



**MANATEE COUNTY, FL
2025/26 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT SUMMARY
ESG-RUSH ALLOCATION**

Background

On June 8, 2026, Manatee County received notice from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designating \$557,758.00 to Manatee County through a second Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) grant, awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. ESG-RUSH funds are made available to states or local governments to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness who have been residing in a “declared disaster area” and have needs that are not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief programs.

Manatee County’s federal Annual Action Plan details the funding strategy for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs each year. The Annual Action Plan implements a jurisdiction’s multi-year Consolidated Plan and is developed through significant citizen participation, analysis, and planning. FY 2025/26 funds were incorporated into the County’s 2025 Annual Action Plan.

Proposed Substantial Amendment

The County is proposing to amend the FY 2025/26 Annual Action Plan to include the newly awarded ESG-RUSH #2 funds. These changes will result in the following:

Manatee County was significantly impacted by a series of federally declared disasters in 2024: Hurricane Debby (August 2024), Hurricane Helene (September 2024), and Hurricane Milton (October 2024). These events caused widespread damage to housing infrastructure, displaced residents, and strained existing emergency shelter and homelessness resources. These storms exacerbated the region’s pre-existing housing instability and led to significant new displacement.

All three events were declared federal disasters by the President, and Manatee County was included in the following FEMA major disaster declarations:

- FEMA Disaster Declaration DR-4751-FL (Hurricane Debby)
- FEMA Disaster Declaration DR-4760-FL (Hurricane Helene)
- FEMA Disaster Declaration DR-4772-FL (Hurricane Milton)

Existing federal disaster relief programs are addressing a portion of these needs, including FEMA Individual Assistance, Public Assistance for shelter costs, and pending allocations to Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds through the State of Florida. However, these programs are not designed to provide rapid rehousing, reentry services, or support to those excluded from standard eligibility criteria.

The second ESG-RUSH allocation of \$557,758.00, awarded to Manatee County in June 2026, will address urgent housing and homelessness needs that are not fully met by other federal disaster relief efforts. ESG-RUSH resources will support homeless prevention, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelter services targeted to households who are:

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- *Experiencing homelessness or housing instability directly related to Hurricanes Debby, Helene or Milton;*
- *Not eligible for or not fully served by FEMA or CDBG-DR;*
- *In need of immediate support to exit unsheltered homelessness or emergency shelter.*

The 2026 ESG-RUSH #2 Homeless Prevention / Rapid Rehousing Program will provide rapid rehousing/homeless prevention and supportive services to Manatee County residents who were impacted by the 2024 hurricane season. The program specifically targets individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to the impact of these disasters and who cannot access all services provided through FEMA or other federal programs. The program also targets those who were experiencing homelessness prior to the storms and received transitional shelter assistance from FEMA immediately following the disaster, but were left without long-term housing options. This program will provide rental assistance and move-in costs to eligible households as well as provide access to their integrated behavioral health services.

The 2026 ESG-RUSH #2 Emergency Shelter Program will provide essential services to homeless families and individuals in emergency shelters, as well as operating emergency shelters or providing alternative solutions through hotel or motel vouchers when necessary. The program specifically targets individuals and families who are homeless due to the impact of the 2024 hurricane disasters and who cannot access all services provided through FEMA or other federal programs. The program also targets those who were experiencing homelessness prior to the storms and received transitional shelter assistance from FEMA immediately following the disaster, but were left without long-term housing options.

This amendment includes the ESG-RUSH funds in the County's planned uses of ESG resources and outlines how these funds will supplement, not duplicate, other federal disaster relief programs.

All other activities and funding not listed herein will be unaffected by the proposed amendment.

Public Process

Additionally, although not a requirement under the terms of this grant, Manatee County will provide a public notice in the newspaper on July 15, 2026, advertising a 15-day public comment period starting on July 15, 2026. Manatee County will accept public comment during the fifteen (15) day public comment period. Citizens will be asked to provide comments on the Substantial Amendment to the 2025/26 Annual Action Plan and propose the use of ESG-RUSH funds.

Additionally, there will be an advertised opportunity for public comments at the July 28, 2026 Manatee County Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting at 9:00 AM or as soon thereafter as can be heard.

According to Florida Statutes Section 286.0105, a person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at the above-referenced meeting or hearing, will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, it may be necessary to ensure

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that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Americans with Disabilities: The Board of County Commissioners does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions including one's access to and participation in public hearings. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for this meeting as provided for in the ADA, should contact Carmine DeMilio 941-792-8784 ext. 8203 or carmine.demilio@mymanatee.org; or FAX 745-3790.

During the 15-day comment period, copies of the draft plan summary may be reviewed at the Manatee County Community and Veterans Services Department, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, 5th Floor, Bradenton, the Manatee County website at www.mymanatee.org, and the following Manatee County Library locations:

- **Central Branch**
1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W., Bradenton
- **South County Branch**
6081 26th St. W., Bradenton
- **Palmetto Branch**
923 6th St. W., Palmetto
- **Rocky Bluff Library**
6750 U.S. Hwy. 301, Ellenton

Written comments on Manatee County's draft 2025/26 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment will be accepted through July 30, 2026. Please address your comments to:

Manatee County Community and Veterans Services Department
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 500
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 748-4501, ext. 1264
communitydevelopment@mymanatee.org

It is anticipated the Manatee County Board of Commissioners will take action to approve the Substantial Amendment to the 2025/26 Annual Action Plan at the regular meeting scheduled for July 28, 2026, at 9:00 AM or as soon thereafter as can be heard.