

Florida Community Development Association

Disaster Recovery Funds Implementation Challenges



**Orange County Government
Housing and Community Development Division**

May 1, 2024



Presentation Outline

- Background
- CDBG-DR Basics
- Timeline
- Action Plan Development
- Next Steps
- Challenges and Takeaways



Background

▪ Impacts to Orange County

–Housing

- Reported damage to 10,591 housing units (FEMA/NFIP)

–Infrastructure

- Major damage related to stormwater and utilities systems

–Economic Revitalization

- SBA's business loan information reported 1,031 business applications issued as a result of Hurricane Ian

▪ Estimated over \$300 million in damages

▪ Most damages were not clearly visible





Background

- HUD awarded Orange County total of \$219,712,000
 - \$191,054,000 in CDBG-DR grant funds for unmet needs
 - \$28,658,000 awarded for mitigation (15% of unmet needs)
- HUD funds are typically allocated to the state of Florida, but Orange County received direct funding
 - Designated as a Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) area
 - One of four (4) counties most impacted by Hurricane Ian

CDBG-DR Allocations for 2022	
State of Florida	\$728,499,200
Orange County	\$219,712,000
Lee County	\$1,107,811,000
Sarasota County	\$201,535,000
Volusia	\$328,910,000
Total	\$2,586,537,200



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CDBG-DR Basics

- CDBG-DR is a flexible set of funds to carry out a wide range of activities related to:
 - Disaster relief
 - Long-term recovery
 - Restoration of infrastructure and housing
 - Economic revitalization
 - Mitigation of risk





CDBG-DR Basics

- **Major goals of CDBG-DR**
 - **Address unmet needs relating to**
 - **Housing (e.g., repairs to single-family and multifamily units, replacement, new construction)**
 - **Infrastructure (e.g., water, sewer, drainage)**
 - **Public Services (e.g., job training, mental health counseling)**
 - **Economic Revitalization (e.g., small business loans)**
 - **Improve mitigation and resiliency**
 - **Ensure funding and programs prioritize underserved and vulnerable populations**
- **Project activities must be directly/indirectly tied to Hurricane Ian**



CDBG-DR Basics

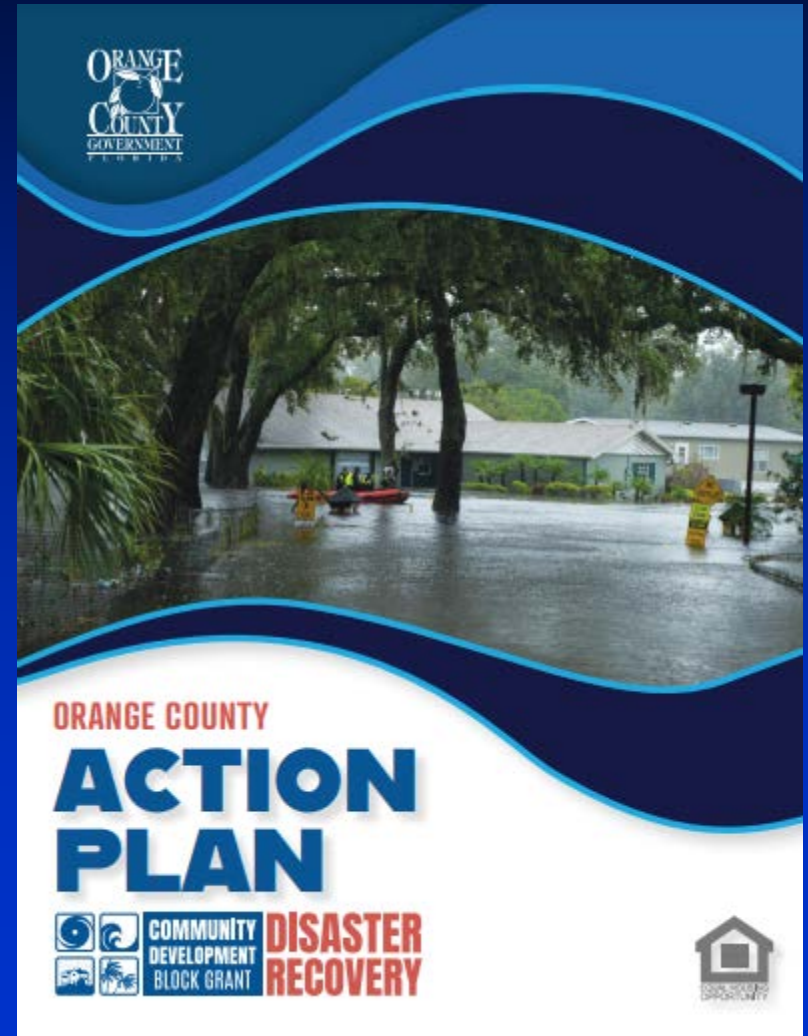
▪ Funding guidelines

- At least 70% of the funds must be spent on activities benefitting Low-Moderate Income (LMI) individuals or areas
 - LMI Areas - census tracts with greater than 51% of households designated as LMI (80% of Area Median Income (AMI))
 - Income-qualified individuals/households: \$70,200 for household of 4
- At least 15% of funds must be spent for mitigation activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce long-term risk



CDBG-DR Basics

- **Grant requirements**
 - **Develop Action Plan**
 - Unmet Needs Analysis
 - Citizen Input and Engagement
 - Proposed Uses of Funds
 - **Public access via website**
 - **Develop Implementation Plan**
 - Administrative Requirements
 - Procurement and Contracting
 - Interagency Coordination





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Timeline





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Action Plan Development

▪ Key Components

–Unmet Needs and Mitigation Assessment

- Data gathering
- State of housing/disaster impact

–Citizen Input and Engagement

- Key component of the plan to address unmet needs
- Determining most appropriate activities to fund

–Proposed use of funds based on the unmet/mitigation needs and citizen input



Unmet Needs Analysis

- **HUD requires data on unmet needs for:**
 - Housing
 - Infrastructure and Public Facilities
 - Businesses
- **Data Sources**
 - Federal: FEMA/SBA/U.S. Census Bureau
 - Local: County Departments/Jurisdictions/Public Housing Authorities
 - Community Partners: Advocacy Groups/Continuum of Care Providers of Homeless Services
 - Affected County Residents



Unmet Needs Analysis

Unmet Needs and Mitigation Assessment

Estimated Impact, Support and Unmet Needs				
Summary of Impacts/Support	Housing	Infrastructure	Economy	Total
Amount of Estimated Impact	\$315,991,487	\$225,415,477	\$20,580,517	\$561,987,481
Amount of Funds Available	\$62,690,719	\$64,714,734	\$7,533,365	\$134,938,818
Unmet Needs (Impact - Available Funds) + Resiliency Costs	\$253,300,768	\$160,700,743	\$13,047,152	\$427,048,663
Percent of Total Unmet Needs	59.31%	37.63%	3.06%	100.00%



Citizen Engagement

- **Focus groups with community partners/organizations**
- **Survey made available to public via website (3 languages)**
 - Active from September 25 through Nov 10, 2023
 - 800+ total responses
- **13 community meetings held September-November 2023**
- **Priorities identified**
 - Housing (homeowner rehab/new construction)
 - Infrastructure (stormwater drainage, water/wastewater improvements)
 - Public services (housing counseling, mental health, and job training)



Citizen Engagement

District 1 - Tildenville Elementary School



District 4 - East Orange Community Center



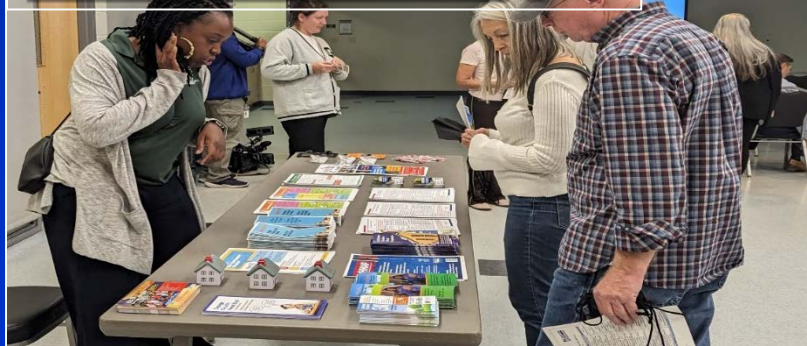
District 2 - John Bridges Community Center



District 3 - Taft Community Center



District 5 - Goldenrod Park



District 6 - Barnett Park





Citizen Engagement



ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FLORIDA

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY

COMMUNITY MEETING

DISTRICT 1 COMMISSIONER WILSON
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 6:30PM -7:30PM
 TILDENVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 1221 BRICK RD
 WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787

CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Community Meeting Summary

September 28, 2023

John Bridges Community Center - 6 p.m.
 445 W. 13th Street
 Apopka, FL 32703

Comments/Concerns

- **Affected areas:** Bithlo, Orlo Vista, College Park, Loch hart.
- **General comments:** flooding on 13th Street; tree cut in the area; homeless problems in the area.
- **Funding:** there must be transparency in how CDBG-funds are distributed on different programs/activities
- **Pre-disaster:** Tree removal prior to a storm is important need programs to inform residents about evacuation plans, shelters, etc. (note: not everyone has access to digital information).
- **Post-disaster:** public cooling centers are needed due power outages; need to establish a system for debris removal for seniors and vulnerable populations; post-disaster social services.
- **Post-disaster issues include:** repair of traffic signals trouble w/traffic patterns; evacuation plans; general shut down; sewage on the streets.
- **Emergency management services—** need more pre-post-disaster community awareness for residents.
- **Special needs populations:** need homeless shelters for families, day drop-in shelters; further develop assistance for homeless.
- **Housing:** need to mitigate/elevate low areas/flood-prone areas; mobile home rehabilitation; need for affordable housing in more rural areas of the County; rehab of damaged housing stock.
- **Area concerns (Apopka):** Can making area improvements potentially price people out? Preservation of wetlands and recharge areas can aid in flood prevention; undocumented individuals are not likely to seek assistance.
- **Infrastructure:** clogs in sewer lines lead to increased flooding even during regular rain events; on-going maintenance is needed.
- **Homeowner insurance:** people are being priced out of their homes due to insurance cost increases.

CDBG-DR website: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR

CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Community Meeting Summary

October 24, 2023



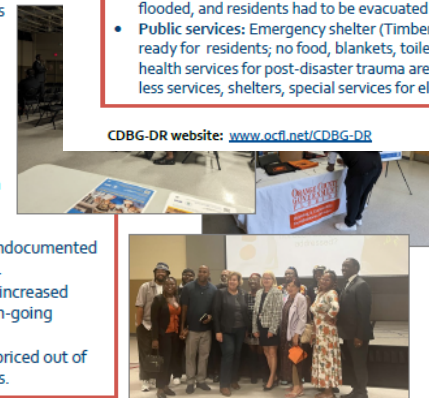
Christ The King Episcopal Church - 6 p.m.
 26 Willow Dr.
 Orlando, FL 32807

Persons in attendance:
 24

Comments/Concerns/Clarifications

- **Areas impacted:** Rio Pinar Country Club Estates, El Prado Canal, Little Econ river basin, Lake Azalea, Semoran Blvd.
- **Infrastructure:** Issues with power outages, downed power poles (private and county-owned), fallen trees, maintenance of canals and stormwater drains. Drainage issues caused by new construction/new development are a concern (new flooding). Water management in older neighborhoods, especially those without closed pump systems, is essential.
- **Mitigation:** Need to upgrade water retention/drainage plans for older neighborhoods to reflect changes in water levels/storm intensity. Elevation of structures, upgraded storm-water management systems, and development of a backup plan were offered as potential solutions (example: Blanchard Park Pump station malfunctioned). Protection of wetlands. Additionally, better collaboration needed between jurisdictions to maintain/improve existing infrastructure.
- **Program eligibility:** Funding assistance needed for homeowners who did not qualify for FEMA or may not meet CDBG-DR income limits, although living on a fixed income and/or living paycheck-to-paycheck.
- **Program requirements (insurance):** Homeowners receiving federal assistance are required to maintain a flood insurance. CDBG-DR funds can be used to supplement FEMA and insurance funding gaps for eligible homeowners.
- **Housing:** Home rehabilitation should be the top priority. In some cases, repairs exceeded home values. Will County reimburse additional cost to owners forced to rebuild/rehab older homes to current codes? Timeline of CDBG-DR funding does not address immediate needs. (Resources where provided on the existing Homeowner Rehabilitation Program).
- **Housing resources:** Need additional resources for displaced homeowners without insurance. On Rio Drive, 60% of homes flooded, and residents had to be evacuated by boat.
- **Public services:** Emergency shelter (Timbercreek HS) was not ready for residents; no food, blankets, toiletries etc. Mental health services for post-disaster trauma are needed. Homeless services, shelters, special services for elderly, etc.

CDBG-DR website: www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR



Priorities Identified

- HOUSING - 5**
- New construction - 0
- Homeownership assistance - 1
- Rental assistance - 0
- Rehabilitation/Reconstruction - 4
- Property buyout - 0
- INFRASTRUCTURE - 26**
- Public facilities - 4
- Drainage/Utilities - 13
- Water and wastewater facilities - 9
- ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION - 0**
- Business retention program(s) - 0
- Loans and grants to businesses - 0
- PUBLIC SERVICES - 1**
- Legal assistance - 0
- Housing counseling - 0
- Mental/Health services - 1
- Housing stability services - 0
- Job training/Placement - 0





Citizen Engagement

Did you experience any damage(s) to your home or personal property due to Hurricane Ian?

Answer Choices	Responses	Spanish	Total	%
Yes	35.68%	274	274	35.68%
No	58.85%	452	452	58.85%
Other (please specify)	5.47%	42	42	5.47%
	Answered	768	0	768

Citizen Comment:

"Flooding, unable to leave the house for 5 days."

Citizen Comment:

"Lots of tree branches all over, few shingles ripped off."

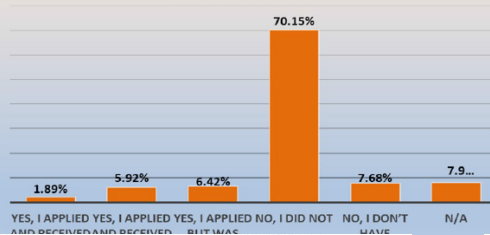
Citizen Comment:

"septic and well systems need and city sewer. (Inadequate) flood in hurricane season."

Citizen Comment:

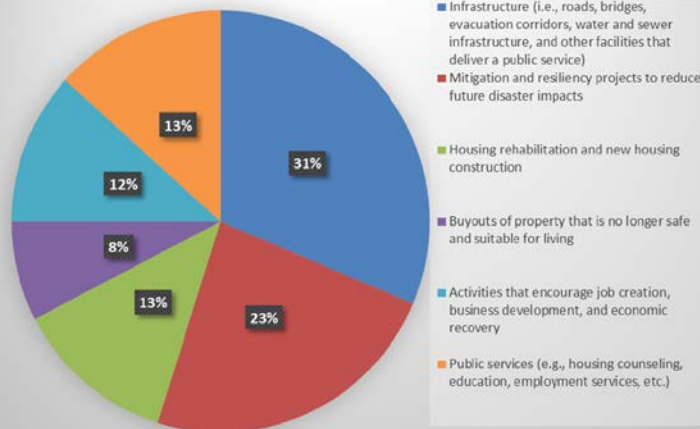
"Impossible increases in insurance rates because for-profit insurance companies are focused on profit..."

Have you filed any claims with your insurance company for damages caused by Hurricane Ian?



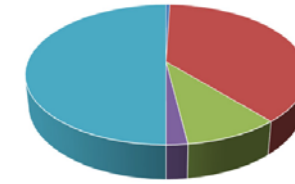
Below is a list of project(s)/program(s) eligible for funding. Please select the top three (3) program(s) and/or project(s) that you think would be most beneficial for your community.

CDBG-DR Proposed Programs/Projects



Zip Codes	Zip Codes
ZIP #	ZIP #
22043 1	82822 12
32703 13	82823 1
32708 1	82824 7
32712 7	82825 49
32720 1	32826 17
32750 1	32827 1
32751 4	32828 250
32757 5	32829 41
32758 1	32832 8
32771 1	32833 2
32789 2	32835 25
32792 6	32836 4
32798 4	32837 5
32801 11	32838 2
32803 24	32839 16
32804 19	33135 1
32805 16	33825 1
32806 23	33849 1
32807 18	34734 1
32808 82	34744 3
32809 10	34758 2
32810 9	34761 10
32811 21	34771 1
32812 15	34786 5
32814 8	34787 21
32817 10	35851 1
32818 20	38235 1
32819 15	42828 2
32820 1	328728 1
32821 7	Grand Total 792

Which of the following best describes your current housing status? Responses



In what language do you write most fluently?

Answer Choices	Responses
English	96.63% 774
Kreyòl Ayisyen	0.00% 0
Español	3.37% 27
Answered	801
Skipped	0

What type of property do you reside in?



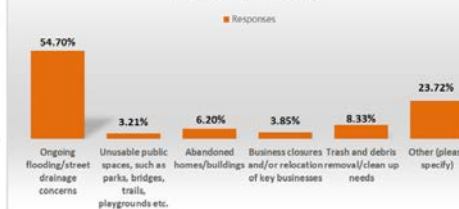
Citizen Comment:

"Houses still need repair"

Citizen Comment:

"Funds (should) be used to create a NEW (water reclamation) facility that doesn't dump into the Econ River basin."

Is your community continuing to experience any of the following because of Hurricane Ian?



WERE YOU ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING IN YOUR HOME/PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOLLOWING HURRICANE IAN?

Answer Choices	English	Spanish	Total	%
Yes, my residence is safe	642	17	659	82.89%
Yes, but my residence is still not safe	39	5	44	5.53%
No, I had to move/leave my place of residence	48	3	51	6.42%
N/A	39	2	41	5.16%
TOTAL	768	27	795	100%

Citizen Comment:

"I hope our homeless population had access to a safe place during the hurricanes with adequate food, shelter, and basic needs."



Use of Funds

<u>Category</u>	<u>Remaining Unmet Needs</u>	<u>% of Unmet Needs</u>	<u>Program Allocation</u>	<u>% of Program Funds</u>
Housing (rehab & new housing construction)	\$253,300,768	59.31%	\$108,746,160	49.5%
Infrastructure & Public Facilities	\$160,700,743	37.63%	\$59,322,240	27%
Mitigation			\$28,658,000	13%
Economic Revitalization	\$13,047,152	3.06%	\$0	0%
Public Services (includes economic recovery activities)			\$7,000,000	3.2%
Administration			\$10,985,600	5%
Planning			\$5,000,000	2.3%
TOTAL	\$427,048,663	100%	\$219,712,000	100%



Program Overview and Project Selection

- **Homeowner housing rehabilitation and reconstruction**
 - Implemented county-wide
 - Administered through Orange County with support from key vendors
 - Applicants will apply directly through our CDBG-DR website when program opens
- **Rental housing rehabilitation and new affordable housing construction**
 - Recipients selected through a competitive process
 - Program open to private and non-profit organizations, and Public Housing Authorities



Program Overview and Project Selection

- **Infrastructure and public facilities**
 - Recipients selected through a competitive process
 - Open to municipalities, non-profit organizations, and County departments and divisions

- **Public service activities**
 - Recipients selected through a competitive process
 - Open to non-profit organizations



Program Overview and Project Selection

- **Mitigation projects** to increase resilience to future natural disasters
 - Recipients selected through a competitive process
 - Open to municipalities, non-profit organizations, and County departments and divisions
 - Mitigation measures are also to be included as part of housing and infrastructure projects



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Next Steps

- **April 9, 2024 – Grant Agreement executed; Orange County has 6 years from the Funding Agreement execution date to spend the funds**
- **Expansion of operations/Staffing**
- **Solicitation of a main consultant (Homeowner Housing Rehab and General Program Support)**
- **Program Roll Out – internal**
 - Create internal SOPs (programmatic and fiscal)
 - Update RARAP/create new RARAP for CDBG-DR
 - Develop Marketing & Outreach Strategy



Next Steps

- **Program Roll Out – external**

- Create Policies and Procedures for each program: capital and infrastructure projects, mitigation projects, homeowner housing rehabilitation, rental housing rehabilitation, new housing construction, and public services
- Environmental review of projects (tiered)
- Marketing and outreach for each program (different strategies)
- Request for Applications for some programs – to open in July 2024



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Challenges and Takeaways

- **Technical knowledge**
 - CDBG-DR regulations and program requirements
 - DRGR (only prior familiarity – based on the NSP)
 - Data – knowledge and understanding
- **Planning and program implementation deadlines**
 - Steps needed to complete the CDBG-DR Action Plan
 - Short turnaround for submission (requested an extension)
 - Level of community engagement
 - Program website – creation and regular maintenance
- **Procurement timelines**



Challenges and Takeaways

- **Political pressures**
 - Large amount of funding – high visibility and level of interest
 - Community-specific outreach/grassroots interests
- **Staffing and capacity challenges**
 - Had to plan internally, no additional staff was hired
 - Consultant services – limited during planning; to be solicited in the near future (Summer 2024) to support program implementation
 - Additional staff approved to support program implementation
- **Possibility of receiving more funds in the future?**



Contact

Orange County Housing and Community Development

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