



O.D.R. Digest

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ROAD TRIP! ODR PROVIDES “NEW GRANTEE LAUNCH” TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR 2022 CDBG-DR GRANTEES

The Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) was on the road in 2023! Between May-September 2023, we conducted 12 on-site technical assistance visits to new grantees who received a CDBG-DR allocation for disasters occurring in 2022.

Known as the “New Grantee Launch,” ODR’s targeted training sessions help prepare new grantees for CDBG-DR program implementation through specific topics: 1) CDBG-DR overview, 2) policy briefings on the allocation announcement and regulatory waivers, 3) action plan development and citizen engagement, and 4) cross-cutting regulatory requirements.

These in-person engagements proved to be very beneficial for enhanced communication. Not only were grantees able to ask individualized questions specific to each disaster, but HUD staff also received direct feedback to inform future technical assistance.



ODR made its way across the country visiting:

- State of Alaska
- State of Kentucky
- State of Oklahoma
- State of Florida
- Lee County, FL
- Volusia County, FL
- Orange County, FL
- Sarasota County, FL
- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- St. Claire County, IL
- St. Louis City, MO
- St. Louis County, MO

If you are an existing CDBG-DR or CDBG-MIT grantee who has experienced staff turnover or another capacity challenge and could benefit from a “New Grantee Launch,” reach out to your assigned CPD Representative to make a request.

CDBG-DR Announcements

HUD Announces the Remaining \$142 million!

On November 27, 2023 HUD published a Federal Register notice announcing \$142 million in CDBG-DR funds appropriated by the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. 117– 328, Division N, Title X) for major disasters occurring in 2022 and 2023.

The Allocation Announcement Notice (AAN) identifies grant requirements for these funds, including requirements in HUD’s CDBG-DR Consolidated Notice (“Consolidated Notice”) found in Appendix B, and a limited number of amendments to the Consolidated Notice that apply to CDBG-DR grants for disasters occurring in 2022 and 2023.

Click [here](#) to read the AAN and Consolidated Notice (as amended for 2022-2023 grantees).

For questions, please email ODR's Policy Division at ODRPolicyDivision@HUD.gov.

CDBG-DR Announcements

NEW! FAQ COLLECTION!

ODR is here to help! ODR fields a lot of questions from grantees on a regular basis, so we developed a new FAQ Collection to build CDBG-DR knowledge and capacity in disaster-impacted communities. Click [here](#) to access answers to a wide range of topics!

2024 CDBG-DR PROBLEM SOLVING CLINIC

Planning is underway for the 2024 CDBG-DR Problem Solving Clinic!

We want to hear from you! Please send ODR's Policy Division, ODRPolicyDivision@hud.gov, any ideas you have for this year's Clinic theme, session topics, or any other suggestions for this upcoming delivery.

The annual CDBG-DR Problem Solving Clinic is an opportunity for CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grantees to network and learn about:

- Specific rules and requirements
- Cross-cutting regulations
- Useful tips and practices
- Technical assistance



Click [here](#) to access materials from previous Clinics.

For questions, please email ODR's Policy Division at ODRPolicyDivision@HUD.gov.

Policy FAQs

1

Q: Can a CDBG-DR grantee transfer program income generated from a DR-funded recovery activity to their CDBG entitlement program?

A: Typically yes. Grantees should refer to the requirements established in the applicable Federal Register notice. For example, per Section III.E.1.d of the Consolidated Notice, which governs 2020-2023 CDBG-DR grantees, a state or local government grantee may transfer program income (PI) to its annual CDBG program before closeout of the grant that generated the PI. Once transferred, that PI will no longer be subject to the waivers and alternative requirements of the Consolidated Notice and would instead be governed by the CDBG entitlement program regulations, 24 CFR 570.504.

For other CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grantees that received allocations prior to 2020, grantees should refer to the Federal Register notice to determine grant-specific requirements to transfer PI.

2

Q: Are CDBG-DR grantees required to recertify a homeowner's income more than once if it takes longer than 12 months to complete a rehabilitation?

A: Per 24 CFR 570.3, income is typically an estimate of an individual's income for the next 12 months. LMI determinations are assessed at the time the grantee enters into an agreement with a homeowner, which occurs after the grantee processes an application. If a homeowner is deemed LMI, but the project takes more than 12 months to assign a contractor and complete the rehabilitation, it wouldn't prevent the continuation of the activity. However, grantees are encouraged to request a self-certification from the owner to confirm that their income did not change since the initial income assessment was performed.



Disaster Spotlight: Earthquakes

CDBG-DR SPOTLIGHTS

In response to extraordinary impacts from disasters, Congress can appropriate Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

CDBG-DR funds must be used for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation. These funds can address unmet needs from disasters, including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

This edition of the newsletter will focus on disasters related to earthquakes and highlight activities and resources to recover from, and mitigate for seismic-related disasters.

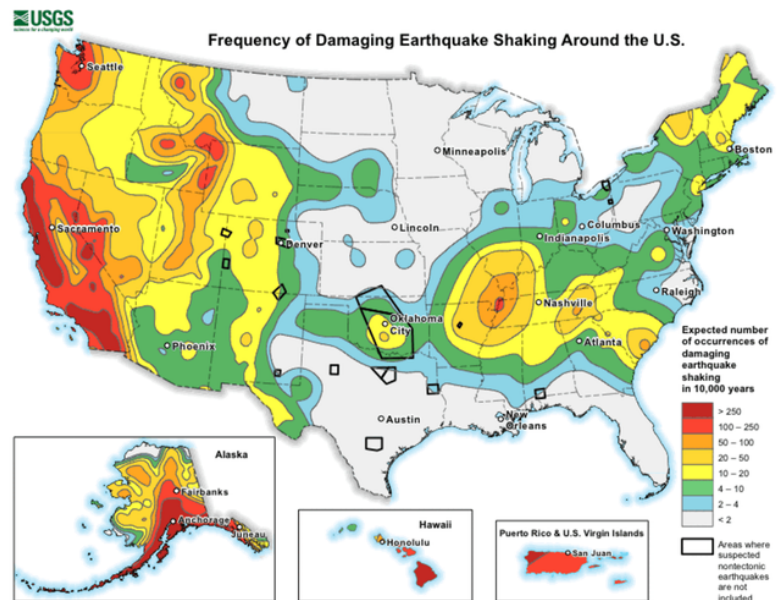


Image source: USGS

Earthquakes are the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of underground rock. While earthquakes have the potential to happen anywhere, there are higher risk areas in the United States, notably- California, Alaska, and the Mississippi Valley.

Earthquakes cause considerable damage. For example, they can collapse buildings and cause heavy items to fall, resulting in death, injuries and property and infrastructure damage.

While earthquakes occur in a sudden onset with no predictive warning, the United State Geological Survey (USGS) can calculate earthquake probability in an area based on previous seismic activity. Communities with known earthquake hazard risk can strengthen their communities with mitigative measures to lessen the impact from future events.

2020 Earthquakes in Puerto Rico

A presidential disaster (DR-4473) was declared for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on January 16, 2020 after several earthquakes shook municipalities in central, southern and western Puerto Rico starting on December 28, 2019, with the strongest 6.4 mainshock occurring on January 7, 2020. On May 2, 2020 the island once again experienced a 5.4 magintude earthquake, prompting FEMA to reopen the indicent period for the ongoing DR-4473 earthquake disaster for Puerto Rico.

The series of events caused large-scale damage to public infrastructure, homes and cultrally-significant buildings. Several federal agencies, inlcuding FEMA, activated disaster programs to assist in reconstruction and debris removal. With significant persistent unmet recovery needs, under Public Law 116-20 and 117-43, HUD awarded Puerto Rico \$36,424,000 and \$184,626,000, respectively in CDBG-DR funding for recovery unmet needs for DR-4473.



Image source: Puerto Rico CDBG-DR Action Plan

Road to Recovery: ReSurge Program



Puerto Rico allocated \$221,050,000 to create the ReSURge Program. The ReSURge Program is a home repair, reconstruction or relocation housing program designed to assist residents in the hardest hit areas of the southwest region of the island (the municipalities of Guanica, Guayanilla, Lajas, Peñuelas, Ponce and Yauco) as a result of a series of earthquakes that impacted the island in 2019 and 2020.

The ReSURge Program provides assistance to repair or rebuild properties that have been substantially damaged, or relocate applicants when reconstruction is not feasible. In instances of relocation, applicants will receive both financial support and homeowner education courses, administered by HUD-certified housing counselors, to help them make informed decisions regarding their relocation. In addition, once a property has been approved as a suitable replacement, the program will conduct a closing event with the applicant and seller to transfer the title of the earthquake-affected property to the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) and purchase the replacement property or vacant lot for the applicant.

The ReSURge Program is open to all low- and moderate-income residents with eligible damages, who reside in the HUD identified most impacted and distressed areas. The program has a priority focus to assist those whose homes were significantly damaged and who are elderly and/or persons with a disability.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the ReSURge Program and to read Puerto Rico's CDBG-DR Action Plan. PRDOH's action plan also contains more information on ensuring adherence to the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), as amended,³⁹ and section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA),⁴⁰ except where waivers or alternative requirements have been provided by HUD.