Rebuild Florida Disaster Recovery Funding for Hurricane Sally

Virtual Public Hearing

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Office of Long-Term Resiliency

May 24, 2022
Agenda

- Introduction
- Office of Long-Term Resiliency (OLTR) Overview
- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Overview
- State Action Plan Overview
  - Substantial Amendment Process
  - 2022 CDBG-DR Program Overview
  - How to Submit a Public Comment
- Feedback/Questions
Hurricane Sally

- Hurricane Sally, a Category 2 hurricane, made landfall on September 16, 2020, in Gulf Shores, Alabama, west of Pensacola, Florida.

- Hurricane Sally moved slowly across the Gulf Coast, bringing winds, storm surge, and excessive rainfall causing extensive damage across the Florida Panhandle. Thousands of structures were damaged in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, and approximately 50 structures were destroyed. A study from the University of Florida estimates that Hurricane Sally caused $55–100 million in agricultural losses in the western Florida Panhandle.

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will receive $187,383,000 in funding to support long-term recovery efforts following Hurricane Sally through DEO’s OLTR. CDBG-DR funding is designed to address needs that remain after all other assistance has been exhausted.
OLTR Overview

- The DEO’s OLTR supports long-term recovery housing needs, infrastructure, and economic development in Florida communities impacted by disasters.

- DEO is the governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all HUD CDBG-DR and Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds awarded to the state.

- DEO is currently administering long-term recovery programs for Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, and Michael, as well as the CDBG-MIT program.
CDBG-DR Funding

- HUD’s CDBG-DR funding is designed to address long-term recovery needs after other assistance has been exhausted, including federal assistance and private insurance.

- CDBG-DR recovery activities typically begin between 12-18 months after a disaster.
CDBG-DR State Action Plan for Hurricane Sally

30-Day Public Comment Period
May 6 to June 6, 2022

Review and Respond to Public Comments
May 6 to June 7, 2022

Submit Substantial Amendment to HUD for Review
By June 8, 2022

60-Day HUD Review
By August 7, 2022

Ongoing Stakeholder Outreach
State Action Plan Overview

The Draft Action Plan posted for public comment on May 6, 2022, includes the following:

- 2022 CDBG-DR Allocation
- Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment
- Risk-Based Needs Assessment (Flooding, Tropical Cyclones, Severe Storms, Wildfire, Coastal Erosion)
- Eligible Communities Overview
- Eligible Activities Overview
- Description of Program to be Offered to Communities
Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Areas

- At least 80 percent of funds must be spent in HUD-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas.
- The HUD-MID areas include Escambia County, 32583 (Santa Rosa) ZIP code, and the municipalities within Santa Rosa County.
- Remaining 20 percent of funds can be spent in State-designated MID areas.
- The State-designated MID areas include Bay, Okaloosa, and Walton counties.
- At least 70 percent of spending must benefit low-and moderate-income (LMI) communities.
- The State has six years to expend all CDBG-DR funds.
Eligible Activities Overview

- To be eligible for funding, entities and counties must propose projects that meet the state action plan and Federal Register requirements, including, but not limited to:

  ✓ Projects that primarily serve Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) populations.
  ✓ Projects for infrastructure that support LMI housing or meet an urgent need.
  ✓ Projects must not duplicate benefits.
  ✓ Activities funded by the CDBG-DR mitigation set-aside do not require a "tie-back" to the specific qualified disaster that has served as the basis for the grantee’s allocation.
  ✓ Grantees must demonstrate that mitigation activities funded:
    ✓ Meet the definition of mitigation activities;
    ✓ Address the current and future risks as identified in the grantee’s mitigation needs;
    ✓ Be CDBG-eligible activities under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA); and
    ✓ Meet a National Objective.
Once requirements are met, eligible activities include:

- **Restoration** – Infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Sally.
- **Creation** – Public facilities such as emergency community shelters.
- **Demolition** – Rehabilitation of publicly or privately owned commercial or industrial buildings.
- **Economic Revitalization** – Includes any CDBG-DR eligible activity that directly restores and improves some aspect of the local economy.
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Ongoing Stakeholder Outreach
How to Submit a Public Comment

- The State Action Plan for Hurricane Sally has been posted on the Hurricane Sally webpage at RebuildFlorida.gov/HurricaneSally.

- Interested parties are encouraged to submit their comments using the online Public Comment Form, available on the program’s webpage.
  - Instructions for submitting a public comment by email or postal mail are also available on the webpage.

- Comments submitted through the online form or email must be submitted by 6:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Monday, June 6, 2022.
  - Comments submitted by mail must be postmarked on or before June 6, 2022.
Comments/Questions

To learn more about Rebuild Florida programs, please visit: RebuildFlorida.gov

Contact: CDBG-DR@DEO.MyFlorida.com