



**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT**

DISASTER RECOVERY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - March 31st, 2026

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.

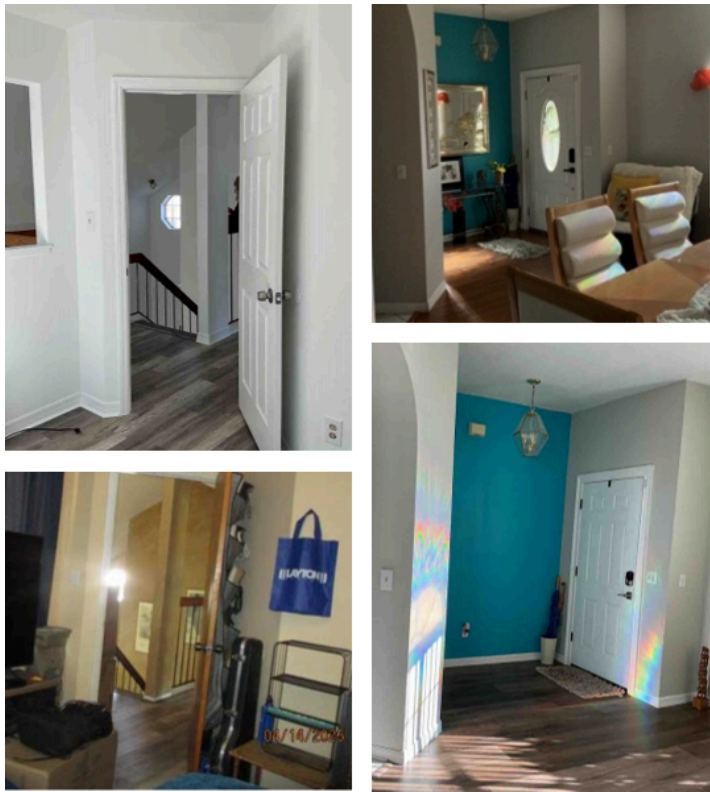
Orange County aims to provide our residents and community partners with the most up to date information as the County moves forward with its implementation of the CDBG-DR programs. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from this information.

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

Orange County Recovers

As the Orange County Recovers program continues, 18 homes are currently under construction for rehabilitation due to damage caused by Hurricane Ian. At this time, there are 49 approved rehabilitation projects, 2 reconstruction projects, and 4 mobile/manufactured homes approved for replacement. For the most up-to-date progress, please visit the program dashboard at www.orangecountyrecovers.com.

The application portal remains open for homes damaged by Hurricane Ian. We are also excited to announce that the portal is now accepting applications for single-family homes with unrepaired damage from Hurricane Milton as well.



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

Keep an eye on future newsletters for more updates as construction begins for those residents who are being awarded grant funds to repair the damage to their homes from the storm.

Orange County Recovers

REMINDER

: If you have previously applied for the Orange County Recovers program, you can check your application status online

or call 321-382-3514

Public Services

On March 18th, we held a mandatory technical assistance training for our approved Public Services subrecipients to ensure each agency understands and complies with regulatory requirements from the federal government as they begin offering and delivering their services. The agencies currently assisting Orange County residents affected by Hurricane Ian through CDBG-DR funding are as follows:

- Catholic Charities: mental health services for low-income individuals

- Christian Service Center: emergency food, clothing, showers, laundry, and homeless prevention program.
- Coalition for the Homeless: short term shelter and permanent housing, educational programs, community outreach, veteran services, and health initiatives, etc.
- Habitat for Humanity: financial literacy education and housing counseling
- Hispanic Federation: economic empowerment trainings, disaster relief and mitigation, health, mental health, and self-sufficiency, and education programs
- Hope CommUnity Center: educational and school assistance, referral to CommUnity health centers, emergency food supplies, summer camps, parenting/family classes, etc.
- IMPOWER : outpatient mental health telehealth services
- Operation New Hope: community outreach, case management, mental health counseling, transitional housing, and job training and placement
- SALT Outreach: mobile drop-in centers and street outreach, and case management to disaster impacted homeless individuals
- United Against Poverty: mobile facility to provide assistance to low income individuals through food, household items, crisis counseling, referrals, etc.

Infrastructure and Mitigation

Subrecipient agreements with Orange County's local municipalities are currently being presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. These agreements support Infrastructure and Mitigation projects designed to protect areas impacted by Hurricane Ian and reduce the risk of damage from future storms. The four (4) agreements approved by the BCC on March 10th, 2026 are as follows:

TOWN OF OCOEE

Roper Parkway and Capitol Court improve the flood resiliency of the communities located in the western portion of the Lake Lotta Basin by removing two bottle necks in the storm sewer



CITY OF ORLANDO

Haralson Estates
Replacing the existing swale drainage system with a modern one, install underground storwater pipes, construction of sidewalks and resurfacing roadway.



CITY OF ORLANDO

Orlando Flood Mitigation
Replacement of 13 defunct drainage wells and the addition of baffle boxes where practicable to protect water quality in low-to-moderate income areas of the City of Orlando.



CITY OF ORLANDO

Richmond Heights
increasing the capacity of the existing underperforming stormwater system to mitigate street flooding, protect homes and ensure evacuation and safety routes are passable.



On March 25th, we held a mandatory technical assistance training for our approved Infrastructure and Mitigation subrecipients to ensure each agency understands and complies with regulatory requirements from the federal government as they begin planning and construction on their projects.

Please stay tuned for additional updates and forthcoming agreement approvals involving other government partners.

Public Facilities

The next phase of Orange County's recovery efforts focuses on Public Facilities and Housing projects implemented in partnership with nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities. Final approval for eight (8) eligible projects (4 public facilities, 5 housing projects) were brought before the Board of County Commissioners for final approval on March 24, 2026.

- Catholic Charities of Central Florida – Replacement of the roof of their Mission Market Food Pantry which acts as a central hub for day-to-day food distribution and other services. As well as central hub for food distribution following any future natural or manmade disaster.
- Christian Service Center of Central Florida – Paving and improving the existing parking lot, installing new perimeter fencing, and constructing new shower, restroom, and laundry facility for clients at Christian Service Center’s Ocoee Campus.
- Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida- New center for Women and families providing short-term residential and bridge housing, along with additional space for women, parents and children during disasters.
- Grand Avenue Economic Community Development-repair to Maxwell Terrace that provides permanent supportive housing to vulnerable individuals with very low income: including roof replacement, new gutters, downspouts, and installation of stormwater drainage to mitigate future storm damage and adding new electrical breakers to 5 residential buildings assuring more dependable electricity including during storms.
- Harbor House of Central Florida- Funding construction known as Our Grove a community of apartment homes (8 units in this phase) where survivors (of domestic violence) and their children can live independently while receiving services and support.
- Orlando Housing Authority (2 projects) – Johnson Manor Apartments and The Villas at Hampton Court would gain a second elevator at their locations which provides housing to low-income senior residents and peoples with disabilities.
- United Against Poverty- Providing funding for development of a brand-new facility to increase resilience to natural disasters and reduce long-term risk for UAP and the community. Relocating current grocery center, marketplace and social services spaces and additional services

Subrecipients will be required to attend mandatory technical assistance workshops. During these workshops, subrecipients will receive training designed to strengthen capacity and ensure regulatory compliance in implementing these essential projects in Orange County communities. Keep an eye out for updates on these and future projects.

CDBG-DR Hurricane Milton Program

Orange County Recovers have begun accepting applications for homes that were damage during Hurricane Milton in 2024. This process will follow the same steps as the Hurricane Ian application process.

The application portal is currently open and accepting applications for both Ian and Milton. Please click the link to [Apply - Orange County Recovers Program](#)

Request for Applications (RFA) under Hurricane Milton will commence later this year for the following programs:

- Infrastructure and Public Facilities
- Mitigation
- Public Services
- Planning Studies

Please stay tuned to our website and newsletter for updates.

CDBG-DR Timeline

The full updated CDBG-DR timeline can be found here: 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 21, 2025:** The Community Development Advisory Board approved funding recommendations for Public Services totaling \$3,406,904.
- **May 23, 2025:** RFP for general contractors closed.
- **June 3, 2025:** The BCC approved funding for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning Studies programs totaling \$85,434,862.
- **August 25-26:** Mandatory Subrecipient Training --- O.C. Depts/Divisions & Local Municipalities (Infrastructure and Public Facilities)
- **August 27, 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).
- **September 4, 2025:** Mandatory Pre-Award Technical Assistance workshop to be held on the RFA process.
- **October 10, 2025:** Application window for Public Facilities and Housing Projects (for non-profit agencies and PHAs) and Planning Studies (the County, local municipalities, and quasi-governmental agencies) closes.
- **October 30, 2025:** Mandatory Public Services Subrecipient Training -- Non-Profit Organization (Public Services)
- **January 27, 2026:** Subrecipient agreements brought to the BCC for final approval for Public Services.
- **February 10, 2026:** Subrecipient agreements brought to the BCC for final approval for Public Services and Infrastructure/Mitigation
- **March 10, 2026:** Subrecipient agreements brought to the BCC for final approval for Infrastructure and Mitigation

- **March 18th, 2026:** Technical Service training for monitoring and regulatory requirements for Public Services subrecipients
- **March 25th, 2026:** Technical Service training for monitoring and regulatory requirements for Infrastructure and Planning
- **2nd Quarter 2026 (Tentative):** Launch Request for Proposals (RFP) for New Affordable Housing Construction

Hurricane Milton

- **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.
- **November 18, 2025:** BCC approval to amend existing contract with HORNE LLP to incorporate Hurricane Milton CDBG-DR allocation
- **Fall 2025:** Update program policies and procedures for the Infrastructure, Public Facilities, Mitigation and Planning programs to comply with Milton requirements
- **January 27-28, 2026:** Outreach event for the Orange County Recovers Program for Hurricane Milton held at the Pine Hills Multicultural Center and the John Bridges Center.
- **2nd Quarter 2026:** (Tentative) Program Implementation. Staff is currently working on compliance with administrative requirements.

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

Stay Tuned!

Help us spread the word about CDBG-DR

[Sign Up for our Newsletter Here](#)

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Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

We are here to help! Contact us here:
Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net



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