

**Overview:** Pinellas County and HORNE have exceeded requirements by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to seek out broad public input on plans for the countywide Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery fund. Following three in-person public meetings, direct engagement with municipalities, business and community partners, and strong response to a resident survey, Pinellas will host two virtual meetings in May to gain public feedback on the Draft Action Plan.

## **Public Engagement Highlights**

- **3,224 residents surveyed** to validate data in unmet needs assessment, including 8 in Spanish and 25 paper surveys completed during recent public meetings.
- **44 businesses offered feedback on unmet needs,** which included lack of financial resources, recovery costs, declining customer demand, lost revenue and permitting delays.
- **24 municipalities offered feedback** through surveys and meetings to identity biggest challenges for residents, businesses, city operations and infrastructure.
- **190+ residents attended three in-person meetings** to learn more about the CDBG-DR planning process and provide public comment in Lealman, Dunedin and Palm Harbor.
- 75 comment cards or online forms collected during in-person meetings.
- **13 media interviews** and public meeting coverage by all major regional TV and print outlets, resulting in numerous positive stories about the grant and public input process.
- **3,000 flyers distributed** in English and Spanish at libraries, community centers and with direct home delivery to seniors through Meals on Wheels.
- **500+ flyers** in English and Spanish distributed through **Code Enforcement contractors** working with substantially damaged homeowners and at the County Permit Hub.
- **14,000 website page views** since the launch of recover.pinellas.gov.
- **500+ municipal and community partners** received email blasts and/or attended webinars on the CDBG-DR public input process.
- 300+ people signed up for email updates through the website.
- **2,000+ subscribers** for text updates on recovery programs.

## **Next Steps**

- **Draft Action Plan public comment period** open from through May 23. Website includes slide deck, video presentation and full Action Plan with online comment form.
- Draft Action Plan Virtual Meetings:
  - Tuesday, May 13
    11 a.m. 12 p.m., Register for this Zoom meeting
  - Thursday, May 15
    6 p.m. 7 p.m., Register for this Zoom meeting