

Date: September 18, 2026

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(1)
October 20, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava 
Mayor

Subject: **Revised:** Status Report on FEMA Reimbursements for Hurricane Irma - Directive No. 222706

Executive Summary

This report is in response to a directive made during consideration of Resolution R-1157-18 adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on November 8, 2018, requiring the Administration to provide a report on the status of reimbursements for Hurricane Irma related expenses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Subsequently, Resolution R-315-23 sponsored by Senator Rene Garcia and adopted as amended by the Board on April 4, 2023, directed that the reports be provided biannually.

Miami-Dade County (County) has submitted 222 projects for reimbursement through FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) grant program totaling \$279.7million of projected Hurricane Irma expenses. As of June 30, 2026, the County anticipates receiving reimbursement of \$267.8 million from FEMA and the State of Florida. To date, reimbursement requests of \$262.3 million have been approved, of which \$244.4 million has been collected by the County for PA program eligible expenses. The County's match will be approximately \$11.6 million. Details are provided in Exhibit 1. Additionally, and as summarized further below, there have been no recent actions or decisions enacting any proposed changes to FEMA's cost reimbursement formulas, which could impact the level of reimbursement received by local governments for future storms. We will continue to monitor this closely.

Background

On September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma made landfall in South Florida. In anticipation of the storm's arrival, the President of the United States declared a Federal Emergency on September 4, 2017, which allowed the County to seek Federal and State grants for reimbursement of actual hurricane-related expenditures. The County anticipates that it has incurred expenses of about \$280 million in its response to and recovery from Hurricane Irma, and we continue to work with FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) as they continue their review and approval processes.

Following lapses in federal appropriations impacting its operations in 2025 and in early 2026, FEMA recently resumed reviews of project costs and amendments for Hurricane Irma and other federally declared disasters, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Surfside building collapse. In addition, FEMA is facing potential changes to PA reimbursement processes based on reform proposals made by the President's FEMA Review Council and legislation introduced in Congress. One proposal would replace FEMA's current project-by-project, cost-reimbursement PA model with a direct-funding mechanism that delivers formula-based grants to be managed by the State within 30 days of a presidential declaration. Increases in FEMA's population adjusted dollar threshold, otherwise known as the *per capita impact indicator*, used for evaluating requests for PA assistance are also being considered. No further legislation or regulatory action has taken place to enact any of these changes to FEMA's reimbursement processes as of the date of this report. Staff will continue to monitor this closely.

This report will be placed on the next available Board Agenda pursuant to Rule 5.06(j) of the Board's Rules of Procedure. Should you require additional information, please contact Ray Baker, Director, Office of Management and Budget, at 305-375-5143.

Attachment

c: Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Jess M. McCarty, First Assistant County Attorney
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Department Directors
Christina M. Cicilia, Director, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

Exhibit 1
Status of FEMA Reimbursements for Hurricane Irma
As of June 30, 2026

	Current Projections per FEMA				Obligated Projects per State			
	Current Projected County Expenditures (1)	Reimbursement Percentages		Projected Federal and State Reimbursements	Projects Being Reworked by FEMA	FEMA and State Funds		
		Federal (2)	State			Obligated (3)(4)	Paid (5)	
A	Debris Removal							
	Sept. 4, 2017 through Sept. 17, 2017	\$ 135,445	90.00%	5.0%	\$ 128,673	\$ -	\$ 128,673	\$ 128,673
	Sept. 4, 2017 through Sept. 17, 2017	3,021,721	92.00%	4.0%	2,900,852	(79,052.00)	2,979,904	3,015,148.00
	Sept. 18, 2017 through Oct. 17, 2017	43,281,820	92.00%	4.0%	41,550,547	(3,012)	41,553,559	40,270,506.00
	Oct. 18, 2017 onward	136,335,088	90.00%	5.0%	129,518,334	-	129,518,334	129,533,181.00
	Oct. 18, 2017 onward	5,519,059	92.00%	4.0%	5,298,297	(20,964.00)	5,319,261	5,319,261.00
B	Emergency Protective Measures							
	Sept. 4, 2017 through Oct. 3, 2017	30,820,574	100.00%	0.0%	30,820,574	(7,642)	30,828,216	30,942,072.00
	Sept. 4, 2017 through Oct. 3, 2017	8,706	90.00%	5.0%	8,271	-	8,271	8,271.00
	Oct. 4, 2017 onward	4,620,603	90.00%	5.0%	4,389,573	-	4,389,573	4,389,573.00
C	Roads and Bridges	14,473,100	90.00%	5.0%	13,749,445	-	13,749,445	12,625,098.00
D	Water Control Facilities	-	90.00%	5.0%	-	-	-	-
E	Buildings and Equipment	17,434,623	90.00%	5.0%	16,562,892	6,502,888	10,060,004	8,067,987.00
F	Utilities	6,335,105	90.00%	5.0%	6,018,350	-	6,018,350	2,179,954
G	Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Items	7,212,882	90.00%	5.0%	6,852,238	(892,712)	7,744,950	5,713,778.00
Z	Direct Administrative Costs	10,516,063	90.00%	5.0%	9,990,260		9,990,260	2,249,553.00
	Total	\$ 279,714,789			\$ 267,788,306	\$ 5,499,506	\$ 262,288,800	\$ 244,443,055

(1) The projected expenditures consist of 222 distinct projects as of 06/30/26. As FEMA continues its review of open projects, estimates and cost share allocations may change.

(2) 14 projects have a Federal cost share of 92% because they participated in the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program for Debris Removal.

(3) As of June 30, 2026, obligated funds total \$262,288,800 and are comprised of \$250,653,294 in federal funding and \$11,635,506 in state funding.

(4) As of June 30, 2026, four projects (34673, 34665, 37519 and 36154) are being reviewed by FEMA under Process step "Awaiting FEMA Determination". Eight projects have closeout versions issued with cost underruns and are being reviewed by FEMA. Two other projects are at step "Closeout in Progress" and are under review by FEMA with a status of "Pending Recipient Final Review" and "Pending Award", respectively. One project (80941) was de-obligated by the State but has not been yet de-obligated by FEMA. This project was deemed ineligible due to insurance requirements from a previous disaster.

(5) The total amount paid through June 30, 2026 was reduced by the following refunds made to FDEM: a) \$189,752.40 and \$33,768.88 were refunded for Projects 34673 and 34886, respectively, and \$4,986.19 for Projects 29411, 29764 and 29137, as a result of deobligation of overpayment and final reconciliation to satisfy requirements to obtain and maintain insurance established related to DR 1609-Hurricane Wilma; b) \$1,488,943.33 was refunded for Project 28919 as a result of an overpayment of certain costs included by FEMA in Project 164028 upon obligation, and erroneously paid under both Projects 28919 and 164028; c) \$79,516.83 refunded to FDEM to correct an overpayment from duplicate payment of Federal share; d) \$226,705.08 refunded for Project 34673 after closeout de-obligation, resulting in a cost underrun.