

CitizensAdvisor



Funds available for Hurricane Irma recovery efforts

TALLAHASSEE, FL – More than \$600 million in federal funds has been made available to eligible Hurricane Irma victims whose homes were heavily damaged or destroyed by the devastating storm that hit Florida a little over a year ago.

On September 24, 2018, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) launched Rebuild Florida, a long-term recovery effort run by DEO in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide financial assistance to those who suffered the most severe damage.

The program, announced jointly by Governor Rick Scott and HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson in [June](#), and will connect eligible Floridians with federal disaster recovery funding, prioritizing most-impacted communities and the most vulnerable low-income individuals, including the elderly, those with disabilities and families with young children.

“Hurricane Irma devastated communities across Florida after its landfall in the Keys, and we have worked every day since the storm to bring resources to our state so families could fully recover,” said Representative Holly Raschein, R - Key Largo. “I’m proud that through Rebuild Florida, DEO will provide critical funding to help families most impacted by Hurricane Irma.”

The first Rebuild Florida center is located at 2796 Overseas Highway in Marathon, and will be open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Throughout the registration period, additional [Rebuild Florida centers](#) will be open in the hardest hit counties.

The program is open to Florida homeowners and owners of rental properties. Eligible Florida residents have until December 23 to register for the [Rebuild Florida Housing Repair and Replacement Program](#). More information is available at [RebuildFlorida.gov](#).

This program is designed to assist families with low-to-moderate incomes. This includes homeowners or properties that are rented to families with low-to-moderate incomes. For details on income requirements, please [click here](#).

October 3, 2018

Events

December 12 @ 9 a.m.
[Citizens Board of Governors](#)
Sheraton Orlando North

Spotlight



Gary Aubuchon
Interim Chairman, Board
of Governors

Policies in Force

442,114
as of September 28,
2018

Office Hours in the Florida Keys

MONROE COUNTY, FL – Representative Holly Raschein and Monroe County BOCC Commissioner George Neugent partnered with Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to hold legislative office hours. We appreciate the opportunity to help policyholders who attended at Commissioner Neugent's office and Marathon City Hall. To schedule legislative office hours in your district, please contact Candace Bunker at candace.bunker@citizensfla.com.



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Aubuchon takes over as Citizens' Interim Chairman

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Gary Aubuchon, former state lawmaker and longstanding member of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation Board of Governors, has been appointed Interim Chairman following the retirement earlier this summer of former Chairman Chris Gardner.

Serving on the board since 2013, Mr. Aubuchon was appointed August 22 by Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis and will preside until a new permanent chairman is appointed. A Cape Coral businessman and former Lee County state representative, Mr. Aubuchon has served many roles while on Citizens' board, including chairman of the Claims Committee.

"I am really looking forward to working with Chairman Aubuchon as we continue to seek opportunities to improve and face challenges that affect our policyholders and citizens of Florida," said Barry Gilway, Citizens President, CEO and Executive Director.

Presiding over his first meeting September 26, Mr. Aubuchon lauded Gardner for his five-year tenure as Chairman, during which time Citizens returned to its role as the state's insurer of last resort after ballooning to 1.5 million policies after the 2004-05 hurricane seasons.

In other news, on September 27 Florida Governor Rick Scott appointed Naples insurance agent William Kastroll to fulfill the unexpired term of former Chairman Gardner which runs through July 31, 2019. Mr. Kastroll is a licensed Florida insurance agent and agency owner since 2004. Harbour Insurance Agency has four offices in Collier and Lee counties.



Citizens supports efforts of the Florida Advisory Council on Arson Prevention

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – Citizens is committed to stopping property insurance fraud and educating stakeholders about the importance of fraud awareness. In September, investigators from Citizens' Special Investigation Unit (SIU) participated in a seminar hosted by the Florida Advisory Council on Arson Prevention (FACAP) to educate prosecutors on the prosecution of arson and property insurance fraud. Citizens' director of the SIU, Joe Theobald, facilitated one of the training sessions on fraud awareness. Through partnerships with FACAP and continued education, Citizens is making a difference in the fight against fraud.



News Links

[‘AOB’ insurance fight goes to Supreme Court](#)
Florida Politics

[Citizens Insurance ‘incredibly strong’ despite nearly \\$2 billion Hurricane Irma claims](#)
Orlando Sentinel

[Citizens to claim back \\$126.4mn from private reinsurers for Hurricane Irma](#)
Reinsurance News

[Citizens may toughen AOB contracts to combat fraud](#)
Politico (subscription)

[Roofer used customers’ cash to pay self \\$20,000 a month, spend \\$14,000 on hair restoration, prosecutors say as trial opens](#)
Citrus County Chronicle

[FEMA rolling out new flood zone maps for Tampa Bay counties](#)
Tampa Bay Times

[Sinkholes: On the rise in West Volusia?](#)
The West Volusia Beacon