



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - July 31, 2025

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. Additionally, the County received an allocation of \$33 million to address the remaining needs resulting from Hurricane Milton.

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



## CDBG-DR Program Update

Orange County continues to make strong progress in implementing its \$219.7 million CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in response to Hurricane Ian. This includes \$191 million for unmet housing and infrastructure needs and \$28.7 million for mitigation projects.

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### Key Highlights

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#### Housing Program (Orange County Recovers):

- The homeowner housing program remained open and actively accepting applications. As of June 30, more than 300 applications were submitted. Case managers are reviewing applications, conducting damage assessments, and preparing scopes of work. A contractor Request for Proposals (RFP) closed in May, with awards anticipated in early fall and construction expected to begin shortly thereafter.

#### Public Services:

- The Request for Applications (RFA) for local nonprofit services closed in April. Funding awards are expected next quarter to support disaster-related services for vulnerable

populations.

#### **Infrastructure & Mitigation:**

- In June, the County approved over \$87.3 million in federal funding for critical infrastructure and resilience projects, including drainage improvements and utility upgrades. Environmental reviews must be conducted before project implementation can begin. These reviews are currently in progress.

#### **Community Engagement:**

- Outreach continued through newsletter distribution, in-person events, and updates on the [CDBG-DR website](#).

#### **Hurricane Ian Action Plan Amendment:**

A substantial amendment to the Action Plan was submitted and approved to include the following changes:

- Updated Affordability Periods for Housing Program
- Additional Language in Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program
- Updated National Objectives to Include Urgent Need and Slum and Blight
- Amended Budgets for Housing and Infrastructure Activities
- Additional Language Regarding Urgent Need and Slum and Blight National Objectives
- Revised Action Plan Language to Align with the Universal Notice

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## **Looking Ahead**

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Orange County plans to continue the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts under Orange County Recovers, finalize funding decisions and execute agreements for Public Services providers, continue the environmental review process and execute subrecipient agreements with local municipalities and Memorandum of Understanding with Orange County Departments and Divisions for infrastructure and mitigation projects.

## **Upcoming Requests for Applications (RFAs)**



The release of two Requests for Applications (RFAs) by Orange County has been postponed until August 2025 to allow time for compliance with administrative requirements. These RFAs will support: (1) Public Facilities and Housing Projects for Non-Profit Organizations and Public Housing Authorities, and (2) Planning Studies for Orange County Departments/Divisions, local municipalities, and quasi-governmental agencies. The Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshops, originally scheduled for July, will be rescheduled for August. More information will be released as it becomes available. Please visit [www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR](http://www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR) for updates.

## **Orange County Recovers**

# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

[OrangeCountyRecovers.com](https://OrangeCountyRecovers.com)



Orange County's CDBG-DR Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation, Replacement, and Reconstruction program — **Orange County Recovers** — remains open and actively accepting applications. If your home was damaged by Hurricane Ian and you still have unmet housing needs, now is the time to apply. Visit [OrangeCountyRecovers.com](https://OrangeCountyRecovers.com) or call 321-382-3514 for assistance.

The program has seen strong community interest and is making steady progress in helping residents recover. To date, 319 applications have been received, with 106 applicants already determined eligible. Each case is being handled by a dedicated team of case managers working diligently to move homeowners through the next steps in the process to include: damage assessment, scope of work write up, and environmental review.

This comprehensive and multi-step process ensures that each home is properly evaluated and compliant with federal and local requirements. As the program continues, more residents will move toward receiving the critical assistance they need to rebuild.

**Don't wait — apply today and be part of the recovery.**

**REMINDER:** You can always check your application status online or call 321-382-3514.

## CDBG-DR Hurricane Milton Program Update

Orange County is pleased to share an important update on the progress of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program for Hurricane Milton recovery.

### **Key Milestones Achieved:**

- **July 3, 2025:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) granted final approval of Orange County's CDBG-DR Action Plan. This approval signifies HUD's endorsement of the County's strategy to address long-term recovery needs resulting from Hurricane Milton.
- **July 22, 2025:** Orange County and HUD officially executed the Grant Agreement for the CDBG-DR funds. This critical step secures the federal funding necessary to begin implementing disaster recovery activities.

With these major milestones complete, Orange County is now preparing for the next phase of the program: implementation. Program activities, including housing recovery, infrastructure improvements, and resiliency projects, are expected to launch later this year. The County is actively finalizing internal processes and working to ensure that funding is deployed in a timely, transparent, and impactful manner.

Additional updates will be provided as the program moves into the implementation phase. We appreciate the continued engagement of residents, partners, and stakeholders as we move forward with building a stronger, more resilient Orange County.

## Hurricane Preparedness

Just a reminder, Hurricane season is here. Now is the time to take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones. Don't wait—start preparing today! Click [HERE](#) for tips and resources on how to stay ready.



## CDBG-DR Timeline

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

### Hurricane Ian

- **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:** Program policies and procedures are being developed for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs.
- **December 5 & 8 2024:** Notice of Funding Availability was posted for the CDBG-DR Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs.
- **December 10, 2024:** Request for Applications (RFA) for Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning 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.
- **March 4, 2025:** RFA for the Public Services program opened for qualified non-profit organizations.

- **March 5, 2025:** Applications for the Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction program opened.
- **March 13, 2025:** Mandatory Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshop for Public Services RFA.
- **April 2, 2025:** RFA for the Public Services program will close.
- **April 11, 2025:** Request for Proposals (RFP) for general contractors to open.
- **May 23, 2025:** RFP for general contractors closed.
- **August 2025:** Release of Requests for Applications for Public Facilities and Housing Projects (for non-profit agencies and PHAs) and Planning Studies (the County, local municipalities, and quasi-governmental agencies).
- **Fall 2025 (Tentative):** Launch RFA for New Affordable Housing Construction

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## Hurricane Milton

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- **April 15, 2025:** Draft Hurricane Milton Action Plan posted for public comment.
- **May 15, 2025:** Public comment period for the Hurricane Milton Action Plan to close.
- **June 3, 2025:** Public hearing for the Hurricane Milton Action Plan conducted by the BCC.
- **June 18, 2025:** Hurricane Milton Action Plan submitted to HUD for review and approval.
- **July 3, 2025:** Orange County CDBG-DR Action Plan received the final approval from HUD.
- **July 22, 2025:** Grant Agreement for CDBG-DR funds executed between Orange County and HUD.
- **Fall 2025:** Update program policies and procedures for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs to comply with Milton requirements
- **Early 2026:** (Tentative) Program Implementation

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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Here**

Connect with us on our social media



### Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

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**We are here to help! Contact us here:**  
**[Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net](mailto:Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net)**

Orange County Government | 525 E. South St | Orlando, FL 32801 US

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