



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - November 27, 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.

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.



## Upcoming Programs

Orange County is preparing to release two (2) Request for Applications (RFAs) in December 2024 for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Planning Studies programs. Once released, the RFA must be completed and submitted online through ZoomGrants, which can be accessed through the website: [www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR](http://www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR). A Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshop will be held in December to discuss in detail the program requirements, the RFA process, and answer questions.

### Infrastructure and Public Facilities Programs:

- Total funding: \$59,322,240 (27% of the total allocation), with an additional \$28,658,000 set aside for mitigation.
- Purpose: Focuses on unmet needs from Hurricane Ian, funding critical infrastructure projects like flood and drainage improvements, stormwater management, and rehabilitation/construction of public facilities.
- Project Maximum: \$15,000,000 per project.

### Planning Studies Program:

- Total funding: \$5,000,000 (2.3% of the total CDBG-DR allocation).
- Purpose: To assist departments, divisions, local jurisdictions and government entities in conducting studies to support the creation of recovery and resiliency strategies that address future hazards and storms. The goal is to enhance the County's resilience and address ongoing recovery needs through community planning initiatives that aim to reduce future disaster risks.

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## Minimum Eligibility Criteria

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The following minimum eligibility criteria must be met for projects applying to the CDBG-DR Infrastructure and Public Facilities and Planning Studies Programs:

### Infrastructure and Public Facilities Programs:

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

### Planning Studies Program:

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

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## Evaluation Criteria

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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, which was formed in consultation with the Local Mitigation Strategy working group to provide the technical expertise necessary for scoring the project submissions, will be responsible for reviewing and scoring projects based on the evaluation criteria.

## HURRICANE RECOVERY RESOURCES

If you were affected by Hurricane Milton, please see the list of available resources below:

- FEMA has declared Orange County as a designated disaster area following Hurricane Milton. Residents can apply NOW for Individual Assistance through FEMA.
  - [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)
  - 1-800-621-3362
- Small Business Administration Assistance is now available. Click the link below to learn more about eligibility and to apply.
  - [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)
- The IRS is providing relief for individuals who suffered damage or loss during Hurricane Milton. Learn more [HERE](#).
- Orange County residents can register for the Army Corps of Engineers Blue Roof Program at [blueroof.gov](http://blueroof.gov).
- Additional Resources:
  - [Mental Health Resources](#)
  - [Disaster Survivor's Checklist](#)

## Happy Thanksgiving!

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving!



## 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-Fall 2024:** Program policies and procedures are being developed for the Infrastructure & Public Facilities, Planning Studies, and Public Services programs.
- **December 2024 (Tentative):** Notice of Funding Availability will be posted for the CDBG-DR Infrastructure & Public Facilities and Planning Studies. Pre-Award Technical Assistance workshops will be held on the Request for Applications (RFA) process.
- **December 2024 (Tentative):** RFA for Infrastructure & Public Facilities and Planning Studies programs to open for Orange County Departments and Divisions and local jurisdictions.

- **Late 2024 (Tentative):** Consultant for the CDBG-DR General Grant Management Services will be awarded.
- **Early 2025 (Tentative):** Agreements for approved Infrastructure & Public Facilities and Planning Studies programs will be issued; 2nd RFA under the infrastructure & Public Facilities Program to open for non-profit organizations; RFA for Public Services will be issued; Applications for the Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program will open.

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

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## Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

We're here to help! Contact us here:

**[Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net](mailto:Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net)**

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