



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE REPORT

#25-0823

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: August 19, 2025

TITLE: Review of the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Needs Assessment Survey - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Staff will present the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) needs assessment survey (Exhibit 1) for City Commission review and awareness prior to the survey being distributed to stakeholders and residents.

Background

On January 16, 2025, as published in *Volume 90, Number 10* of the Federal Register Notices, it was announced that the City of Fort Lauderdale was awarded \$88,051,000 in CDBG-DR funds. The allocation, provided under Public Law 118-158, is designated for unmet needs and mitigation activities related to disasters occurring in 2023 and 2024. Exhibit 2 is an excerpt from the Federal Register Notice that provides requirements for the use of funds including the mitigation set-aside amount required under the law.

On June 30, 2025, the City Commission approved a service agreement with IEM International, Inc. to assist with planning and implementation of the CDBG-DR program, including the development of a required Action Plan. As part of the CDBG-DR compliance requirements to access the grant funds, the City must submit an Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before October 21, 2025.

An essential step in developing the Action Plan is a community needs assessment to identify unmet needs from the April 12, 2023, flood event. A survey tool is one method used to collect this community input and it is supplemented by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) data. Community needs assessment survey questions are developed based on the HUD categories of eligible use of CDBG-DR funds.

The needs assessment survey findings together with FEMA and SBA data, will guide the selection of activities, programs, and services included in the CDBG-DR Action Plan.

The needs assessment survey will be distributed to stakeholders and residents through the City's Office of Strategic Communications in electronic format, with in-person opportunities available for residents without access to electronic devices. The first in-person survey session will be held August 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at 101 NE 3 Avenue which is where the City Manager's Office, Public Works, and other City offices are located. The needs assessment survey will remain open to the public for seven (7) business days, beginning August 20, 2025, and concluding on August 29, 2025. The needs assessment survey window was determined based on the need to submit the City's Action plan to HUD by the October 21, 2025 deadline.

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, group home facilities and foster care facilities, with supporting infrastructure and public facilities.
- Goal 2: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods advancing:
 - The Infrastructure Focus Area
 - The Sanitary Sewer, Water & Stormwater Element
- Goal 6: Ensure that all areas of the city are reasonably protected from flooding, giving due consideration to the City's natural and built environment.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – CDBG-DR Community Survey

Exhibit 2 – Federal Registry Notice Excerpt

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Department Director: Anthony Fajardo, Director, Development Services