

Copy of letter to HUD from former Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Dane Eagle;  
contents confirmed by HUD

December 13, 2022

Ms. Marcia L. Fudge  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

Despite our continuing and collaborative efforts to maximize every dollar and redirect existing funds toward the Hurricane Irma Housing Repair and Replacement Program – which has seen great demand from homeowners whose living arrangements continue to be upended by the impacts of the Hurricane Ian disaster – we have determined the revised amount allocated to Florida by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is currently insufficient to address the full need.

With HUD's support, DEO has realigned several of the Hurricane Irma program activities in recent years to serve as many prospective applicants as possible in the HRRP, and we have also worked with local communities to recoup underutilized funds in other programs. While we have completed 2,777 home projects and have more than another 1,100 homes in pre-construction or construction phases, as you know, ongoing pricing challenges continue to exacerbate the gap between available and necessary funding, including general construction cost increases, inflation, supply chain impacts, and damage from subsequent storms.

As a result, for eligible Irma-impacted Florida homeowners awaiting home repairs and replacements, needs exist for an estimated 541 additional homes that we will be unable to meet. Our agencies share a common goal and mission to ensure that all vulnerable Floridians impacted by natural disasters receive the support they need to get back on their feet and return to safe and sanitary homes.

To that end, I am requesting your help to address the urgent unmet funding needs in the Hurricane Irma program, so that we may assist those eligible applicants that we are currently not positioned to serve. Thank you in advance for considering this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Dane Eagle  
Secretary

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity