Agenda

Spotlight on Best Practices, Ebony Tanner

Announcements

What In the heck is going on with HUD Funding?, Martha Are – Homeless Services Network

ESG – RUSH Programs (Orange County), Anna Scott – Orange County

CDBG-Disaster Recovery (Orange County), Victoria Colon – Orange County

Updates on the VI-SPDAT Revision Process, Jackie Ebert– Homeless Services Network

CoC FL – 507 Eva Analysis, Agustin "Tino" Paz – Homeless Services Network

Spotlight on Best Practices, Ebony Tanner

Announcements

HOMELESSNESS in the NEWS:
February 2025

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW…

Point-in-Time Count update

- **Conducted Jan. 28-30**

- **392 staff, volunteers signed up to help** (including Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Congressman Maxwell Frost)

- **1,891 "households" surveyed**

- **Difficulty finding camps**

- **Reluctance to be interviewed**

- **What happens now?**

Penalty phase of Florida's new anti-camping law takes effect

▶ Florida's ban on public camping/sleeping (HB1365) went into effect last Oct. 1, but it set Jan. 1 as the date when Floridians can sue local governments for "allowing" camping/sleeping on public property. Cities and counties have five days of a received complaint to correct the problem.

▶ All local counties have now enacted bans on public camping and sleeping to mirror the state law.

▶ To date, only Orlando Police have reported arrests under the new law – 25 of them to date. But outreach staff and other partners report that arrests have increased for other violations, including the state's new anti-squatting law, open containers, trespassing, etc.

SODO low-barrier/open-access shelter plan hits resistance

▶The city of Orlando is exploring turning a former Orange County work release center on Kaley into an open-access shelter where unhoused people can get off the streets without typical restrictions.

▶City is assessing the cost to renovate the facility, which could accommodate up to 300 beds.

▶Neighbors have protested with a well-organized letter-writing campaign, professional-looking website and packing public meetings. Often their arguments have factual errors.

▶Please help counter the objections by voicing support to the Orlando City Council (https://www.orlando.gov/Our-Government/Mayor-City-Council), and particularly Councilmember Patty Sheehan (patty.sheehan@orlando.gov).

Orlando looks to potential mobile solution for unsheltered homelessness

▶ Orlando is considering buying two former Greyhound buses, outfitted with bunkbeds, to house up to 20 people each. The buses cost $175,000 each, with operations expected to cost about $1 million annually.

▶ The buses would park at the Christian Service Center. Case managers would select and vet 40 people a night to use the bunks as they await more permanent housing.

▶ The proposal goes before the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board on Wednesday and the Orlando City Council on March 24. If the plan is approved, the buses could be ready for guests this summer.

Florida Legislature convenes March 4

- Governor has proposed full use of the **Sadowski Fund** for affordable housing

- **Senate Bill 184** – Current version would require all local governments to allow accessory dwelling units (ADU) in all single-family districts (does NOT apply in master-planned communities)

- **House Bill 685** – Conversion of Hotels into Residential Housing: Creates hotel-to-home Tax Credit Program and authorizes the Florida Housing Finance Corp.

- **House Bill 701** – Proposes removing the 20% cap on manufactured housing assistance

- **Senate Bill 584** – Young Adult Housing Support: Requires each Florida College System institution and state university to develop plans to prioritize former foster youth or students experiencing homelessness for housing and work-study opportunities and require the state Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of the barriers to housing faced by young adults who are homeless or were formerly in foster care.

ESG – RUSH Programs (Orange County)

Anna Scott

Emergency Solutions Grant

Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH)

Orange County Funds

- In January 2025, Orange County Government received a special allocation of **$512,694** in Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing **(RUSH)** funds from HUD.

- The funds will be used to address the needs of residents who were homeless, or at risk of homelessness, in areas affected by major disasters Hurricane Helene (DR-4828-FL) and Hurricane Milton (DR-4834-FL).

What is ESG-RUSH?

Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing **(RUSH)** grants, awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grant **(ESG)** program, are made to assist individuals and families experiencing **homelessness,** or **at risk of homelessness,** who have been residing in a "declared disaster area" and have needs that are not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief programs.

ESG-RUSH Eligible Activities

- Emergency Shelter (congregate and non-congregate)

- Rapid Re-housing (RRH)

- Homelessness Prevention

- Street outreach services

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

ESG-RUSH Client Eligibility

The funds can be spent to aid individuals and households who meet the following criteria:

- Are homeless or at risk of homelessness; **and**

- Have been residing in an area affected by a major declared disaster; **and**

- Have needs that will not be served or fully met by the Transitional Sheltering Assistance **(TSA)** program and other existing federal disaster relief programs *(including both federal and non-federal cost share).*

** Special Note **

Individuals/households are not required to re-qualify themselves as homeless or at risk of homelessness if they were already determined to meet the definition of homelessness or at risk of homelessness and were receiving ESG assistance when the disaster occurred.

Special RUSH Criteria

ESG-RUSH activities must be tied to **Hurricane Helene** and/or **Hurricane Milton**

No **MATCH** requirements

Must avoid duplication of benefits

Orange County Proposed ESG-RUSH Activities

1) **Rapid Re-housing**
Housing location/relocation and stabilization services, financial assistance for move-in costs, etc.

2) **Homelessness Prevention**
Financial assistance and supportive services related to housing stability, to include case management and wraparound services that assist individuals and families at risk of homelessness.

3) **Street Outreach**
Services to include connecting homeless individuals and families to emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and urgent, non-facility-based care.

4) **HMIS**
ESG recipients' and subrecipients' participation in the HMIS collection and analyses of data on individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Orange County Proposed ESG-RUSH Budget

ESG-RUSH eligible activities (subrecipients to be selected through a competitive Request for Applications process), to include: • **Rapid Re-housing** • **Homelessness Prevention** • **Street Outreach** • **HMIS**	$474,242	92.5%
Administration	$38,452	7.5%
TOTAL	**$512,694**	**100%**

Request for Applications (RFA) Information

- Applications will be accepted beginning **Monday, March 3, 2025** (agencies will be notified via email on 2/28/2025).

- Projects/activities will be selected through a competitive process (RFA).

- Must be a qualified non-profit organization who currently have the capacity to begin program implementation within 30 days of the agreement execution date (~ June 2025).

- <u>Focus on expansion of current programs to serve eligible individuals/families</u>.

- Additional information will be provided during the mandatory Pre-Award TA.

- RFA to close on **Friday, March 28, 2025**.

Mandatory Pre-Award Technical Assistance Workshop Information (via WebEx)

Date: March 6, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM

To RSVP, please email Anna Scott – **annie.scott@ocfl.net**

Contact Us

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Any Questions

New CDBG-DR Allocation for Hurricane Milton

- In January 2025, HUD announced $12 billion allocation to states and local governments for major disasters that took place in 2023 or 2024.

- Orange County was allocated **$33,357,000** for unmet and mitigation needs related to Hurricane Milton, to include:
  - $29,006,000 for unmet needs
  - $4,351,000 for mitigation needs

- The County must develop a new Action Plan and a proposed program budget based on the data analysis and community input.

Tropical-Storm-Force Wind Speed Probabilities
For the 120 hours (5.00 days) from 1 AM CDT TUE OCT 08 to 1 AM CDT SUN OCT 13

Probability of tropical-storm-force winds (1-minute average >= 39 mph) from all tropical cyclone
O indicates Hurricane Milton center location at 1 AM CDT TUE OCT 08, 2024 (Forecast/Advisory #13)

How can the funds be used?

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds can be used for activities such as:

    - Housing
    - Infrastructure and capital projects
    - Economic revitalization and Section 3 requirements on economic opportunities
    - Public services

- The entire Orange County (to include municipalities) is considered an impacted area where CDBG-DR funds can be used, as long as proposed projects/activities meet the eligibility requirements of the program.

CDBG-DR Basic Program Requirements

- While CDBG-DR funding is flexible, each funded activity must:
    1. address a direct or indirect impact from the disaster in a most impacted and distressed area;
    2. be a CDBG-eligible activity (primarily serve low-moderate-income persons or geographies);
    3. meet a national objective of the CDBG program (benefit low-to moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention/elimination of slums and blight, or meet an urgent need).

- Additionally, all CDBG-DR activities (unless funded with the mitigation set-aside) must be tied to the disaster covered by the allocation (Hurricane Milton).

Unmet Needs and Mitigation Needs Assessment

- To obtain the funds, Orange County is required to conduct an unmet and mitigation needs assessment, which includes data analysis and community engagement.

- As part of the needs assessment, we are soliciting input from:

  - County residents;

  - advocacy groups and community partners;

  - providers of homeless services;

  - public housing authorities; and

  - local municipalities.

Unmet Needs and Mitigation Needs Assessment

- The County will be reaching out to services providers to solicit input (via email, focus group, etc.)
- Some of the questions we will be asking:

  1. Are there any gaps you have identified in services that may not have been addressed through existing recovery programs?
  2. Are you experiencing a higher number of individuals in need of shelters during disasters?
  3. Do you have a need to expand services to account for increasing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness?

- Please let us know if you would like to be contacted to provide additional information.

Contact Information

CDBG-DR Website:
www.ocfl.net/CDBG-DR

CDBG-DR Program Email:
Disaster.Recovery@ocfl.net

Project Contact:
Victoria Colon, Program Manager
Email: Victoria.Colon@ocfl.net

Updates on the VI-SPDAT Revision Process

Jackie Ebert

UPDATES ON THE VI-SPDAT REVISION PROCESS

WHAT IS THE VI-SPDAT?

- Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

- Created in 2013 to support communities in engaging people experiencing homelessness, identifying what the next steps might be for each household based on their unique situation, and to assist with identifying the 'most vulnerable' to be served first

- Meant to help determine if an individual has a high, moderate, or low acuity

- Self-reported survey

- Different versions
  - Individuals
  - Families
  - Youth

HOW DO WE (COC-507) USE THE VI-SPDAT?

- To prioritize participants for all supportive housing services (with length of time homeless)

- To assist w/ supportive housing eligibility determination (must meet threshold scores for each program)

OUR COMMUNITY'S APPROACH TO FINDING A NEW TOOL

UNDERSTAND

EXPLORE

TEST

STEP 1: SEEK TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT TOOL AND OUR COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES

- Spring 2023 announced community-led initiative to assess use of VI-SPDAT

- Established committee of CoC staff, providers, and Lived Expertise

- July 2023 started bi-weekly committee meetings
  - Completed thorough review of all currently used tools (VI-SPDAT, TAY-SPDAT, and Family SPDAT)
  - Discussed and determined community priorities in prioritization

- September 2024 contracted with Dr. Andrew Sullivan and UCF team to lead efforts and evaluate new proposed tools
  - October 2024 UCF hosted community meeting on Homeless Service Prioritization

STEP 2:
EXPLORE

An examination of what other communities were using. An exploration of what we liked, and what we didn't.

STEP 3: TEST

- Currently testing 3 tools:
  - Refined version of VI-SPDAT
  - Community Housing Assessment & Referral Tool ("CHART") (known widely as the Place Value tool)
 - Maricopa Assessment Prioritization (MAP Tool)

NEXT STEPS

1. Complete collecting results utilizing test tools;

2. Analyze results from 3 tools and review with bi-weekly VI-SPDAT committee;

3. Bi-weekly VI-SPDAT committee will make decision on what tool we should move forward with (goal to have a decision by end of April)

4. Present new tool to Technical Expertise Committee and Lived Expertise Council

5. Present proposed tool to CFCH Managing Board for approval

6. Develop implementation plan

Spotlight on Best Practices
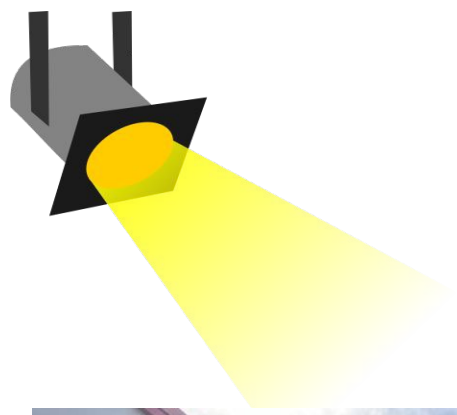
Proudly presented to

Crisis Outreach Team

Exemplary Service in the Practice of

Person-Centered Care

COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Kerry Jobson, Anushka Banarjee, Mya Yager, Rachel Jones
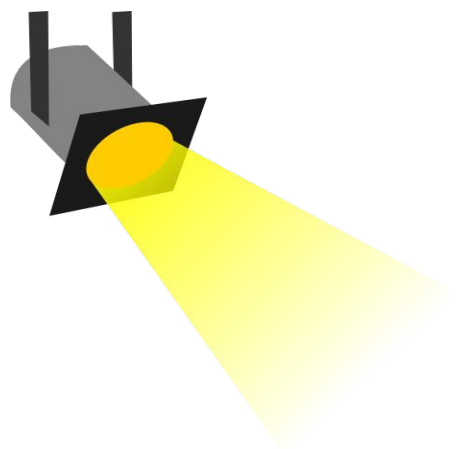
Spotlight on Best Practices

Proudly presented to

Community Outreach for Families Team

Exemplary Service in the Practice of

Person-Centered Care

Angie Black, Andrea Alexander, Belinda Davila, Darreus Francis

Announcements!