (844) 875-6446.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association

Provides quality legal services for the low-income residents, children, and disadvantaged groups with special legal needs in Orange County.

Phone: (407) 841-8310

Website: legalaidocba.org

Email: info@legalaidocba.org

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

Provides professional legal aid to help low-income people protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families.

Phone: (800) 405-1417

Legal assistance is available to qualifying Floridians through a partnership between The Florida Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

For more information, visit [Florida.FreeLegalAnswers.org](https://www.floridabar.org/freelegalanswers).

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Orange County can only enforce codes for properties located within unincorporated Orange County. If you are located within a municipality in Orange County, please contact the city you reside in by visiting you local municipalities website.

Unincorporated Orange County

Phone: 3-1-1 or (407) 836-3111

Website: <https://www.ocfl.net/NeighborsHousing/CodeCompliance.aspx>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Orange County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

If you are behind in rent due to COVID-19, please contact Orange County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Phone: 311 or 407-836-3111

Website: [ocfl.net/EmergencySafety/Coronavirus/EmergencyRentalAssistance.aspx](https://www.ocfl.net/EmergencySafety/Coronavirus/EmergencyRentalAssistance.aspx)

For additional resources, please contact **Orange County 311**: To speak with a specialist who can connect you with the right department or agency within Orange County. Phone: Dial 311 or 407-836-3111

Website: [orangecountyfl.net/Home/311HelpInfo.aspx](https://www.orangecountyfl.net/Home/311HelpInfo.aspx)

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TRIVIA

Take this short quiz from the American Red Cross to see how much you know about hurricane preparedness:

1. You only need a hurricane safety plan if you:
 - A) Go boating frequently.
 - B) Live at the beach.
 - C) Reside in an area at-risk for hurricanes and hurricane-related damage.
2. You find out that your community's hurricane response plan includes evacuation. What should you do?
 - A) Create an evacuation plan with the other members of your household.
 - B) Talk about it once and don't think about it again- you all know what to do.
 - C) Evacuation plan? You don't need one, you'll just hit the road and go.

- A) Forget about it. It will be ok.
B) Panic: Get in the car and evacuate immediately.
C) Find out right away.
4. What is storm surge?
A) The rise in seawater level was caused by a hurricane or other storm.
B) The traffic jam that occurs during a mandatory evacuation.
C) The sideways rain that accompanies the high winds of a hurricane.
5. What is the major threat from hurricanes for people living inland?
A) Strong Winds
B) Flooding
C) Blizzards

For the complete quiz along with the answers, [click here](#).

UPDATED CDBG-DR TIMELINE

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

Updated CDBG-DR Timeline

- **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.
- **March 14, 2024:** Orange County CDBG-DR Action Plan was reviewed and approved by HUD.
- **April 9, 2024:** Grant Agreement for CDBG-DR funds executed between Orange County and HUD.
- **Summer 2024:** Community engagement and outreach activities for residents and stakeholders to provide additional CDBG-DR updates and solicit input.
- **August 2024 (Tentative):** Request for Applications (RFA) for Public Services, Infrastructure & Public Facilities projects to open for non-profit agencies and local jurisdictions.
- **August 2024 (Tentative):** Technical Assistance and Informational Session will be held on CDBG-DR Public Services, Infrastructure & Public Facilities RFA process.

More information will be available in our next newsletter, coming out on **June 30, 2024**.

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're here to help! Contact us here:

Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net

Orange County, Florida does not tolerate discrimination in any of its programs, services, or activities. Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq. (Title VI, and related laws and regulations), and Orange County, Florida Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures, the County will not exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, income, or family status.

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