



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - August 31, 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. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family, colleagues, and anyone else who, you believe, might benefit from this information. This month, we are focusing on the CDBG-DR Infrastructure and Public Facilities program.

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



Sherry Julien joined Orange County as the Project Manager for the CDBG-DR team in July of 2024. She has a Master's Degree in Human Services from Walden University and over 20 years of experience in the administration of grant funded programs such as Housing Rehabilitation and Capital Improvements and Infrastructure.

Inalbert Ramos joined the CDBG-DR team as a Program Manager in June of 2024. Before coming to Orange County Housing and Community Development Division almost 9 years ago, Inalbert worked for the City of Orlando, where he managed federally-funded programs. At the County, he worked in grant administration, planning and program compliance fields. Inalbert has a bachelor's degree in computer science and many years of experience in grant management and real estate.

Victoria Colon joined Orange County as a Program Manager for the CDBG-DR team in July of 2024. She has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Clemson University and brings extensive experience in Emergency Management, having played a significant role in the response to and recovery from Hurricane Ian in Seminole County.

Shalima Banks joined Orange County as the Business Unit Financial Advisor for the CDBG-DR team in June of 2024. She has an extensive background in corporate Finance, and has a Bachelor's in Finance from UCF, and an MBA from Stetson University.

Demetri Santiago joined Orange County as a Student Intern in September of 2023. He then joined as a Senior Fiscal Coordinator in May 2024, after successful graduating from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's in Accounting.

Infrastructure and Public Facilities Updates

Orange County is preparing to roll out the CDBG-DR Infrastructure and Public Facilities program through a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process. With an allocation of **\$59,322,240** (27% of the total allocation), and an additional set-aside of **\$28,658,000** for mitigation projects and activities, this initiative aims to address unmet needs from Hurricane Ian by funding critical Infrastructure and Public Facilities projects, such as flood and drainage improvements, storm water management projects, restoration of damaged infrastructure, and rehabilitation of public facilities.

The maximum award per project is \$15,000,000.

Additionally, to meet the program eligibility requirements, the proposed projects must:

- Benefit the broader Orange County community (to include historically underserved neighborhoods);

- Adhere to federal regulations, including requirements for long-term resilience and disaster tie-back (note: tie-back to Hurricane Ian is not required for mitigation projects).

The first round of applications will be open to Orange County Departments and Divisions and local municipalities. Another round of applications for non-profit agencies will be announced at a later date.

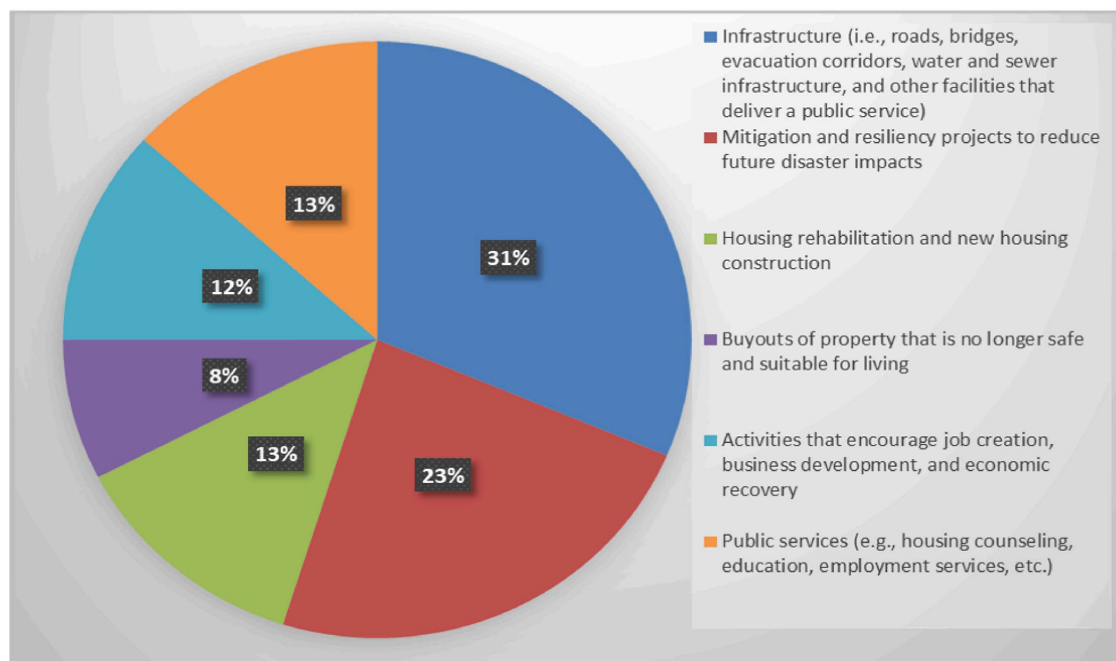
Additionally, the County is currently drafting the Policies and Procedures for this program, which will be made available on the County's CDBG-DR website once finalized. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is expected to be published by mid-September 2024 and will include detailed information about the program, application process, project evaluation criteria, and pre-award technical assistance workshop(s). Pre-award technical assistance will be provided to help applicants better understand eligibility and navigate the application process, with specific workshop details included in the NOFA. Orange County staff will be conducting a direct outreach to its municipal partners to inform them of the upcoming funding opportunity. All applications received will be reviewed and scored, with notifications sent to applicants regarding their project's approval status.

<u>Programs by Category</u>	<u>Budgeted Amount</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
HOUSING				
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	\$35,000,000			
Rental Housing Rehabilitation	\$13,000,000			
Rental Assistance (Temporary)	\$150,000			
New Affordable Housing Construction	\$60,596,160			
Sub-Total Housing	\$108,746,160	49.5%	LMI	TBD
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES				
Flood and Drainage Related Repairs and Improvements				
Storm water Management Projects				
Restoration of Damaged Infrastructure				
Rehabilitation of Public Facilities				
Subtotal Infrastructure/Public Facilities	\$59,322,240	27%	LMI	TBD
MITIGATION				
Activities to increase resilience to future disasters and reduce or eliminate long-term risks		13%	LMI	TBD
Subtotal Mitigation	\$28,658,000			
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION	\$0	0%	N/A	N/A
PUBLIC SERVICES				
Self-sufficiency Services (financial literacy, housing search and counseling, legal assistance)	2,000,000			
Health Services/Mental Health Services	2,500,000			
Job Training/Job Placement Services	2,000,000			
Other economic recovery related services	500,000			
Subtotal Public Services	\$7,000,000	3.2%	LMI	TBD
ADMINISTRATION	\$10,985,600	5%	N/A	N/A
PLANNING	\$5,000,000	2.3%	N/A	N/A
TOTAL CDBG-DR	\$219,712,000	100%		

Community Engagement

authorities, and other relevant groups to ensure the CDBG-DR Action Plan was thorough and inclusive. Information about disaster recovery needs was shared through public meetings and surveys to gather input on housing, infrastructure, and other recovery areas. The County emphasized the importance of stakeholder involvement and provided multiple opportunities for public input throughout the planning process.

The chart below provides a snapshot of the CDBG-DR proposed programs and projects that were considered most beneficial for the community.



CDBG-DR Website Updates

The Orange County CDBG-DR website has recently been updated with a revised timeline, the first quarterly report submitted to HUD, and the newly updated and approved Action Plan. The updated Action Plan is now available in both Spanish and Haitian Creole.

The updates to the website can be found here: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR

CDBG-DR TIMELINE

The full updated CDBG-DR timeline can be found here: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR.

- **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.

- **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 program.
- **Late September 2024** (Tentative): Notice of Funding Availability will be posted for the CDBG-DR Infrastructure & Public Facilities program (first round of funding – for local jurisdictions and County departments and divisions); Pre-Award Technical Assistance workshop will be held on the RFA process.
- **October 2024** (Tentative): Request for Applications (RFA) for Infrastructure & Public Facilities program to open for local jurisdictions and Orange County.
- **Late 2024/Early 2025** (Tentative): Agreements for the approved Infrastructure & Public Facilities projects will be issued.
- **Early 2025** (Tentative): 2nd RFA under the Infrastructure and Public Facilities Program to open for non-profits organizations.

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

Stay Tuned!

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

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