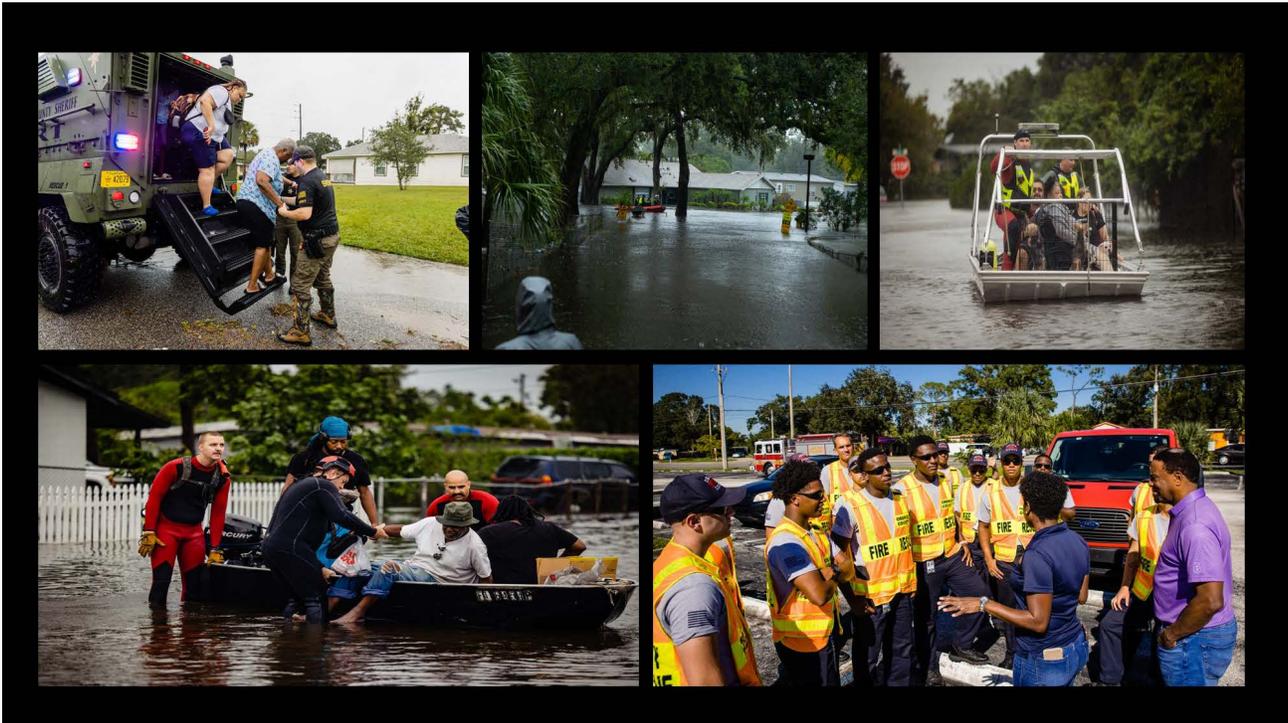




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - APRIL 30, 2024



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. On January 17, 2024, Orange County submitted the final CDBG-DR Action Plan, which outlines the proposed use of funds over the period on next 6 years, to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD approved the County's Action Plan in March of 2024. In hopes of staying connected, Orange County aims to provide our residents and community partners with the most up to date details as the County moves forward with implementation of the CDBG-DR program.

To do so, we will be sending out a monthly newsletter, containing the latest CDBG-DR information and updates. The newsletter 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 information with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from it.

Program, timeline, and other related information.

## CDBG-DR ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

Orange County submitted their CDBG-DR Action Plan to HUD on **January 17, 2024**.

HUD approved Orange County's CDBG Action Plan on **March 14, 2024**.

In the Public Action Plan, Orange County staff detailed their comprehensive analysis of housing, infrastructure, public services, and economic development needs that remain unmet as a result of Hurricane Ian's impact on the County. More specifically, County staff used FEMA and SBA data related to filled claims for public and individual assistance, as well as insurance claims, to determine unmet needs related to housing and infrastructure damage. The FEMA and SBA data were supplemented with information received from community partners and stakeholders, Orange County departments and divisions, local jurisdictions, and County residents.

The input was also collected through several focus group meetings, a citizen participation survey, and thirteen (13) community meetings held in various locations throughout Orange County.

TOTAL # OF CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION SURVEY  
RESPONSES

**801**

TOTAL # OF COMMUNITY  
MEETING ATTENDEES

**223**

TOTAL # OF NON-PROFIT  
STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED

**40**

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### Citizen Participation Survey

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Orange County conducted a citizen participation survey which was published on the County program website.

The survey was open to the public from September 25, 2023 to November 10, 2023 and it was available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Créole.

*Full Results on Page 106 of CDBG-DR Action Plan*

[Click Here for Citizen Participation Survey Results](#)

## Community Meeting Results

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Orange County held 13 community meetings around target impacted areas in all 6 districts in the County to ensure residents and community representatives could provide staff with their direct feedback.

At these community meetings, participants were given a brief overview of the program and an opportunity to ask questions for staff. Each meeting had breakout sessions, interactive discussions, and survey questions for attendees to engage with the CDBG-DR planning process. In addition to serving as an outreach platform, these meetings provided the County with an opportunity to focus on community-specific issues and challenges.



Below are the identified priorities community members advocated for during these community meetings:

Identified Priorities	Priority Details/Activities	# of Responses	%
<b>Housing</b>	New construction Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Homeowner assistance Rental assistance Other	145	45%
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Public facilities Drainage/Utilities	131	41%
<b>Public Services</b>	Mental/Health Services Legal assistance Housing stability services	39	12%
<b>Economic Revitalization</b>	Loans and grants for businesses Business retention	8	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>323</b>	<b>100%</b>

[Click Here for Community Meeting Summaries](#)

## Stakeholder Focus Group Results

Additional outreach and engagement efforts were conducted to solicit input from our non-profit agencies, advocacy groups and other stakeholders. Staff held two virtual focus group sessions, online questionnaire surveys and phone interviews with more than 40 non-profit organizations.



## *PROPOSED USE OF CDBG-DR FUNDS*

Based on the unmet needs analysis (using FEMA and SBA claims data) and input from residents of impacted communities and internal and external stakeholders, Orange County has prioritized several programs that will assist in meeting short- and long-term recovery needs. Through research and analysis, the County indicated that the most severe recovery needs are related to housing and infrastructure.

To address these needs, Orange County plans to utilize CDBG-DR funds to support the following programs and activities:

Programs by Category	Budgeted Amount	% of Total Allocation
<b>HOUSING</b>		
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	\$35,000,000	<b>49.5%</b>
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	\$13,000,000	
Rental Assistance (Temporary)	\$150,000	
New Affordable Housing Construction	\$60,596,160	
<b>Sub-Total Housing</b>	<b>\$108,746,160</b>	
<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		
<b>Subtotal Infrastructure/Public Facilities</b>		
<b>MITIGATION</b>		
Activities to increase resilience to future disasters and reduce or eliminate long-term risks	<b>\$28,658,000</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Subtotal Mitigation</b>		
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>		
Self-sufficiency Services (financial literacy, housing search and counseling, legal assistance)	2,000,000	<b>3.2%</b>
Health Services/Mental Health Services	2,500,000	
Job Training/Job Placement Services	2,000,000	
Other economic recovery related services	500,000	
<b>Subtotal Public Services</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>	
<b>ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$10,985,600</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>PLANNING</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL CDBG-DR</b>	<b>\$219,712,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## NEXT STEPS & UPDATED CDBG-DR TIMELINE

A timeline of Orange County's disaster recovery actions related to Hurricane Ian is summarized below. The timeline will be updated with the most recent information as it becomes available.

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

- **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.
- **May/June 2024:** Community engagement and outreach will be held virtually for residents and stakeholders to provide additional CDBG-DR updates and solicit input.
- **July 2024 (Tentative):** Request for Applications (RFA) for Public Services, Infrastructure & Public Facilities projects to open for non-profit agencies and local jurisdictions.
- **July 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 **May 31, 2024**.

Stay Tuned!

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

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