NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PINELLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) FUNDING FOR HURRICANES IDALIA, HELENE, AND MILTON

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) directly awarded Pinellas County \$813,783,000 in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to support long-term recovery efforts following Hurricanes Idalia, Helene, and Milton. CDBG-DR funding supports disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas, according to HUD. These funds are designated to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income households and communities.

To access these funds, Pinellas County must develop an Action Plan for HUD review and approval. The Action Plan is the County's blueprint for identifying and funding CDBG-DR recovery and mitigation programs based on existing unmet disaster recovery and mitigation needs. The County cannot execute its grant agreement with HUD and begin to expend CDBG-DR funds without a HUD-approved Action Plan.

As required by Federal Register Notice Vol. 90, No. 5, published Wednesday, January 8, 2025, Pinellas County will host public meetings to discuss the proposed Action Plan for CDBG-DR funds.

A public hearing on the CDBG-DR funding will be held on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:30 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be accommodated by the completion of the rest of the Board agenda, in the Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida 33756. Members of the public wishing to address the body are encouraged to attend in person but may also attend virtually utilizing Communications Media Technology (CMT) on the Zoom platform or provide comments in advance.

The County makes its best efforts to ensure that public hearings will be streamed live at https://youtube.com/pcctv1 and https://pinellas.gov/pinellas-county-connection-television-pcc-tv, and broadcast on the Pinellas County cable public access channels:

Spectrum Channel 637

Frontier Channel 44

WOW! Channel 18

To address the County Commission in person, members of the public are encouraged to preregister at https://comment.pinellas.gov. Preregistration is encouraged but not required if individuals plan to attend the meeting at the Palm Room in person. Those who have not preregistered may register in person when they arrive.

Members of the public wishing to address the body virtually via Zoom or by phone are required to preregister by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting by visiting https://comment.pinellas.gov. The registration form requires full name, address and telephone number if joining by phone, along with the topic or agenda item to be addressed. Members of the public who cannot access the registration form via the internet may call (727) 464-3000 to request assistance preregistering. Only members of the public who have preregistered by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting will be recognized and unmuted to offer comments. If a member of the public does not log in with the same Zoom name or phone number provided in the registration form, they may not be recognized to speak. In person appearances for comment, or advance comments as noted below, are preferred. The County will use its best efforts to facilitate virtual comment, but citizens using technology to comment virtually are cautioned that this mechanism is being offered by the County as a courtesy and the County does not guarantee the proper functioning of technology involved.

Members of the public wishing to provide comments in advance may call the Agenda Comment Line at (727) 464-4400 or complete the online comment form https://www.mypinellasclerk.gov/Home/Finance#127688-bcc-meetings. Comments on any agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting.

Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may provide public input on any agenda item through use of the State of Florida's relay service at 7-1-1 or for more information see https://www.ftri.org/relay/faqs.

All comments on any agenda item received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting will be included as part of the official record for this meeting and will be available to be considered by the County Commission prior to any action taken.

The agenda for this meeting and information about participation options can be found at https://pinellas.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

Interested parties may appear at the hearing or use one of the other methods above to be heard regarding the CDBG-DR funding:

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED USE OF CDBG-DR FUNDS WITHIN THE COUNTY AND TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM INTERESTED PARTIES. THE COUNTY PLANS TO DISCUSS (1) THE AMOUNT OF CDBG-DR FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY, (2) ELIGIBLE USES OF CDBG-DR FUNDS, AND (3) OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS.

The Action Plan draft may be viewed online at <u>recover.pinellas.gov</u> Attendees and interested parties are encouraged to offer comments and/or submit written comments to the county via email to <u>cdplanning@pinellas.gov</u> or mailed to the Pinellas County Community Development Division, 310 Court Street, Clearwater, FL 33756.

Persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO NEED REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING ARE ASKED TO CONTACT PINELLAS COUNTY'S OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY E-MAILING SUCH REQUESTS TO accommodations@pinellas.gov AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEED FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION. YOU MAY ALSO CALL (727) 464-4882 (VOICE) OR (727) 464-4062 (TDD). MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADA, AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION, MAY BE FOUND AT https://pinellas.gov/americans-with-disabilities-act-public-accommodations/.

KEN BURKE, CLERK TO
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
By: Derelynn Revie, Deputy Clerk