

# Memorandum



**Date:** December 06, 2005

**To:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Report on Emergency Income Assistance Program

Agenda Item No. 12(B)3

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This report was presented and discussed at the meeting of the Internal Management and Fiscal Responsibility (IMFR) Committee during the meeting that was held on Thursday, November 10, 2005. The IMFR Committee accepted the report but did not forward the report for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners by way of a resolution.

On November 3, 2005, the Board of County Commissioners passed resolution R-1284-05 (copy attached), instructing the County Manager to develop an Emergency Income Assistance Program to provide emergency income assistance for qualified Miami-Dade County residents that suffered income losses from the impact of Hurricane Wilma using \$1.3 million allocated from the Contingency Reserve. Using eligibility criteria employed in comparable public assistance programs currently operated by a series of agencies including United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); the State of Florida Department of Children and Families; and the Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services, a Miami-Dade County emergency income assistance program is being proposed for the Board's consideration. The Emergency Income Assistance Program Comparative Analysis (Attachment I) delineates the parameters of the proposed Miami-Dade County Hurricane Wilma Emergency Wage/Earned Income Replacement Program and provides a comparative analysis of similar emergency assistance programs.

The proposed Miami-Dade County Hurricane Wilma Emergency Wage/Earned Income Replacement Program is designed to provide emergency one-time income replacement grants up to a maximum of \$1,000 to those who suffered a loss of income due to Hurricane Wilma. As proposed, the application period for the program would be through December 15, 2005. Applications selected for award will be processed within five (5) business days. Eligible participants must meet the following program criteria:

- A person must have been employed on October 24, 2005;
- The person's place of employment must have suffered physical damage or power loss and been shut down for at least five (5) working days as the direct result of the impact of Hurricane Wilma;
- The person's annual gross family income for the 12 months prior to 10/24/05 must be not more than 50% of the County median family income as adjusted for family size;

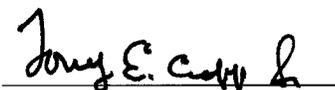
- The person must not have received any federal, state or other direct financial assistance for the loss of income from employment during the eligibility period. This includes assistance through disaster or regular unemployment insurance; and
- Eligible persons must have already applied for and been denied wage replacement assistance through other disaster assistance programs, including FEMA, for which they may be eligible.

Applications will be made to the various Board of County Commissioners' District Offices, Department of Human Services' Neighborhood Service Centers, and Community Action Agency Self-Help Centers (Attachment II: List of Department of Human Services and Community Action Agency Application Sites).

The Department of Human Services in coordination with the Community Action Agency will operate the program and process all applications. The Department of Human Services will use its existing mechanisms for processing checks to eligible applicants. Checks will be distributed to eligible participants either back at the point of application or via U. S. mail, in accordance with the individual applicant's request.

Please be advised that, in accordance with Section 2-11.22 of the County code, monies allocated to the countywide and unincorporated municipal service area contingency reserve funds shall only be utilized to meet countywide and unincorporated area emergencies such as natural disasters and civil disturbances. Additionally, the Board may use contingency reserve monies to fund extraordinary demands on County operations upon favorable recommendation from the County Manager and the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Commissioners members present, provided, however, such expenditure has been previously reviewed by the Budget and Rules Committee (e.g. presently the Internal Management and Fiscal Responsibility Committee).

Attachments



Tony E. Crapp, Sr.  
Assistant County Manager

**ATTACHMENT I**

**Emergency Income Assistance Program – Comparative Analysis**

Program Title	Proposed Miami-Dade County Hurricane Wilma Emergency Wage/Earned Income Replacement Assistance Program	FEMA/US Department of Labor Disaster Unemployment Assistance	State of Florida Department of Children and Families, Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program (EFAHP)	State of Florida Disaster Food Stamp Program
Program Purpose	Provide an emergency one-time income replacement grant to individuals or heads of household who suffered a loss of income due to Hurricane Wilma	Provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster declared by the President of the United States. The program is administered by states as agents of the federal government.	Provides a one-time payment of up to \$400 to families who are totally without shelter or face the loss of shelter because of non-payment of rent or mortgage. It also helps those families who have had household disasters such as fire, flood, or other accidents.	To provide emergency food stamp benefits to eligible individuals who are not already receiving regular food stamp program benefits
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To be eligible for an income replacement assistance grant a person must be a resident of Miami-Dade County.</li> <li>- A person must have been employed on October 24, 2005;</li> <li>- The person's place of employment must have suffered physical damage or power loss and been shut down for at least five working days as the direct result of the impact of Hurricane Wilma;</li> <li>-The person's annual gross family income for the 12 months prior to 10/24/05 must be not more than 50% of the County median family income as adjusted for family size based upon FY 2005 Income Limits on the attached chart;</li> <li>-The person must not have received any federal, state or other direct financial assistance for the loss of income from employment during the eligibility period. This includes assistance through disaster or regular unemployment insurance; and</li> <li>- Eligible persons must have already applied for and been denied wage replacement assistance through other disaster assistance programs, including FEMA, for which they may be eligible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before an individual can be determined eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, it must be established that the individual is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits (under any state or federal law).</li> <li>Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to unemployed U.S. nationals and qualified aliens who worked or were self-employed if they:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worked or were self-employed in or were scheduled to begin work or self-employment in an area declared as a federal disaster area.</li> <li>- Can no longer work or perform services because of physical damage or destruction to the place of employment as a direct result of a disaster.</li> <li>- Establish that the work or self-employment they can no longer perform was their primary source of income.</li> <li>- Do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits from any state.</li> <li>- Cannot perform work or self-employment because of an injury or because they were incapacitated as a direct result of the disaster.</li> <li>- Became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of the household.</li> <li>- Cannot work or perform self-employment due to closure of a facility by the federal government.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The household must have at least one child under the age of 18</li> <li>-The household must live in Florida, or be working or looking for work in Florida</li> <li>- At least one child or caretaker in the home must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident</li> <li>- You must have proof of your housing emergency, for example, a copy of a court ordered eviction or foreclosure notice.</li> <li>- In the event of a natural disaster such as fire or flood, the EFAHP office can make a telephone call to the sheriff's office, fire department, Department of Children and Families' office, etc., if you provide us with a phone number.</li> <li>- If you do not have enough money in your checking/savings accounts, or the cash to pay your rent or mortgage.</li> <li>- The total household income is compared to the State of Florida's need standard to decide whether the household is eligible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistance is needed regardless of citizenship or alien status. If a person or members of the family have no social security numbers, photo ID s and dates of birth are sufficient</li> <li>- Eligible persons have lost income or had additional expenses caused by Hurricane Wilma. This includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*reduction in work hours and pay due to business closure</li> <li>*damage to home or self employment property</li> <li>*food lost due to spoilage</li> <li>*costs to protect property</li> <li>*temporary shelter expenses</li> <li>*paid insurance deductibles are a countable expense</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Eligible persons do not have enough money to buy food this month without help. Enough money means:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*take home pay, plus</li> <li>*other income, plus</li> <li>*cash at home or in the bank, minus</li> <li>*disaster related expenses</li> <li>*that is less than the disaster program limit for your family size</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Emergency Income Assistance Program – Comparative Analysis

Program Title	Proposed Miami-Dade County Hurricane Wilma Emergency Wage/Earned Income Replacement Assistance Program	FEMA/US Department of Labor Disaster Unemployment Assistance	State of Florida Department of Children and Families, Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program (EFAHP)	State of Florida Disaster Food Stamp Program
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lose a majority of income or revenue because the employer or self-employed business was damaged, destroyed, or closed by the federal government.</li> <li>- Suffering a monetary loss due to damage of property or crops does not automatically entitle an individual to Disaster Unemployment Assistance.</li> </ul>	<p>Income Eligibility Requirements (per income guidelines published in the Federal Register, February 2005) Household Size and Monthly Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All income received during the month you apply is considered, except for those household members who receive SSI.</li> <li>- If you are having financial problems, it must be due to a real emergency, and not from mishandling your money.</li> <li>- You must provide proof of your present living address.</li> <li>- Examples include a rent receipt, utility bill, or other paperwork that lists the name of the head of household or other caretaker, and the present address.</li> <li>- Your application must be signed and dated.</li> </ul>	
<b>Maximum Amount of Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eligible persons can receive an emergency income replacement assistance grant for loss during the eligibility period up to \$1,000.</li> <li>- Only one emergency income replacement assistance grant can be awarded per household.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to individuals for weeks of unemployment beginning after the date the major disaster began and for up to 26 weeks after the major disaster was declared by the President, as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the major disaster.</li> <li>- The maximum weekly benefit amount is determined under the provisions of the state law for unemployment insurance in the state where the disaster occurred.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A one-time payment of \$400 per eligible family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited in accordance with family income and family size</li> </ul>

Emergency Income Assistance Program – Comparative Analysis

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<p><b>Application and Award</b></p>	<p>- Applications for assistance may be made to the District Offices for the Board of County Commissioners or the Department of Human Services Neighborhood Service Centers, or the Community Action Agency Self-Help Centers.</p> <p>- Applications selected for award will be processed for payment within five (5) business days.</p> <p>- The application form will include a statement of acknowledgement advising the individual that there are penalties for providing false information in order to receive benefits.</p> <p>- The application period to file for an emergency income assistance grant will end on December 15, 2005</p>	<p>- Claims should be filed in accordance with the state's instructions published in announcements about the availability of Disaster Unemployment Assistance, or contact the State Unemployment Insurance agency.</p>	<p>To apply for the Emergency Financial Assistance for Housing Program, the following must be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application for EFAHP</li> <li>- Vendor Agreement for EFAHP</li> </ul> <p>Completed forms, along with proof of your housing emergency (3 day eviction notice, default notice, etc.) should be mailed to: Department of Children and Families</p>	
<p><b>Program Funding</b></p>	<p>This program will be funded in the total amount of \$1,300,000. This program will be offered on a countywide basis.</p> <p>The County's Department of Human Services (DHS) in coordination with the Community Action Agency (CAA) will operate the program and process all applications. DHS staff will process checks through its established mechanisms and distribute payments either through pick up at the point of application or via U. S. mail based upon the individual applicant's request.</p>			

**Miami-Dade County- Area Median Family Income  
provided by Miami-Dade Housing Agency**

**Fiscal Year 2005 Income Limits -By Number of Family Members**

2005 income levels for the extremely low-income (30% of Median), very low-income (50% of Median), and low-income (80% of Median) categories based on family size

<b>Family Members</b>	<b>30% of Median</b>	<b>50% of Median</b>	<b>80% of Median</b>
1	\$11,350	\$18,950	\$30,300
2	\$13,000	\$21,650	\$34,600
3	\$14,600	\$24,350	\$38,950
4	\$16,250	\$27,050	\$43,300
5	\$17,550	\$29,200	\$46,750
6	\$18,850	\$31,400	\$50,200
7	\$20,150	\$33,550	\$53,650
8	\$21,400	\$35,700	\$57,150

**Income Targeting Fact Sheet -Summary**

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (USHUD) federal regulations require a certain percentage of new admissions during a one year period be at the extremely low-income level, very low-income, and low-income levels. These percentages vary by housing program as indicated below:

**Public Housing**

- At least 40% of new admissions must be extremely low-income (equal to or below 30% of the area median income)
- The remaining 60% of new admissions can be up to the low-income level (up to 80% of the area median income)

**Section 8 New Constructions**

- At least 40% of new admissions must be extremely low-income (equal to or below 30% of the area median income)
- The remaining 60% of new admissions can be low-income or very low-income level depending on the HAP contract date (up to 80% of the area median income)

**Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)**

- At least 75% of new admissions must be extremely low-income (equal to or below 30% of the area median income)
- The remaining 25% of new admissions can be up to the very low-income level (up to 50% of the area median income)

**Section 8 Project Base Vouchers**

- At least 75% of new admissions must be extremely low-income (equal to or below 30% of the area median income)
- The remaining 25% of new admissions can be up to the very low-income level (up to 50% of the area median income)

**Moderate Rehabilitation**

- New admissions must be very low-income (equal to or below 50% of the area median income)

March 2005

**LISTING OF DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
AND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY  
APPLICATION SITES**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

1. CULMER NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
1600 N.W. 3<sup>RD</sup> Avenue, (305) 579-2820
  2. OPA LOCKA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
16405 N.W. 25<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, (305) 623-6500
  3. EDISON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
150 N.W. 79<sup>TH</sup> Street, (305) 579-2820
  4. BLANCHE MORTON/HIALEAH NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
300 EAST 1<sup>ST</sup> Avenue, (305) 884-4801
  5. ALLAPATTAH NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
1897 N.W. 20<sup>TH</sup> Street, (305) 547-4960
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6. WYNWOOD NEIGHBORHOD CENTER  
2902 N.W. 2<sup>ND</sup> Avenue, (305) 547-7661
  7. FRANKIE SHANNON ROLLE CENTER  
3750 South Dixie Highway, (305) 446-3311
  8. NARANJA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
13955 S.W. 264<sup>TH</sup> Street, (305) 258-0822
  9. FLORIDA CITY/HOMESTEAD NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER  
1600 N.W. 6<sup>TH</sup> Court, (305) 247-2068
  10. JOSEPH CALEB CENTER  
5400 N.W. 22<sup>ND</sup> Avenue, (305) 636-2290

**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY  
SELF-HELP INSTITUTE ENRICHMENT CENTERS**

1. ACCION  
858 West Flagler Street, (305) 547-4802
2. GOULDS  
21300 SW 122 Avenue, (305) 233-2121
3. LIBERTY CITY  
6100A NW 7 Avenue, (305) 756-2830
4. PERRINE  
17801 Homestead Avenue, (305) 254-5804
5. SOUTH BEACH  
833 Sixth Street, (305) 672-1704

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Over \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)  
11-3-05

RESOLUTION NO. R-1284-05

RESOLUTION INSTRUCTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE THAT WOULD ALLOCATE \$1.3 MILLION FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE SO THAT THE PROGRAM CAN PROVIDE EMERGENCY INCOME ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS THAT SUFFERED INCOME LOSSES FROM THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE WILMA AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON NOVEMBER 20, 2005

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2005, the County declared a State of Local Emergency for all of Miami-Dade County because of the threat posed by *Hurricane Wilma*; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2005, *Hurricane Wilma* impacted Miami-Dade County with severe weather conditions that blocked roadways, rendered virtually all traffic signals inoperable and left approximately 90% of residents and businesses without electrical power; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the widespread destruction caused by *Hurricane Wilma* most employers in Miami-Dade County were closed for business for almost one week and some businesses may not be in full operation because of the effects of the storm for weeks; and

WHEREAS, certain residents of Miami-Dade County that work for the businesses that were closed because of *Hurricane Wilma* have had their economic survival jeopardized because of the loss of income caused by such business closures;

WHEREAS, under the State Emergency Management Act, Miami-Dade County as a political subdivision of the State, has the power and authority to provide emergency assistance to the victims of an emergency such as *Hurricane Wilma*; and

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WHEREAS, members of the Board of County Commissioners are in a special position to assist victims in recovering from the effects of *Hurricane Wilma* in the recovery effort by virtue of their knowledge and familiarity with the conditions affecting residents in their districts,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the County Manager is hereby instructed to develop an emergency income assistance program administered by the County Manager or his designee that would allocate \$1.3 million from the County's contingency reserve that, to the extent allowable by law, will permit the program, using eligibility criteria employed in comparable public assistance programs, to provide emergency income assistance for qualified Miami-Dade County residents that suffered income losses from the impact of *Hurricane Wilma* and to report back to the Board of County Commissioners on November 20, 2005.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Natacha Seijas and offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dorin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of November, 2005. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as ER  
to form and legal sufficiency.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Eric A. Rodriguez

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