



Appendix C - Public Comments

Public Comments Draft Action Plan

Hillsborough County public comment period on the draft action plan for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) took place from June 4, 2025 and closed on July 7, 2025. A total of 256 comments were received during this time.

Comments could be submitted using the following formats:

- Using an online form at the webpage, <https://hcflgov-stage.netlify.app/residents/stay-safe/storm-recovery-resources/disaster-recovery-grant>
- Emailing HillsboroughCDBG-DR@HCFL.GOV
- Attending the public hearing and providing comments either in writing or orally
- Mailing a letter to: Office of Community Impact, CDBG-DR Program 23rd Floor, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602

The table below provides a summary of the comments received and the County's response:



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Flooding & Drainage Infrastructure	174	Community members overwhelmingly cited inadequate and outdated drainage systems as a primary cause of repeated flooding in residential neighborhoods. During public comments, residents described how even moderate rainfall events often result in standing water, property damage, and hazardous conditions due to the failure of local drainage systems to effectively manage stormwater. Concerns included clogged ditches, broken or undersized culverts, neglected canals, and stormwater runoff from overdevelopment. Many comments called for comprehensive infrastructure upgrades, routine maintenance, and improved coordination among agencies to address flood-prone areas before future storms. Many residents noted that increased impervious surface coverage from new construction such as parking lots, roads, and housing developments has significantly worsened flooding in older neighborhoods that were not originally designed to accommodate such levels of runoff. Residents stressed that without substantial and proactive investment in stormwater infrastructure, these issues will continue to threaten homes, displace families, and strain local emergency resources.	The widespread flooding from recent storms underscores the urgent need for a coordinated, well-funded, and forward-looking recovery strategy. Table 40 (page 75) outlines proposed activities and funding distribution to address unmet needs. Additional details on drainage and infrastructure improvements can be found under mitigation measures (page 87), which may include resilient materials, flood-resistant designs, and other risk-reduction features tailored to each project.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Affordable Housing & Housing Rehab	82	Significant emphasis was placed on prioritizing the allocation of funds toward affordable housing initiatives that integrate renewable energy, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable development principles. Comments highlighted an urgent need for both repairs to existing homes damaged by storms and new affordable housing. Speakers advocated for roof and electrical repairs, disaster-resilient building materials, and protections against displacement, especially for seniors, veterans, and low-income households. Community members and advocates emphasized that many households—particularly those occupied by seniors, veterans, and low-income families—remain in unsafe or uninhabitable conditions due to deteriorating roofs, outdated or hazardous electrical systems, and general disrepair.	Hillsborough County’s Housing program (Section 6.4, page 58) is intended to repair, rehabilitate and replace single-family and multifamily homes that meet specific eligibility criteria, including income limits, storm-related damage, primary residence status, and other requirements. Each housing program is described in detail, with overarching components that apply to all programs. These will be outlined in the final operating policies and procedures that guide daily operations. Program activities are summarized in Table 31: Housing Activities Allocation Chart on page 59.
Community Engagement & Equity	63	Participants expressed frustration over a lack of community involvement in recovery planning and urged more inclusive, transparent engagement strategies. Several emphasized the importance of prioritizing underserved neighborhoods, BIPOC communities, and those historically left out of government decision-making processes. Comments called for equity in funding, program access, and representation. Equity emerged as a central theme across public input, with participants calling for fair and targeted distribution of recovery funds, improved access to programs and services, and diverse representation in decision-making bodies. There was a clear demand that recovery efforts not only address immediate needs but also work to correct systemic disparities that have contributed to unequal vulnerability and access over time.	To support a full recovery, Hillsborough County is taking a comprehensive approach that focuses on ensuring citizen participation in the development of Hillsborough County’s Action Plan which includes housing, mitigation, and long-term resilience in the most affected areas. This effort includes community, citizen and stakeholder engagement, interagency coordination, and strategic investments to build a stronger, more disaster-ready county (page 90). Individual programs will outline how mitigation and resilience efforts will be prioritized, define program eligibility, identify eligible partners to assist the County, and detail the statutory and regulatory criteria for each program’s activities. Throughout this process Hillsborough County will encourage citizen participation through its citizen participation plan (page 115).



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Energy Efficiency & Climate Resilience	43	Many commenters expressed strong support for the integration of solar energy, battery storage systems, and sustainable building materials in both residential housing and community infrastructure. The installation of solar panels on homes, community centers, and other critical facilities was highlighted as a key strategy for enhancing energy resilience, particularly in the face of power outages caused by hurricanes and other extreme weather events. Solar panels for homes and community centers were emphasized as essential for grid resilience, lower utility costs, and reduced dependence on fossil fuels, particularly during outages caused by hurricanes.	Resiliently Designed Environments (Mitigation Needs Assessment, page 49) promotes countywide consistency in adopting higher design standards, assessing higher-risk hazard thresholds, and educating residents and businesses on the impacts of climate variability. Hillsborough County's housing activities as outlined in the plan anticipate compliance with HUD's green building checklist for new construction. (page 61).
Emergency Response & Immediate Needs	55	Speakers shared frustrations with delayed or absent disaster response and unmet basic needs following recent storms highlighting widespread unmet needs across impacted communities. Requests included generators, temporary housing support, faster response times, and more clarity on FEMA eligibility. A recurring theme was the need for clearer communication around eligibility for federal assistance, particularly FEMA programs. Residents reported confusion about the application process, documentation requirements, and the status of their claims, which often delayed or entirely blocked access to critical resources. There were widespread calls for the County and its partners to offer more accessible guidance and direct assistance in navigating recovery programs. Several comments emphasized support for those without insurance or denied claims, especially seniors and medically vulnerable residents.	Hillsborough County acknowledges concerns regarding emergency response, recovery delays, and challenges navigating FEMA and other assistance programs. The County is committed to working with federal and state partners to improve communication and outreach around disaster recovery resources, including eligibility requirements and application processes. The Action Plan prioritizes investments in public services and planning activities that support long-term recovery and resilience (see Section 6.7, page 85, and Table 47, page 86). These investments may help address some of the barriers residents have faced by enhancing local capacity to deliver recovery information, coordinate available resources, and strengthen preparedness efforts for future events.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Government Accountability & Transparency	59	A significant number of commenters questioned how CDBG-DR funds are being allocated and monitored. Concerns included lack of clarity around spending, perceived favoritism toward developers, limited access to detailed plans, and skepticism about consultant fees. Residents urged the County to publish progress reports, commit to transparency, and ensure funds directly benefit the public. Overall, the community emphasized the necessity of ensuring that CDBG-DR funds are managed responsibly and equitably, with a clear commitment that these resources directly support disaster recovery efforts and tangible improvements for residents, particularly those most impacted by recent crises.	Hillsborough County established the County Audit Office to ensure accountability in the use of public funds by investigating fraud, waste, and abuse of County resources. Citizens and employees can report suspected misuse anonymously through the County Audit Division's Fraud Hotline at (813) 635-8316. The Section 9.2 Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement (Page 90) plan was developed with stakeholder input, public comment, and open communication. Transparency will continue through the expanded CDBG-DR program website and dashboard, including applicant tracking and updates. Citizen engagement will be maintained via email, media, social media, public announcements, and collaboration with community organizations. To promote transparency, the County will record all complaints, responses, and resolutions. It may also conduct regular evaluations of the complaint process to ensure it meets community needs and complies with HUD's Citizen Participation Requirements.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Disaster Preparedness & Resilience Hubs	36	Residents emphasized the critical importance of proactive, community-level investments in disaster preparedness to build resilience ahead of future storms and emergencies. Rather than relying solely on reactive responses, speakers advocated for strategic planning and infrastructure improvements that would enable neighborhoods particularly the most vulnerable to better withstand and recover from disasters. A range of suggestions were offered to strengthen local preparedness efforts. These included the establishment of both mobile and permanent resilience hubs that could serve as central points for coordination, communication, shelter, and resource distribution during and after emergencies. Participants also recommended the pre-positioning of essential equipment and supplies such as generators, in high-risk areas to ensure timely access when disasters strike. A strong emphasis was placed on integrating renewable energy solutions into emergency infrastructure. Speakers proposed the installation of backup systems to maintain critical services during power outages. These systems were viewed as essential for enhancing the self-sufficiency and reliability of disaster response operations. Senior communities, as well as neighborhoods with elevated storm vulnerability due to geography, housing conditions, or socioeconomic factors, were repeatedly identified as priorities for targeted support. Residents urged that these areas receive tailored preparedness resources and services both before and after disasters recognizing that limited mobility, health concerns, and income constraints can significantly impact residents' ability to respond and recover without assistance. Overall, the public called for a shift toward long-term resilience planning, with equity, accessibility, and sustainability at the core of all preparedness initiatives.	Severe flooding from recent storms highlights the need for a coordinated, well-funded recovery plan focused on long-term resilience. Key priorities include building stronger housing, upgrading drainage and flood-resistant infrastructure, and enhancing disaster preparedness. The Hillsborough County LMS aims to maintain an ongoing process that assesses risks, develops mitigation strategies, and promotes community-wide readiness. Mitigation Needs Assessment (Page 49) The Public Services Program aims to strengthen community resilience and economic stability by offering new or expanded public services that support housing permanency and improve disaster preparedness and recovery. Table 47- Public Services (Page 86) The County is dedicated to a comprehensive recovery strategy that integrates housing, mitigation, and long-term resilience in heavily impacted areas. This approach emphasizes community engagement, agency coordination, and targeted investments to strengthen future disaster preparedness.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Infrastructure Repairs & Public Safety	37	Comments called attention to deteriorating infrastructure such as sidewalks, roadways, power systems, and unsafe vegetation. Specific concerns included broken sidewalks, overgrown trees blocking signage, failing electrical grids in mobile home communities, and delayed repair timelines. Residents requested more timely and visible County maintenance efforts. Many also voiced frustration with delays in repair and maintenance timelines, emphasizing that prolonged inaction exacerbates risks to public safety and quality of life. In response, community members called for more proactive, timely, and visible maintenance efforts by the County to address these issues promptly and prevent further deterioration	Hillsborough County’s Action Plan provides for the both investment in critical infrastructure and public services. Infrastructure and mitigation investments described in the Action Plan (Section 6.5, page 74) will be used to assess opportunities for improving critical infrastructure, including stormwater capacity and reducing flood risks. Public service activities are vital after a hurricane, supporting communities through immediate relief and long-term recovery. Early efforts focus on emergency services—firefighters, police, and medical teams—who ensure public safety, provide care, and assist with rescues. During the recovery stage, public service activities focus on essential tasks such as infrastructure repair, and immediate housing assistance. These efforts help stabilize affected communities and lay the groundwork for long-term recovery. Section 4.2.9 Public Service (Page 48)



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Workforce Development & Economic Revitalization	25	Speakers strongly advocated for the strategic use of disaster recovery funds to generate good-paying, sustainable local employment opportunities, emphasizing the importance of workforce development as a critical component of community resilience. Many urged the prioritization of union apprenticeships and comprehensive training programs designed to equip residents with marketable skills in construction and related trades. These programs were seen not only to facilitate immediate rebuilding efforts but also as pathways to long-term career advancement and economic stability for workers. A key recommendation involved prioritizing employment opportunities for Tampa-area residents, particularly those from historically marginalized communities, including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) contractors and workers. Participants highlighted that disaster recovery efforts present a unique opportunity to address systemic employment disparities by actively supporting minority-owned businesses and ensuring equitable access to contracting and labor positions. Speakers also emphasized the importance of linking recovery initiatives with emerging sectors such as green construction and renewable energy. By incorporating specialized training in energy-efficient building practices, solar panel installation, and sustainable materials, workforce development programs could not only support immediate reconstruction needs but also position local workers at the forefront of the growing clean energy economy. This approach was viewed as a forward-looking strategy that would contribute to environmental sustainability while creating durable economic benefits. Overall, there was a clear call for recovery funding to be leveraged in ways that strengthen the local labor market, promote inclusive economic growth, and empower communities most impacted by	Workforce Development investments in Hillsborough County are strategically allocated across several targeted programs, including initiatives categorized under Public Services. A central component of these investments is the Training Program, which is specifically designed to support low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals. The program's primary goal is to enhance economic mobility by providing participants with opportunities to upskill and reskill, preparing them for meaningful employment in sectors that are both high-demand and essential to the county's long-term resilience. The Training Program places a particular emphasis on industries that are critical to disaster recovery and economic stability, such as general construction, skilled trades, logistics, and other essential sectors. By aligning training opportunities with these priority areas, the county is ensuring that its workforce is equipped to respond to future emergencies while also addressing persistent gaps in the labor market. These program details are further outlined in Table 43 – Workforce Development (Page 79). Importantly, the County also recognizes the valuable role of local non-profit organizations in advancing community-based economic development. Opportunities will be made available for these organizations to participate in the implementation of workforce and economic revitalization initiatives, particularly those that support LMI populations and promote equitable growth. Their involvement is expected to



Workforce Development & Economic Revitalization		recent disasters. Such investments were described as essential to fostering resilient neighborhoods and ensuring that the benefits of rebuilding efforts are broadly shared.	enhance program outreach, provide culturally relevant services, and ensure that investments are responsive to community-specific needs. In the Economic Revitalization category, Hillsborough County is dedicating a large portion of its investment to Business Infrastructure, signaling a strong commitment to building a resilient economic foundation. This includes site development, broadband access, and other infrastructure enhancements that foster business growth and recovery. The county's prioritization and justification for these investments are outlined in Table 41, page 78, which addresses unmet needs, and Table 42, which presents an overview of Economic Revitalization strategies (Page 78). Together, these efforts demonstrate Hillsborough County's comprehensive and inclusive approach to recovery—investing in people, strengthening systems, and empowering local organizations to play a direct role in shaping a more resilient and equitable economic future.
--	--	---	---



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Consumer Protection & Fraud Prevention	8	Speakers voiced concerns about out-of-state contractors exploiting disaster victims, especially regarding roof repairs. They urged the County to take proactive measures to protect residents from fraud and exploitation. Recommendations included the promotion of vetted, trusted local contractors and the development of a publicly accessible directory of certified service providers. Several speakers emphasized the importance of reinvesting recovery funds in the local economy by prioritizing small and minority-owned businesses with established ties to the community.	Program beneficiaries can request an informal termination hearing to challenge alleged fraud, with decisions made by a committee or hearing officer. Hillsborough County also offers support through its Consumer Protection Office, part of the Veteran's Service Department, which assists residents facing fraudulent or unfair business practices. A Consumer Protection Investigator helps those affected by contractor fraud. The office can be contacted at 3602 US-301, Tampa, FL 33619, by email at consumers@hcfl.gov , or by phone at (813) 635-8316. (Page 143). Individuals are not required to provide their name.
Grant Access & Application Process	20	Community members expressed interest in understanding how to access available grant funding, including questions about eligibility, timelines, application processes, and how to stay informed. One comment requested access to planning documents that informed the proposed budget, while another asked when they could submit their action plan.	Hillsborough County appreciates the community's interest in learning more about accessing CDBG-DR funding, including eligibility criteria, application timelines, and program processes. Program eligibility requirements and application details will be finalized in the program's policies and procedures and made available before funding opportunities open. Planning documents and program descriptions are included throughout the Action Plan (for example, Section 6.0 Allocation and Award Caps, page 57, and Table 27 on page 56). Additional information and updates will be published on the County's CDBG-DR program webpage, and announcements will be shared through email, public notices, and community partners to keep residents informed.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
FEMA & Recovery Program Gaps	18	Speakers expressed frustration with being denied assistance from FEMA or county-administered mitigation programs, despite ongoing damage to their homes following hurricanes. They questioned whether CDBG-DR funds would be more accessible and helpful than prior programs.	Hillsborough County acknowledges the challenges faced by residents who were denied assistance through FEMA or other mitigation programs, despite ongoing recovery needs. CDBG-DR funds are intended to address unmet needs after other sources of assistance have been exhausted. Program eligibility criteria will be detailed in the final policies and procedures prior to implementation, with the goal of making funding as accessible and equitable as possible for eligible applicants. Additional information on program activities and funding priorities is provided in Section 6.0 Allocation and Award Caps (page 57) and throughout the housing and infrastructure program descriptions in Sections 6.4 and 7.0. The County will continue to coordinate closely with FEMA and other partners to ensure that residents are aware of all available resources and can navigate recovery programs effectively.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Emotional Hardship & Access Barriers	19	Speakers conveyed emotional fatigue and discouragement after struggling to secure assistance to repair their home. They noted the difficulty of navigating aid systems and emphasized the human toll of prolonged disaster recovery.	Hillsborough County recognizes the emotional hardship and frustration experienced by residents navigating disaster recovery systems. The County is committed to supporting a long-term recovery process that is equitable and community centered. Public Services activities described in Section 6.7 (page 85) and summarized in Table 47 (page 86) aim to stabilize households and support community resilience, including services that can help residents access recovery resources. Additionally, Hillsborough County will continue to engage with community partners to improve outreach and coordination efforts to better assist residents throughout the recovery process.
Nonprofit Eligibility Questions	6	Multiple representatives from nonprofit organizations inquired about eligibility to apply for CDBG-DR funding. Questions included whether nonprofit developers and small community-based 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible, and whether funding will be accessible to grassroots efforts. These comments highlight a need for clearer guidance on nonprofit eligibility and application processes.	The County will encourage participation from local and regional institutions, Continuums of Care, businesses, developers, nonprofits, faith-based groups, and other community organizations in developing and implementing the Assessment of Fair Housing and the Consolidated Plan. (page 119)
Innovative Construction & Resilience Technologies	11	Speakers advocated for the use of innovative, cost-effective construction techniques to support disaster recovery and affordable housing efforts. Suggestions included 3D-printed homes, panelized modular construction, and fire-resistant building materials. These approaches were framed as practical, scalable solutions to both housing shortages and long-term resilience challenges. Commenters emphasized that Hillsborough County should explore and invest in these technologies as part of its CDBG-DR strategy.	All construction will meet local building codes and HUD green building standards. Housing program funds cannot be used for forced mortgage payoffs, compensation payments, or rebuilding homes in designated floodways. (Page 61)



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Insurance Affordability	6	Residents expressed deep concern over the growing unaffordability of homeowners' insurance following recent hurricanes. Some noted that deductibles had doubled or tripled, while others reported losing coverage entirely. These trends were described as major barriers to recovery and financial stability, particularly for fixed-income households—highlighting the need for CDBG-DR planning to account for underinsurance and insurance gaps in vulnerable communities.	Nearly 8,500 low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals affected by water damage lacked flood insurance. In response, government agencies focused on restoring essential services, while community organizations and volunteers assisted residents with insurance claims and accessing initial financial aid. (Page 48)
Regency Cove	3	Senior community of over 400 residents facing severe power outages and damage, requesting grant funding for a \$4.6 million electrical system overhaul.	The Action Plan includes investments in housing rehabilitation and critical infrastructure repairs supporting housing (Sections 6.4, Page 58 and Table 37, Page 72) to improve disaster resilience and support recovery for residents, subject to program eligibility requirements and funding priorities. Electrical system upgrades may be considered if they address unmet needs resulting from storm-related damage and support household safety and habitability standards. Additional details will be provided in program guidelines before applications open.
Twin Branches Acres	2	Residents described historic flooding from upstream runoff worsened by new development, calling for regional water management studies and drainage updates.	The Action Plan addresses stormwater and drainage system improvements through infrastructure and mitigation investments described in Section 6.5.1 (page 74) and the Mitigation Needs Assessment (Section 5.0, page 49). Regional coordination with water management partners will be essential to address upstream runoff and drainage needs, and these efforts will be evaluated as part of project prioritization during program implementation.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Progress Village	7	Residents described repeated flooding, damage to older uninsured homes, and called for immediate relief, plus investment in economic revitalization. Asked for roadway and infrastructure evaluation and improvement, potentially a complete drainage system replacement along Progress Boulevard.	The Action Plan supports both infrastructure and economic revitalization activities (Section 6.5, page 74 and Section 6.6, page 78) to help address flooding impacts, roadway conditions, and overall neighborhood resilience. Mitigation projects will prioritize areas with severe and repeated storm damage, subject to funding eligibility and prioritization criteria, with details outlined in final program policies and procedures.
Sugar Creek/ Buffalo Estates	4	The Civic Association raised concerns about stormwater management and proposed partnerships to drain excess water into the Tampa Bay Bypass Canal.	Infrastructure and mitigation investments described in the Action Plan (Section 6.5, page 74) will be used to assess opportunities for improving stormwater capacity and reducing flood risks, including partnerships with other agencies to advance larger-scale drainage projects. Program eligibility and funding guidelines will be finalized before project selection begins.
Forest Hills Neighborhood	2	Residents described aging stormwater systems, pump failures, and the need for modernized flood control infrastructure.	Infrastructure repairs and flood control upgrades are included in the Action Plan (Section 6.5, page 77) to support neighborhoods with aging systems and repetitive stormwater impacts. Funding priorities will consider community risk, infrastructure condition, and the severity of unmet needs to guide future investment decisions during implementation.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Curiosity Creek	2	Reports of blocked or poorly maintained drainage, failing pumps, and calls for investments in waterway maintenance to prevent flooding.	The Action Plan's infrastructure and mitigation activities (Section 6.5, page 76 and Section 7.0 page 88), aim to improve drainage, maintain waterway systems, and address failing pump infrastructure in impacted neighborhoods. Additional coordination with local partners will help identify projects that strengthen long-term flood resilience and support safer living environments.
Bay Crest Park	53	A number of residents from Baycrest submitted comments describing chronic and worsening flooding throughout the neighborhood. Many reported that even moderate rainfall overwhelms the current stormwater infrastructure, leading to yard and street flooding, pooling near homes, and in some cases, water intrusion into living spaces. Residents cited clogged ditches, collapsed or inadequate pipes, and the lack of a cohesive drainage system as persistent issues. Several expressed frustration over long-standing inaction by the County, noting that these problems have existed for decades without meaningful resolution. There were also reports of mold, cracked foundations, and rising insurance costs as secondary impacts of the flooding. Commenters requested a full drainage study and infrastructure redesign for the Baycrest area, not just patchwork maintenance. Many emphasized the need for regular ditch clearing, replacement of failing pipes, and improved coordination between agencies. Some requested that the County prioritize Baycrest for CDBG-DR infrastructure investments, warning that the neighborhood remains extremely vulnerable to future storms without intervention. There was also concern about being overlooked due to the community's location or demographics, with residents urging equity in disaster funding decisions.	The Action Plan outlines investments in stormwater and drainage upgrades under infrastructure and mitigation programs (Section 6.5, page 76 and Section 7.0 page 88), including potential replacement of aging systems and removal of barriers that prevent proper water flow. The Mitigation Needs Assessment (Section 5.0, page 49) further emphasizes the importance of addressing repetitive loss areas through improved capacity, resilience-focused design, and coordination with local partners. CDBG-DR infrastructure funds may support high-priority projects in flood-impacted neighborhoods like Bay Crest, subject to eligibility criteria and risk assessments. Final program guidelines will outline how areas with extensive damage, increased vulnerability, or systemic drainage issues—such as those described in Bay Crest—may be considered for drainage studies, system redesign, and capital improvements. The County remains committed to equitable funding distribution that prioritizes underserved communities and neighborhoods with long-standing infrastructure gaps.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Dana Shores	1	A commenter from Dana Shores noted that their neighborhood has experienced increased vulnerability to stormwater intrusion in recent years, particularly due to development and changing drainage patterns in nearby areas. The resident expressed concern that while Dana Shores sits adjacent to other flood-prone areas, it may be excluded from major infrastructure planning or drainage upgrades. They requested that the County include Dana Shores in any regional stormwater assessments or mitigation planning and ensure that upstream development does not worsen conditions for downstream residential neighborhoods.	The Action Plan recognizes that changing development patterns and upstream runoff can intensify flooding in adjacent neighborhoods like Dana Shores. Infrastructure and mitigation investments described in Section 6.5 Infrastructure (page 74) aim to address regional drainage issues through interagency coordination, stormwater system improvements, and nature-based resilience strategies. The County is committed to ensuring that all affected neighborhoods—including those adjacent to high-risk zones—are considered in planning and prioritization processes. As part of implementation, regional stormwater assessments and infrastructure projects will account for cumulative impacts and strive to avoid downstream harm. Final funding decisions will be guided by program eligibility, unmet needs, and vulnerability data, with the goal of supporting flood-prone communities across the county in a fair and strategic manner.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
Florida Rising	7	Residents recognize the Action Plan as an important opportunity to strengthen our county's long-term resilience. However, the current draft lacks a clear timeline and details on funding distribution, making accountability and effectiveness difficult to assess. Community feedback highlights that the plan does not address the root cause of repeated flooding and storm damage: environmental degradation from unchecked development. There is strong public support for nature-based solutions, such as: • Wetland, mangrove, and oyster bed restoration to buffer storm surge and flooding • Tree planting and tree protection policies in commercial development to reduce erosion • Conservation of low-lying, flood-prone areas to prevent further risk from new construction Residents also emphasized that recovery efforts must include deeper support for working families. Priorities include: • Permanent affordable housing solutions, not temporary fixes • Solar energy investments, including mobile hubs and permanent disaster relief centers • Energy efficiency micro-grants for residents and small businesses Community members are asking the County to revise the Action Plan to reflect these priorities—focusing on long-term environmental restoration, climate resilience, and equity for low-income households.	The Action Plan includes strategies to strengthen climate resilience and address long-standing vulnerabilities in underserved communities (Sections 5.0 page 49 and 7.0 page 88). Mitigation and resilience investments will prioritize reducing future disaster risks through improved infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and sustainable design practices. These efforts may include green infrastructure approaches, such as wetland restoration and tree canopy preservation, that align with community feedback on environmental protections. Housing programs will aim to support long-term affordability and stability for working families by addressing storm-related damage and improving housing conditions. Final program guidelines will further define eligible activities, funding allocations, and partnerships to ensure equitable recovery and resilience outcomes for disproportionately impacted communities.



Topic	# of Comments	Summary of Comments Received	County Response
GenCLEO at USF	3	Members of GenCLEO, a youth-led climate advocacy group representing students from the University of South Florida, appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public comment process for the Hillsborough County Action Plan. They recognize the importance of this plan and offer constructive feedback focused on building a cleaner, safer, and more equitable county. Key concerns include: • Lack of investment in solar microgrids: Power outages during hurricanes pose serious risks, particularly for residents who rely on medical devices at home. GenCLEO members strongly urge the County to invest in solar microgrid infrastructure as a life-saving measure and a critical component of disaster preparedness. • Insufficient focus on green infrastructure: The plan currently lacks emphasis on nature-based flood mitigation strategies such as mangrove restoration, tree canopy expansion, and overall ecosystem protection. These measures are essential to reducing the impact of storm surge and flooding, which have already caused significant damage in Hillsborough County. • Lack of detail and transparency: Students raised concerns about the absence of a clear timeline and specific allocation of funds within the current draft of the plan. They emphasized that strategic investments must be guided by measurable goals and long-term impact. GenCLEO members advocate for: • Solar energy and battery storage programs • Rooftop solar incentives • Stronger commitments to environmental restoration and climate resilience They believe these priorities are essential not only for protecting residents but for ensuring a more sustainable and equitable future for Hillsborough County.	The Action Plan outlines a commitment to community resilience and sustainability through mitigation needs assessments (Section 5.0 page 49) and resilience-focused mitigation activities (Section 7.0 Page 88). Opportunities to integrate renewable energy, such as solar energy systems and battery storage, will be evaluated during program development and implementation, subject to federal guidelines and funding eligibility. In addition, nature-based flood mitigation and ecosystem restoration may be explored in coordination with partners to support long-term risk reduction. The County will continue to engage with community stakeholders, including youth-led and environmental organizations, to strengthen planning efforts and identify measurable goals that advance equitable, climate-resilient recovery strategies for all residents.