

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funding



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the state of Florida will receive \$616 million in funding to support long-term recovery efforts following Hurricane Irma through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. Recently, HUD released the Federal Register which includes specific guidance detailing additional requirements for the state and its determination of which communities are eligible to receive CDBG-DR funding. This funding is designed to address needs that remain after other assistance has been exhausted, including federal assistance as well as private insurance. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has been working diligently since Hurricane Irma made landfall to understand and address the recovery needs of families, businesses and communities around the state.

DEO continues to:

- ◆ Advocate on behalf of the state of Florida to HUD and to Congress for resources needed to support long-term recovery of our state and the flexibility to address the diverse needs of our state. This includes the ability to use CDBG-DR funding as federal match, including for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) hazard mitigation programs.
- ◆ Work closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and FEMA in the Joint Field Office in Orlando to provide support for recovery efforts and gain a unique understanding of long-term unmet needs in communities around the state.
- ◆ Work closely with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to understand housing needs and advocate for additional federal housing resources to support Puerto Rican evacuees that have relocated to the state.
- ◆ Analyze data to project unmet needs in Florida and evaluate programs that could be created or expanded to address these needs.

Next Steps

DEO will continue to work closely with impacted communities around the state to ensure that programs are crafted that address the diverse array of unmet needs following Hurricane Irma. Throughout February and March, DEO will:

- ◆ Visit impacted communities around the state to discuss program requirements and get input on how to best address these needs.
- ◆ Conduct webinars to present the status of the state's efforts related to CDBG-DR funding and answer questions from local partners.
- ◆ Work with local governments to get feedback on the draft unmet needs assessment and develop a cohesive statewide strategy for CDBG-DR funding.

The mission of DEO's Division of Community Development is to help communities achieve their long-term goals and grow their local economy. This is more important than ever after a disaster, when the recovery of a community can affect its ability to succeed for years to come. DEO looks forward to working with communities around the state to ensure that they recover and come back stronger than ever. If you'd like more information, please:

- ◆ Contact Heather Martin, Chief of Community Disaster Recovery, at (850) 717-8519 or (850) 509-8704.
- ◆ Visit our website at www.floridajobs.org/CDBG-DR for background information and an opportunity to join our mailing list to learn about webinars and other upcoming opportunities.