



Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Background & Purpose

Orange County government is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. Orange County will receive an allocation of **\$219,712,000** to help communities in hard-hit areas recover from Hurricane Ian. This amount includes \$191,054,000 for unmet needs and \$28,658,000 for mitigation.

What is CDBG-DR?

CDBG-DR dollars are a flexible set of funds to carry out a wide range of activities related to a Hurricane Ian disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation of risk.

What are CDBG-DR projects?

CDBG-DR projects are activities related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas, and they are intended to primarily benefit low-income residents of Orange County.

What specific activities can the CDBG-DR funds be used for in this disaster?

The funds can be used for activities such as:

- **Housing:** new construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family housing, homeownership assistance, buyouts, rental assistance, etc.
- **Infrastructure** (public facilities, public improvements), match (to satisfy a match requirement, share or contribution for any other Federal program), and elevation of non-residential structures.
- **Economic revitalization** and Section 3 requirements on economic opportunities: attraction, retention, and return of businesses and jobs to a disaster-impacted area.
- **Public services** (limited to 15%): housing counseling, legal advice, and representation, job training, etc.

How is the funding amount determined?

The amount of funding is based on damage estimates and unmet disaster recovery needs. While CDBG-DR funding is flexible, each funded activity must:

- 1) address a direct or indirect impact from the disaster in a most impacted and distressed area;
- 2) be a CDBG-eligible activity (primarily serve low- moderate-income persons or geographies – please refer to the CDBG income chart);
- 3) meet a national objective of the CDBG program (benefit low- to moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention/elimination of slums and blight, or meet an urgent need).

Additionally, all CDBG-DR activities (unless funded with the mitigation set aside) must be tied to the disaster covered by the allocation (Hurricane Ian).

What is the process for receiving funding?

To obtain the funds, Orange County is required to conduct an unmet and mitigation needs assessment, which includes data analysis and community engagement. Based on the results of the needs assessment, an Action Plan will be developed detailing the proposed use of funds, criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization within Orange County. Once developed, the draft Action Plan will be available for review and comments, and it will later be submitted to HUD for approval.

In addition to the Action Plan, Orange County will also develop an implementation plan that will specify how each proposed project will be administered in order to comply with federal regulations.

What is the timeframe for the CDBG-DR process?

Overall, the planning process for CDBG-DR funds is expected to take approximately 4-6 months to complete. Once HUD approves the Action Plan in January-February of 2024, Orange County will begin the execution of the funding agreements. Orange County will have **6 years** from the Agreement execution date **to spend the funds** (administer our own programs and/or work with other entities to distribute dollars).

CDBG-DR Timeline (estimated)

- **September 28, 2022:** Hurricane Ian made landfall.
- **March 15, 2023:** HUD announced that the County will receive \$219,712,000 in CDBG-DR funds.
- **May 18, 2023:** HUD published the Federal Register guidance.
- **July 20, 2023:** Orange County submitted financial certifications to HUD.
- **August/September 2023:** Community engagement and outreach process for CDBG-DR funds.
- **November 2023:** draft Action Plan is published for public comments.
- **December 2023:** BCC public hearing for the CDBG-DR Action Plan.
- **January 2024:** Action Plan is submitted to HUD for review and approval.
- **Early 2024:** Upon approval of the Action Plan by HUD, the CDBG-DR program will launch.

What is the community engagement process?

In developing its CDBG-DR Action Plan, Orange County will solicit input from local jurisdictions, public housing authorities, advocacy groups, and community partners, as well as citizens, to determine the remaining long-term resiliency needs and the most critical disaster mitigation needs associated with Hurricane Ian.

How can I get involved and/or provide input?

As part of the community engagement process, the County plans will make a resident survey available on its CDBG-DR website. The survey can be accessed here: [OCDisasterRecovery](#). Additionally, community meetings will be held in each of the six County commission districts to solicit input from the residents in the affected areas regarding unmet needs related to the disaster, and their priorities and preferences in allocation of CDBG-DR funds. The schedule of the community meetings, including dates, times, and locations, will be posted on the CDBG-DR website.

Can I apply for CDBG-DR funds?

At this time, Orange County is NOT accepting any applications for funding but will be assessing the need for programs where there may be an opportunity to apply for assistance. It is anticipated that these programs will be developed at the beginning of 2024, at the earliest, based on the requirements from HUD. The public will be notified when applications are accepted, and information will be posted on our website www.ocfl.net/NeighborsHousing/OCDisasterRecovery.aspx.

Where can I find more information?

Updates and additional information can be found on Orange County's CDBG-DR website at www.ocfl.net/NeighborsHousing/OCDisasterRecovery.aspx. If you need assistance immediately you may contact 2-1-1 for assistance.