



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-159**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** May 18, 2026  
**SUBJECT: Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Update**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the City's \$88,051,000 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program as it transitions from the planning phase to active implementation. This update outlines the strategic rollout of housing programs and infrastructure initiatives as well as highlights upcoming community engagement and mobile outreach events designed to bridge the gap between federal resources and the most impacted residents.

### **Background**

The Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025 (Public Law 118-158) was approved on December 21, 2024, to provide relief to those recovering from natural 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 following the April 2023 flood event. Subsequently, on April 18, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) executed an agreement making \$4,400,000 available to support the City's administrative and planning activities.

### **Program Administration and Phases**

On July 4, 2025, the City entered into a service agreement with IEM International, Inc. (IEM) to assist with CDBG-DR program implementation in compliance with federal requirements. The project is divided into the following five (5) phases:

- **Phase 1: Program Setup & Certification (Complete)** – Development of a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) approved by the City Commission on October 7, 2025, coordination with the Finance Department for HUD financial certifications, and the establishment of secure record-keeping databases.
- **Phase 2: Action Plan Development (Complete)** – Creation of a needs assessment survey, hosting public meetings/hearings to facilitate citizen participation, and submitting the formal Action Plan to HUD.

- **Phase 3: Implementation Planning (In Progress)** – Development of specific policies and procedures for all approved programs, finalized in coordination with the City’s Risk Management Division and the Office of the City Attorney.
- **Phase 4: Project Management & Execution (In Progress)** – Launching programs and managing projects to ensure seventy percent (70%) of funds benefit low-to-moderate-income households. This includes ongoing monthly funding reconciliations and project updates.
- **Phase 5: Closeout & Audit (Future Phase)** – Final reconciliation, independent audits, and formal grant closeout with HUD. This phase will begin once all the CDBG-DR funds have been expended.

**Current Status and Funding Allocation**

The City Commission adopted the CDBG-DR Action Plan and the amended CPP on October 7, 2025. These documents were approved by HUD on November 26, 2025. The approved funding allocations are outlined in Table I.

**Table I: CDBG-DR Disaster Allocation**

Action Plan Activity	Budget/Allocation
Administration	\$4,402,550
Planning	\$2,000,000
Housing	\$40,440,000
Infrastructure	\$19,000,000
Economic Revitalization	\$4,500,000
Public Services	\$4,500,000
Mitigation	\$13,208,450
<b>CDBG-DR Grant Total</b>	<b>\$88,051,000</b>

**Upcoming Community Engagement**

The City and IEM are currently executing Phases 3 and 4 concurrently, with a focus on policy development and community education. To ensure transparency, the following public meetings and mobile outreach events have been scheduled. Additional meetings are being planned to provide access to each City Commission district. **The May 20, 2026, 1:30 PM session will be recorded and accessible via the City’s YouTube channel.**

**Table II: Schedule of Public Meetings and Community Engagement Events**

Event	Date	Time	Location
Community Education Session	May 20, 2026	1:30 PM	101 NE 3rd Ave, 11th Floor
Community Education Session	May 20, 2026	6:00 PM	Mills Pond Park

Event	Date	Time	Location
Housing Application Launch	May 27, 2026	9:00 AM	Online
Mobile Outreach* (Application Support)	May 30, 2026	10:30 AM	African American Research Library
Mobile Outreach* (Application Support)	June 9, 2026	10:30 AM	African American Research Library

\*Mobile Outreach will provide individual assistance to neighbors without internet access and those who need help navigating the online platform.

These events will be promoted by Strategic Communications and published on the City's dedicated webpage [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery- CDBG-DR, City of Fort Lauderdale CDBG-DR](#). In addition to the scheduled public meetings, multiple civic associations have requested that City staff attend a meeting of their association to share program information and to provide application support. Staff will accommodate these requests as they are made.

### **Outreach Goals**

The scheduled outreach engagement activities are designed to ensure both staff and residents are fully prepared for the program launch with a focus on programs that provide direct individual assistance. Specifically, direct individual assistance programs include those that support homeowner rehabilitation, reconstruction, elevation of homes, and reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of the April 2023 flood event. Individual assistance eligibility will be determined based on several factors including household income, the costs required for repair or reconstruction, the avoidance of duplication of benefits received through homeowners' insurance or other state and federal assistance programs, and the homeowner's ability to provide documentation related to homeownership and their residence at the time of the flood.

Internal training will equip the Customer Support Center to accurately address resident inquiries, while community education sessions will provide the public with program-specific guidance and application protocols. Furthermore, mobile outreach events will offer essential in-person support to assist residents who may be unable to use the online application portal or prefer hands-on guidance.

Should you have any follow-up questions, please contact Rachel Williams at 954-828-5391, or via email at [Radwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:Radwilliams@fortlauderdale.gov).

- c: Shari L. McCartney, City Attorney
- David R. Soloman, City Clerk
- Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
- City Manager's Office
- Department Directors