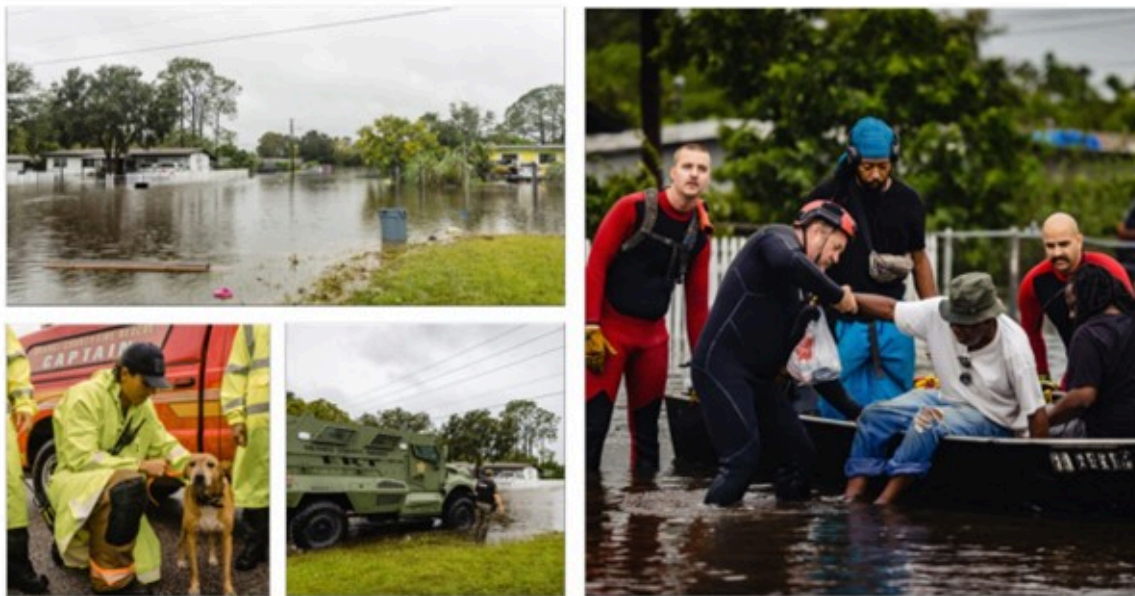




COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

DISASTER RECOVERY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - June 30th, 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 has received 460 applications, 64 projects are currently under pre-construction/construction, and 10 projects have been completed under the Hurricane Ian allocation. Applications related to Hurricane Milton are also in progress, with 46 submitted to date. These applications are currently under eligibility review.

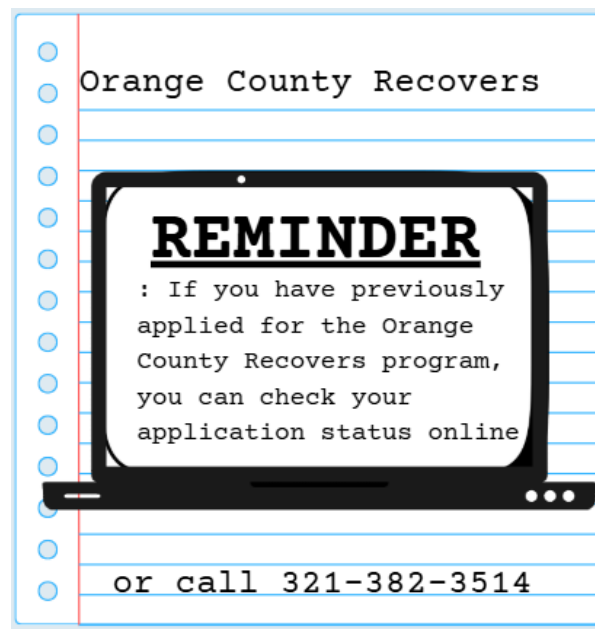
If your home still has unrepaired storm damage from Hurricane Ian or Milton, please do not delay in applying. Funding for these allocations are limited, and applications are

reviewed on a first-come, first-eligible basis.

For the most current updates on program progress, please visit the dashboard at www.orangecountyrecovers.com.



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



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 Expo

The CDBG-DR team participated in the Hurricane Expo held on June 20th at Oak Ridge High School. This yearly event allows for Orange County citizens to learn about different resources for the current hurricane season while engaging with community partners.



NACo Awards



Orange County Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) team has been honored with a prestigious National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award for 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, effective programs that strengthen communities and improve residents' quality of life. Orange County Recovers was recognized for its commitment to excellence in public service, collaboration, accountability, and innovation in helping homeowners recover from the devastating impacts of natural disasters.

Through the Orange County Recovers program, the CDBG-DR team has worked diligently to restore safe, resilient housing for eligible homeowners while responsibly managing federal disaster recovery resources. By partnering with residents, contractors, and community stakeholders, the team has helped families rebuild their homes, restore a sense of normalcy, and resume their day-to-day lives after the challenges of disaster.

This national recognition reflects Orange County's unwavering commitment to serving its residents, fostering resilient communities, and delivering meaningful recovery solutions that have a lasting impact. The award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the CDBG-DR team and its mission to help Orange County recover stronger than before.

Public Services

Public Service agencies funded under CDBG-DR and currently assisting Orange County residents affected by Hurricane Ian are as follows:

- **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.

Orange County residents are encouraged to contact these organizations directly if assistance is needed.

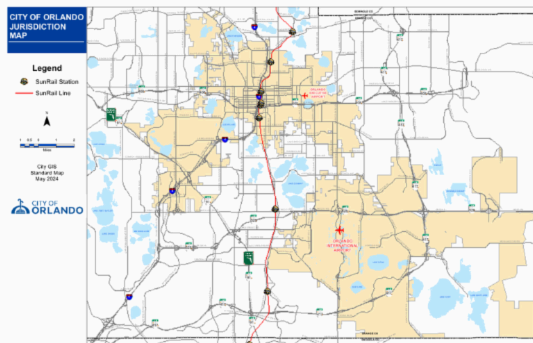
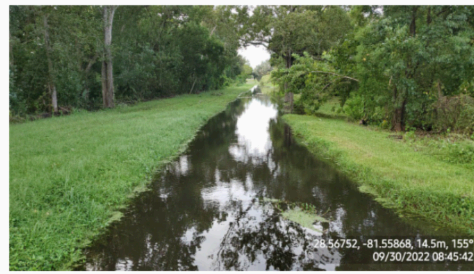
Planning Studies

Two planning studies were presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 2, where the associated subrecipient agreements were approved. Please see details regarding these two projects below:

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

We are also pleased to share with Orange County residents that the Orange County Planning, Environmental, and Development Services Department has successfully closed the Request for Applications (RFA) for the **Resilient Neighborhoods – Urban Trees** planning study and is currently in the process of selecting a vendor and finalizing a contract.

Once the contract is executed, research and analysis will begin to evaluate existing tree canopy conditions and develop a targeted urban tree planting and resilience strategy for low- and moderate-income communities impacted by Hurricane Ian. The 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 approved by the Board of County Commissioners. These projects focus on infrastructure improvements and mitigation efforts

aimed at protecting areas impacted by Hurricane Ian and reducing the risk of damage from future storms.

Current 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.

We are pleased to announce that the City of Winter Park's infrastructure improvement project has received HUD environmental clearance, authorization to use grant funds, and a Notice to Proceed. These approvals represent a significant milestone as the project moves into the implementation phase.

Stay tuned for updates on this project and others as work begins and progress continues across our disaster recovery initiatives.

Public Facilities

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

Following the Request for Applications (RFA) process conducted at the end of last year, 11 applications were approved, including three (3) housing projects, six (6) non-profit public facilities projects, and one (1) planning study. The selected agencies are required to complete a Risk and Capacity Assessment Review of their organizations and participate in mandatory technical assistance trainings, one of which was held on April 28–29. Successful completion of these requirements is necessary before a subrecipient agreement can be executed.

Keep an eye out for updates on these 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.

If your home still has unrepaired storm damage, please do not delay in applying. Funding for this allocation is limited, and applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-eligible basis.

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
- **April 28th - 29th, 2026:** Mandatory Public Facilities and Housing Subrecipient Training -- Non-Profit Organizations and Government Entities
- **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.
- **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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