



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - August 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.

Action Plan Substantial Amendment

Proposed CDBG-DR Action Plan Amendment

Representatives from the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division and the Community Development Advisory Board will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in the Cypress Room, located at 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, Florida 32801, to receive citizen comments on proposed amendments to Orange County's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster

Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan. The Action Plan addresses unmet needs related to infrastructure, public facilities, mitigation, housing, and economic development as part of Orange County's long-term recovery from Hurricane Ian.

The Amendment to the CDBG-DR Action Plan will be presented for Board of County Commissioners' approval. The Amendment to the CDBG-DR Action Plan will be available for review and comment from Friday, August 28, 2026, through Sunday, September 27, 2026, on the CDBG-DR Program website at www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR. The amended document will also be available for review at the following locations: Orlando Public Library Main Branch, Third Floor, located at 101 East Central Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32801; and at the Housing and Community Development Division's office located at 525 East South Street, Orlando, FL 32801. For more information about the CDBG-DR Program, please visit the program website at www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR.

Comments regarding the amendment should be submitted to:

Housing and Community Development Division
Attn: CDBG-DR Action Plan – Public Comments
525 E. South Street, Orlando, Florida 32801
Email: Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net

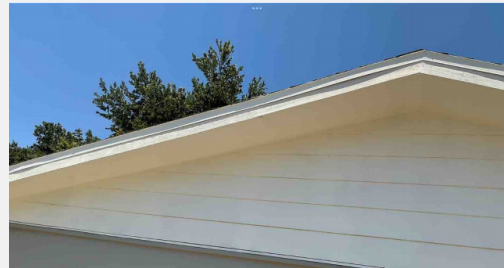
Orange County Recovers



The Orange County Recovers Program continues to make progress in assisting residents impacted by Hurricane Ian. To date, the program has received 467 applications, with 47 projects currently in the pre-construction phase, 14 in construction phase and 34 projects successfully completed under the Hurricane Ian allocation.

Homeowners who continue to have unrepaired storm-related damage from Hurricane Ian are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Funding for these recovery programs is limited, and applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-eligible basis.

For the latest information on program progress, project updates, and recovery milestones, please visit the Orange County Recovers dashboard at www.orangecountyrecovers.com.



Orange County Recovers follow up story

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

Hurricane Season

Hurricane Season is from June 1st - November 30th

Visit Ready.gov to learn the steps you should take if a hurricane watch or warning is issued for your area.

Hurricane Season: Stay Prepared

Although we are already well into hurricane season, June 1 through November 30, and have experienced limited activity so far, it is important to remain diligent. Hurricane activity can change quickly, and preparation should continue throughout the season.



Four Simple Steps to Prepare

- Make a family emergency plan: Identify how you will communicate, where you will meet if separated, and who you will contact in an emergency. Plan for children, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and pets.
- Prepare a disaster supply kit: Keep several days of water, nonperishable food, medications, first-aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, chargers, important documents, and other essential items readily available.
- Know where to go: Identify your evacuation zone, become familiar with local evacuation routes, and locate nearby shelters. Make transportation arrangements in advance if needed.
- Protect your home: Secure outdoor items, clear gutters and drains, trim vulnerable trees and branches, inspect your roof and windows, and take other appropriate steps to reduce potential storm damage.

Preparedness is a year-round responsibility. Don't let a quiet start to the season create a false sense of security. Stay informed, review your emergency plan, replenish your supplies, and be ready to act if a hurricane threatens our community.

Hurricane Safety Guide

NaCo Award

This month, Orange County Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) team was presented with a prestigious National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award before the Board of County Commissioners in recognition of its innovative single-family home rehabilitation and reconstruction program, Orange County Recovers.

The NACo Achievement Awards recognize county governments across the nation for developing innovative and effective programs that strengthen communities and enhance residents' quality of life. Orange County Recovers received this national recognition for its commitment to public service, collaboration, accountability, and innovation in helping homeowners recover from the devastating impacts of natural disasters.

This national recognition highlights Orange County's ongoing commitment to supporting its residents, building more resilient communities, and delivering recovery solutions that create lasting positive impacts. The award reflects the dedication, expertise, and hard work of the CDBG-DR team as it continues its mission to help Orange County recover stronger than before.



Planning Studies

Subrecipient Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for the Planning Studies were executed earlier this year using CDBG-DR Hurricane Ian funding. The approved studies are listed below. Additional updates and project information will be provided as each study progresses through the various phases of implementation.

CITY OF OCOEE

Lake Lotta and Northwest

Ditch Basin Studies

Mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate long term disaster risks. The studies of these two basins will help the City develop an extensive watershed master plan for these basins to support drainage improvement projects and avoid drainage issues in developing areas

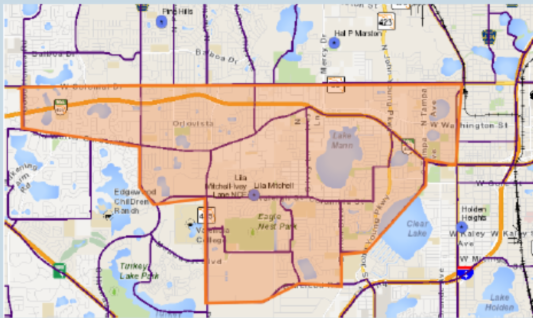
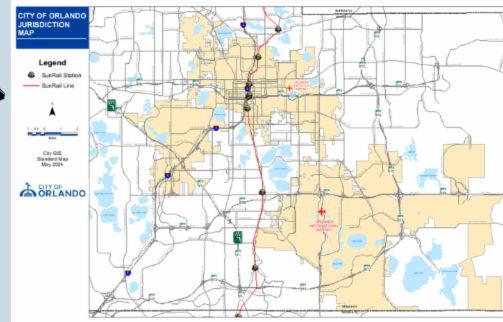


CITY OF ORLANDO

Nature Based Solutions

Flood Mitigation

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) offer a sustainable and resilient approach to managing stormwater while enhancing urban ecosystems. By creating standards and a plan to integrate green infrastructure such as wetlands, retention ponds, urban forests, and permeable surfaces, Orlando can mitigate flooding, reduce stormwater runoff, and bolster long-term resilience against future extreme weather events



ORANGE COUNTY RESILIENCE

Building Community

Resilience

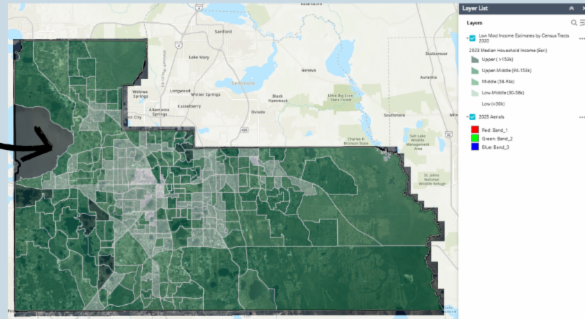
Create an action plan to transform each of the County's eight community centers into resilience hubs to uplift a community with day to day services during blue sky times, and with pre- and post-disaster services during extreme events. With a focus on Structure, Power, and operations with special attention on energy and vulnerabilities due to extreme weather events.

ORANGE COUNTY PEDS

Resilient Neighborhoods

Urban Trees

This study will focus on strengthening neighborhood resilience by identifying opportunities to expand the urban tree canopy, reduce environmental and heat-related risks, and improve the long-term health and sustainability of communities that remain vulnerable to future severe weather events.



Infrastructure and Mitigation

CDBG-DR-funded Infrastructure and Mitigation projects involving local municipalities and Orange County departments and divisions have been previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners and are currently undergoing the required HUD environmental review process. Projects may proceed once the environmental review requirements are completed. These investments will support critical infrastructure improvements and community resilience initiatives that address damage caused by Hurricane Ian, strengthen vulnerable areas, and help reduce the risk and impact of future storms.

The current CDBG-DR Infrastructure and Mitigation projects are listed below.

- **City of Ocoee:** drainage improvements for communities in the western portion of the Lake Lotta Basin Project.
- **City of Orlando:** replacement of 13 defunct drainage wells and addition of baffle boxes to protect water quality
- **City of Orlando:** replacing existing drainage system with modern closed drainage system, installation of stormwater pipes, and construction of sidewalks and resurfacing of roadway
- **City of Orlando:** construction to increase the capacity of underperforming stormwater system in Richmond Heights.
- **City of Winter Garden:** flood mitigation in East Winter Garden area including installing additional inlets and upgrading storm water infrastructure.
- **City of Winter Park:** new pump station at Ravaudage and upgrading pumpstation at Wymore.
- **Town of Eatonville:** expansion of existing wetland for increased stormwater storage in combination with increasing number of downstream outfall pipes, and replacing storm-damaged walkways, trails, boardwalks and other infrastructure.
- **Orange County Public Works:** constructing a new stormwater pump stations to discharge into adjacent wetlands withing the Bonnie Brook Subdivision
- **Orange County Public Works:** improving the structural integrity of the Long Lake Pump Station infrastructure to enhance the flood resilience of the community being served by the pump station.
- **Orange County Public Works:** mitigate flooding within the Verona Park Subdivision and adjacent community by reshaping the Azalea Park Canal east of the pump station and constructing two new overflow weirs.
- **Orange County Utilities:** Mitigate flooding in the Orlo Vista area by pumping excess stormwater from the lake/pond system into the adjacent headwaters of Shingle Creek then flow through the creek before being withdrawn at the South Water Reclamation Facility.



Stay tuned for updates on these projects and others as progress continues across our disaster recovery initiatives.

Public Services

The CDBG-DR-funded public service organizations listed below provide essential programs and resources to Orange County residents affected by Hurricane Ian. These services are designed to support both immediate recovery and long-term stability and include mental health counseling, case management, financial literacy education, rapid re-housing assistance, crisis counseling, food distribution, workforce development, and job training.

Orange County residents impacted by Hurricane Ian who need assistance are encouraged to contact these organizations directly to learn more about the services they offer and determine their eligibility.

- **Christian Service Center:** emergency food, clothing, showers, laundry, and homeless prevention program.
- **Catholic Charities:** mental health services for low-income individuals
- **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
- **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.

United Against Poverty - Mobile Prosperity

UP Orlando played a pivotal role in helping Danae M. rebuild her life during a period of significant personal and financial hardship. Danae connected with UP Orlando through a Mobile Prosperity outreach event. What began as a visit to access food quickly became a pathway to comprehensive support. UP Orlando connected her with legal assistance, housing resources, Social Security guidance, and ongoing access to affordable, healthy food through its Member Share Grocery Program.

Recognizing that Danae needed more than short-term assistance, UP Orlando also connected her with the Success Training Employment Program (STEP), where she received career guidance, encouragement, and support to regain her confidence and return to the workforce. Within one to two weeks of completing the program, Danae secured employment as a cashier at UP Orlando's Grocery Center—the same place where she first sought assistance. Today, she has regained stability and confidence and is giving back to the organization that supported her during one of the most challenging periods of her life.

Danae's experience demonstrates the meaningful impact UP Orlando can have by connecting individuals with resources, opportunity, and the support they need to move from crisis toward self-sufficiency.



Stay tuned for additional updates highlighting the progress of our partner agencies, as well as featured stories from local residents sharing the positive impact and benefits they have experienced through the services provided by these programs.

Public Facilities

The second phase of Orange County's CDBG-DR recovery efforts focused on Public Facilities and Housing projects carried out in partnership with nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities.

A total of 11 projects were approved, including three (3) housing projects and six (6) nonprofit public facility projects. Before subrecipient agreements can be executed, each project must complete required Risk and Capacity Assessment Reviews, as well as environmental reviews, to ensure compliance with federal CDBG-DR requirements.

The approved projects, along with a brief description of each project's scope of work, are listed below.

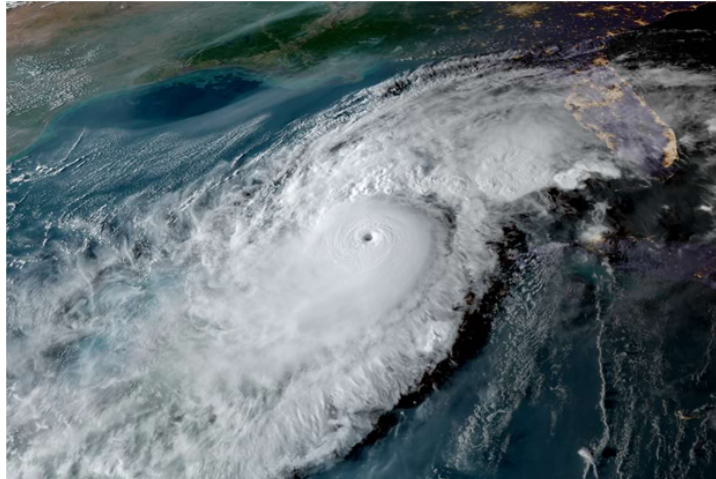
- **Catholic Charities of Central Florida:** This project will replace the roof of the organization's main facility, home to the Mission Market Food Pantry and other essential community services. The improvements will help keep the building safe and operational so it can continue providing food assistance, support services, and emergency response during disasters.
- **Coalition for the Homeless:** This project will build a new Center for Women and Families that will provide temporary housing for up to 428 individuals each night, with additional space available during emergencies. The center will offer shelter, meals, healthcare, childcare, and other support services in one location to help women, children, and families in need.
- **Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corporation:** The Maxwell Terrace Resilience Improvements Project will strengthen this permanent supportive housing community by replacing the roof, improving stormwater drainage, installing new gutters and downspouts, and upgrading electrical systems. These improvements will help protect the property from future storms while providing safer, more reliable housing for residents.
- **Harbor House of Central Florida:** This project will create a new community of apartment homes for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Residents will have access to safe, stable housing along with supportive services that promote long-term independence and well-being.
- **Orlando Housing Authority:** Improvements at Johnson Manor and The Villas at Hampton Court will add a second elevator to each property, making the buildings more accessible and improving safety and reliability during emergencies. Both communities provide affordable housing for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **State of Hope:** The Lee Gardens project will repair and restore 42 affordable housing units that were severely damaged by Hurricane Ian. Once completed, the rehabilitated homes will provide safe, quality housing for veterans and low-income families while preserving affordable housing in the community.
- **United Against Poverty:** This project will construct a new, disaster-resilient facility that will expand access to essential services for Orange County residents. The new center will include a grocery marketplace, food pantry, classrooms, clothing closet, crisis support services, and space for primary care and mental health services, helping meet the growing needs of the community.

Keep an eye out for updates on these projects.

CDBG-DR Hurricane Milton Program

Orange County Recovers has begun accepting applications from homeowners whose properties sustained damage during Hurricane Milton in 2024. The application and review process will follow the same procedures established for the Hurricane Ian recovery program.

To date, 69 Hurricane Milton applications have been received and are currently undergoing eligibility reviews. Homeowners who continue to have unrepaired storm-related damage are encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible. Funding for this allocation is limited, and applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-eligible basis.



The application portal is currently open and accepting applications. Please click the link to **Apply - Orange County Recovers Program**

Request for Applications (RFA) opportunities funded through the Hurricane Milton allocation are anticipated to begin later this year for the following program areas:

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

Please continue to monitor our website and newsletter for future announcements, application details, and program 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, 2025:** 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
- **April 28th - 29th, 2026:** Mandatory Public Facilities and Housing Subrecipient Training -- Non-Profit Organizations and Government Entities
- **July 14-16th, 2026:** HUD OIG training for Fraud, Waste and Abuse for CDBG-DR programs
- **Late Fall 2026 (Tentative):** Launch Request for Proposals (RFP) for New Affordable Housing Construction. Staff is currently working on compliance with administrative requirements.

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.
- **July 14-16th, 2026:** HUD OIG training for Fraud, Waste and Abuse for CDBG-DR programs
- **Late Fall 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](#)

[Connect with us on our social media](#)



Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

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

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

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