



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-035**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** February 9, 2026  
**SUBJECT: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
Public Assistance Program Status Update**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide information regarding the recent announcements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which approved more than \$480 million in Public Assistance (PA) funding for disaster recovery projects across the State of Florida. This includes more than \$20.2 million in funding allocated to the City of Fort Lauderdale based upon submitted reimbursement requests.

Of this amount, \$10.9 million was approved to reimburse the City for repairs to stormwater infrastructure, including pipes and related structures damaged during the April 2023 flood event. This repair work began in January 2026 and is currently underway in several impacted neighborhoods, including Edgewood, River Oaks, Melrose Park, Riverland Village, Rock Island, Sailboat Bend, South Middle River, and Middle River Terrace.

Additional FEMA funding allocated to the City of Fort Lauderdale includes \$6.0 million for eligible reimbursements for Citywide debris removal and \$3.3 million for costs incurred to protect life and property.

### **City Eligibility for FEMA Public Assistance Funding**

The City of Fort Lauderdale experienced significant impacts from severe storms and flooding events included in the federal disaster declaration (FEMA-4709-DR) issued on April 27, 2023. This declaration makes the City eligible to receive reimbursement for qualifying emergency response and recovery costs as a local government under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program.

Under the PA program, FEMA provides funding through the State of Florida, who administers the program and works directly with local governments to identify eligible projects, document damages, and approve scopes of work. Projects must meet FEMA eligibility criteria, including being required as a direct result of the disaster, located within the designated disaster area, and the legal responsibility of the City. FEMA generally funds seventy-five percent (75%) of eligible projects with the State of Florida contributing 12.5% and the local government providing the remaining 12.5% of project costs.

The estimated costs associated with the April 2023 Flood, including amounts awarded in the recent FEMA announcements and anticipated reimbursements, were previously shared with the Mayor and City Commission as part of the Consolidated Budget Amendments presented on July 5, 2023, in City Commission Agenda Memorandum #23-0341, and on February 6, 2024, in City Commission Agenda Memorandum #24-0035.

**Importance to the City of Fort Lauderdale**

This funding is critical to the City in supporting costs incurred as part of the recovery from the April 2023 storm and flooding event. Continued coordination among the City, the State of Florida, and FEMA will be essential to ensure completion of all remaining project reviews and to maximize funding obligations through the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to the safety, resilience, and long-term well-being of the Fort Lauderdale community.

For additional information, please contact Laura Reece, Director of Office of Management and Budget, at [LReece@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:LReece@fortlauderdale.gov) or (954) 828-5894.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney  
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