



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#25-0917

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: October 7, 2025

TITLE: Public Hearing to Approve the City of Fort Lauderdale's Community
Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan –
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt a Resolution approving the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan.

Background

On April 12, 2023, the City of Fort Lauderdale was affected by a catastrophic rainstorm that generated more than 26-inches of rain in a 12-hour period. This unprecedented rainfall caused widespread flooding and extensive property damage.

The Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025 (Public Law 118-158) was approved on December 21, 2024. The primary goal of the Act is to provide relief to those struggling to recover from natural disasters and it included funding for the CDBG-DR program to help local, state, and Tribal governments recover from Presidentially declared disasters. On January 16, 2025, the City of Fort Lauderdale received an allocation of \$88,051,000 in CDBG-DR funds to address unmet needs and mitigation activities for the 2023 flood event. To access CDBG-DR funds, the City must prepare an Action Plan outlining how the funds will be used to address unmet needs from the 2023 flood and to support mitigation efforts that reduce the risk of similar damage in future flood events.

Activities eligible for funding under the CDBG-DR grant include, but are not limited to:

- Constructing new housing for residents located in a floodplain;
- Buying severely damaged structures and relocating the affected household or business out of harm's way;
- Debris removal (when it is not covered by another source, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA));
- Rehabilitation of homes or buildings damaged by the disaster;
- Constructing or rehabilitating public facilities or improvements (e.g., streets, neighborhood centers, and water/sewer/drainage systems);
- Costs of environmental reviews and mitigation to offset environmental impacts;

- Code enforcement;
- Homeownership assistance (e.g., down payment assistance, interest rate subsidies, and loan guarantees);
- Public services (generally limited to no more than 15 percent of the grant);
- Helping businesses retain or create jobs;
- Planning (limited to 15 % of the award); and
- Administration (limited to 5% of the award).

On June 30, 2025, the City Commission approved a service agreement with IEM, International, Inc. to assist in implementing and managing the CDBG-DR program funding. IEM, International, Inc. has worked with the community, City staff, and other governmental agencies such as FEMA and the Small Business Association (SBA) to collect and analyze data need to determine the unmet needs that remain following the April 12, 2023 flood.

On August 2, 2025, and again on September 5, 2025, surveys were sent to residents and stakeholders. More than 470 residents and stakeholders responded to the survey providing input on how CDBG-DR funds should be used. A public meeting was held on August 29, 2025, providing residents with an opportunity to participate and provide input in person or virtually.

The draft Action Plan was open for public comment from September 6, 2025, through October 6, 2025. The public comment period included a public meeting on September 26, 2025. All feedback received will be incorporated into the plan, which will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by October 21, 2025.

Note that on March 4, 2025, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 25-37 (Exhibit 4) which delegated authority to the City Manager to execute such documents as necessary and appropriate to operate and administer the CDBG-DR Action Plan.

Resource Impact

There is no long-term fiscal impact to the General Fund. The CDBG-DR grant will reimburse the City for the funding expended on eligible activities.

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2025 Commission Priority, advancing the Affordable Housing and Economic Development initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Housing Focus Area, Goal 2: Enable housing options for all income levels.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically

advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element

Goal 1: The Comprehensive Plan shall support the provision of adequate sites for future housing, including affordable workforce housing, housing for low-income, very low-income, and moderate-income families, mobile homes, and group home facilities and foster care facilities, with supporting infrastructure and public facilities.

Goal 2: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.

Related CAM

25-0955

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Fort Lauderdale CDBG-DR Action Plan - DRAFT

Exhibit 2 – Public Notice

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

Exhibit 4 – Resolution No. 25-37

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Department Director: Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department