



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - July 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

The Orange County Recovers Program continues to make progress in assisting residents impacted by Hurricane Ian. To date, the program has received 460 applications, with 64 projects currently in the pre-construction or construction phases and 24 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.



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

Program Information



Applications

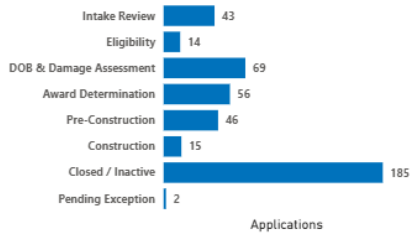
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Launched on March 5, 2025

The Orange County Recovers Program (OCRPR) provides housing assistance to eligible single-family homeowners affected by Hurricane Ian in September 2022 ("qualifying storm") and still have remaining damage. OCRPR assists property owners by providing funding to repair, reconstruct, or replace single-family homes that suffered damage from the qualifying storm. OCRPR was designed to ensure that the housing needs of the low- to moderate income homeowners, protected classes, and vulnerable populations are addressed to the greatest extent possible. The program's primary objective is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing to eligible applicants.

Workflow Status



Applications

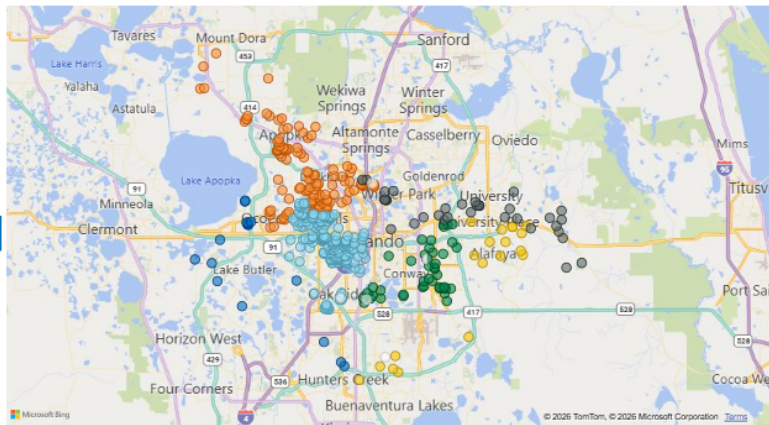
Award Information

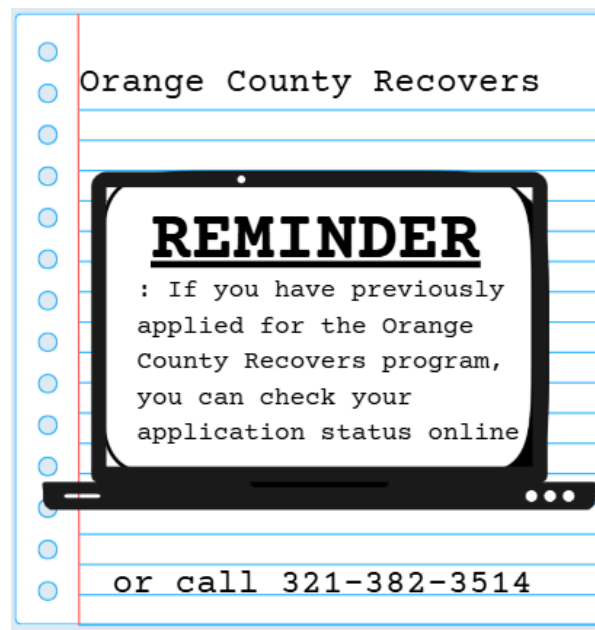


\$30,016,221.26
Budget

District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5 District 6 In Progress \$0.00 Expensed

① Choose you district by clicking its box- this will show the information specific to your district.





Hurricane Season

Hurricane Season is from June 1st - November 30th

How to Prepare for Hurricane Season

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

Be sure to:

- Develop a family emergency communication plan.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit with essential items.
- Familiarize yourself with your local hurricane evacuation routes and nearby shelter locations.
- Take steps to protect your home from potential storm damage.



[Hurricane Safety Guide](#)

HUD Training

This month, the CDBG-DR team attended Fraud, Waste, and Abuse training hosted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Valencia College campus. The training provided valuable guidance on identifying, preventing, and reporting fraud, waste, and abuse in federally funded programs, reinforcing the team's responsibility to safeguard public funds and ensure program integrity.

The training is essential to the successful implementation of CDBG-DR-funded projects, as it strengthens staff's understanding of federal oversight requirements, internal controls,

ethical responsibilities, and risk mitigation strategies. By enhancing awareness of potential fraud indicators and best practices for compliance, the team is better equipped to administer disaster recovery funds in accordance with HUD regulations while protecting taxpayer resources.

In addition to the educational sessions, staff had the opportunity to network with HUD and OIG representatives, as well as peers from other local governments and partner organizations. These interactions fostered collaboration, encouraged the exchange of best practices, and strengthened relationships that support the effective and compliant delivery of CDBG-DR programs.

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

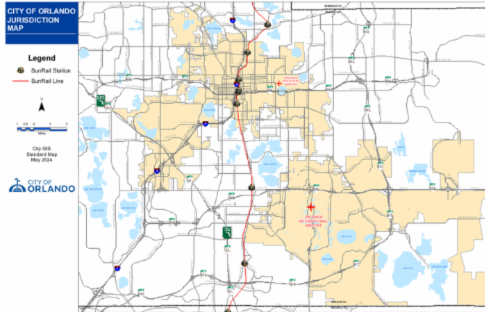


CITY OF ORLANDO

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

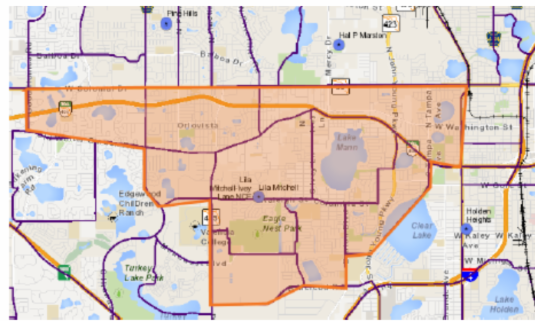


ORANGE COUNTY RESILIENCE

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.

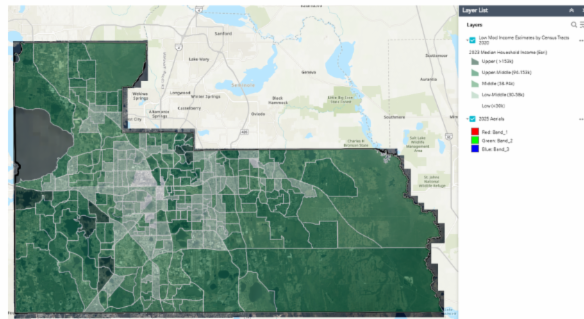


ORANGE COUNTY PEDS

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.

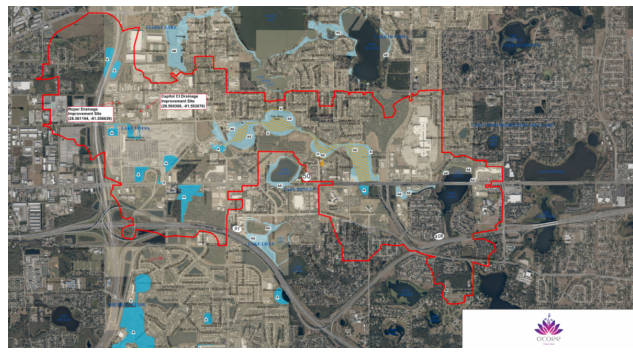


Infrastructure and Mitigation

CDBG-DR-funded Infrastructure and Mitigation projects involving local municipalities, Orange County departments and divisions have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners. These projects will support critical infrastructure improvements and resilience initiatives designed to address damage caused by Hurricane Ian, strengthen vulnerable areas, and reduce the risk of future storm impacts.

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.



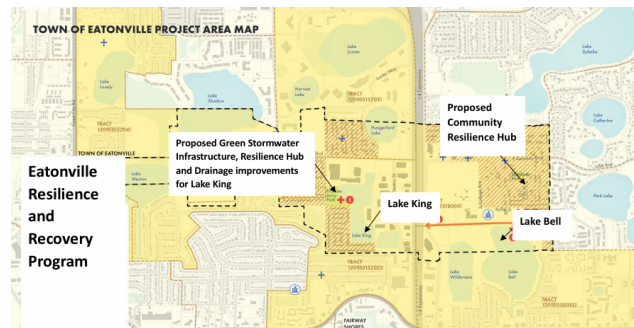
- **City of Orlando:** replacement of 13 defunct drainage wells and addition of baffle boxes to protect water quality

- **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 Public Service agencies listed below are providing vital services to Orange County residents impacted by Hurricane Ian. Through CDBG-DR funding, these organizations deliver a variety of programs designed to support recovery and long-term stability, including mental health services, self-sufficiency and case management, financial literacy education, rapid re-housing assistance, crisis counseling, food distribution, and workforce development and job training.

Residents who have been affected by Hurricane Ian and are in need of assistance are encouraged to contact these organizations directly to learn more about available services and eligibility requirements.

- **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.

Coalition for the Homeless- Disaster Resilience Program

"... The results came quickly. Within one week of meeting Christina, Mr. Bennett landed an interview at Miller's Ale House and walked away with a job offer. The Disaster Resilience Program was able to help him take the final steps toward starting strong, purchasing the non-slip shoes and black slacks he needed to meet the job's requirements on day one..."

Please click on the button below to read more of Mr. Bennett's story of success.

[Mr. Bennett's Success Story](#)



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 implemented in collaboration 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. Prior to the execution of subrecipient agreements, these projects are undergoing required Risk and Capacity Assessment Reviews, as well as environmental reviews, to ensure compliance with federal CDBG-DR requirements.

A list of the approved projects, along with a brief description of each project's scope of work, is provided below.

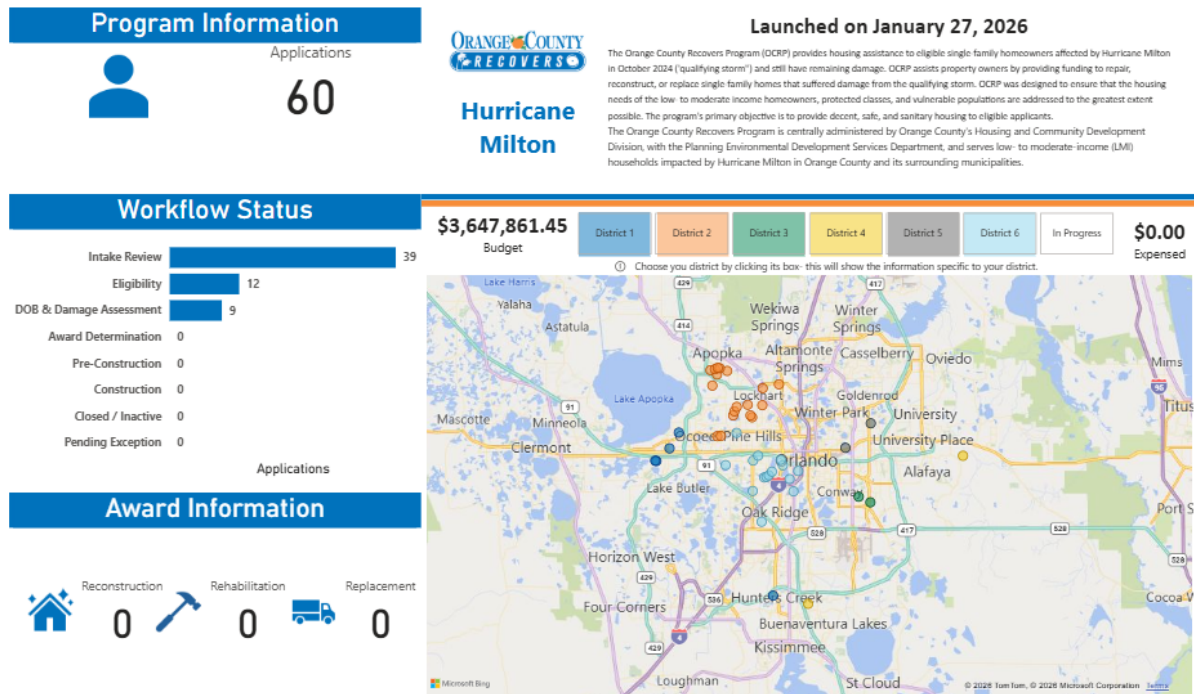
- **Catholic Charities of Central Florida:** Replacement of the roof on the organization's main office, which houses the Mission Market Food Pantry and other critical support services, to ensure the facility remains fully operational as the organization's primary hub for delivering essential services and coordinating disaster response during emergencies.
- **Coalition for the Homeless:** Construction of a new Center for Women and Families (CWF) facility that will provide short-term residential and bridge housing for up to 428 guests each night, with the capacity to accommodate an additional 80 women, parents, and children during disaster events. During shelter-in-place orders and other emergencies, the facility will provide access to meals, healthcare, childcare, and other essential support services under one roof, ensuring continuity of care and safe shelter for vulnerable populations.
- **Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corporation:** The Maxwell Terrace Resilience Improvements Project includes replacement of the roof, installation of new gutters and downspouts, construction of an improved on-site stormwater drainage system to reduce future storm damage, and replacement of electrical breakers throughout the Maxwell Terrace units. These improvements will enhance the resilience and reliability of the facility, which provides permanent supportive housing for vulnerable individuals.
- **Harbor House of Central Florida:** Construction of a community of apartment homes that will provide survivors of domestic violence and their children with safe, independent housing while offering access to supportive services and resources designed to promote long-term stability and self-sufficiency.
- **Orlando Housing Authority:** The Johnson Manor and The Villas at Hampton Court project will install a second elevator at each property to improve accessibility, enhance emergency preparedness, and increase reliability for residents. Both facilities provide long-term housing for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **State of Hope:** The Lee Gardens project includes the repair and rehabilitation of hurricane-damaged units, restoration of safe and habitable living conditions, and improvements to support the long-term sustainability of the property. The project will preserve existing affordable housing units and rehabilitate 42 units that were deemed uninhabitable following Hurricane Ian, bringing them back online for occupancy. These improvements will expand the availability of affordable housing for veterans and very low-income families while restoring critical housing capacity lost as a result of the storm.
- **United Against Poverty:** The project provides funding for the construction of a new facility designed to enhance resilience to natural disasters while maintaining uninterrupted operations during the transition. The new facility will help address the growing needs of residents throughout the Greater Orlando and Orange County urban community by expanding access to essential services. The facility will include a marketplace grocery, dry warehouse, welcome and waiting areas, crisis support services, a crisis food pantry, classrooms, a clothing closet, and primary care and mental health clinic space.

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, 60 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:** 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

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](#)

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Questions? Thoughts? Suggestions?

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



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