



C.D.R. Digest

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THE OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY IS GROWING!

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is adding staff to meet the growing needs of CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grantees. Over the last twenty years, HUD has continued to take a leading role within the Federal government to assist communities with long-term recovery needs. Congress has allocated nearly \$100 billion in disaster recovery funding to states, territories, and local governments for their housing, infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation needs. CPD's Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) has staff spread across the country to support these grantees and their impacted communities in managing their recovery programs.

Based on the increasing number of disasters and supplemental appropriations provided by Congress to address the unmet needs of those disasters, ODR is expanding its staff across all five regional offices (San Francisco; San Juan, PR; Fort Worth; Atlanta; and New York City), including Headquarters staff based in Washington, D.C. This ramp up in staff capacity will ensure that CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT grantees continue to receive the support and technical assistance they need to implement successful recovery and mitigation programs. It also allows ODR staff to assist new grantees with launching new Disaster Recovery programs in a timely manner.

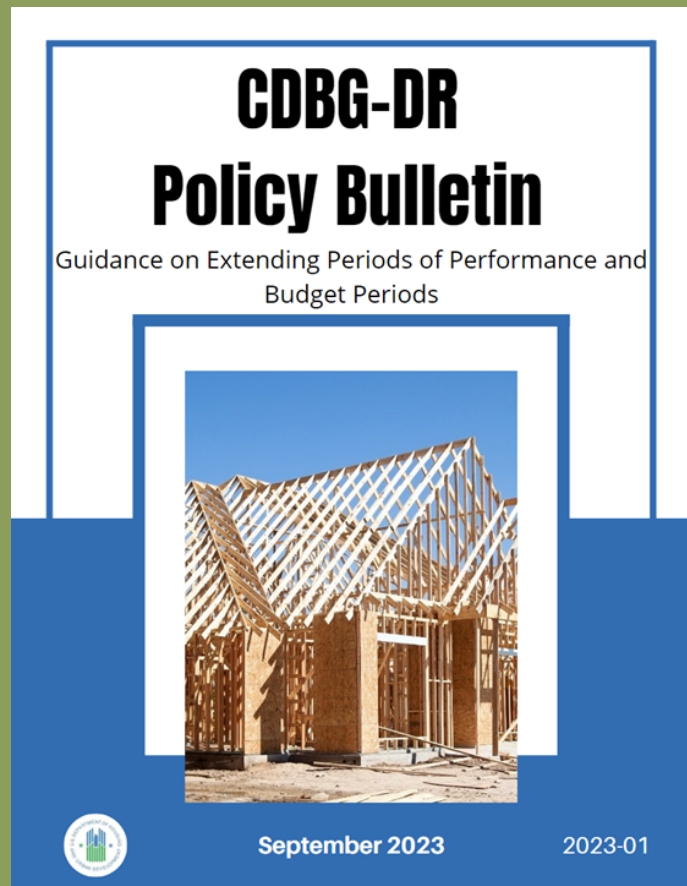
CDBG-DR Announcements

NEW OMNI NOTICE PUBLISHED IN JULY 2023

The Office of Disaster Recovery recently published an OMNI Federal Register notice ([88 FR 44816](#)) on July 13, 2023. This notice revised the period of performance and budget periods for grants under Pub. L. 113-2., which included grants for Superstorm Sandy.

In addition, this notice also provides a waiver and established an alternative requirement for grants under Pub. L. 114-113, 114-254, 115-31, 115-56, 115-123, 115-254, and 116-20 to extend the period of performance and budget periods administratively, if good cause exists. Grants under Pub. L. 113-2 may also ask for extensions.

To support grantees with implementing their extensions for grant periods of performance and budget periods, the Department published a [policy bulletin](#) to guide grantees through the process.



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

CDBG-DR Announcements

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION GUIDE FOR CDBG-DR GRANTEES PUBLISHED AND UPCOMING OVERVIEW WEBINAR IN OCTOBER

The Office of Disaster Recovery worked with technical assistance provider, Enterprise Community Partners, to create a guide for CDBG-DR grantees that provides tools and resources to help grantees design and implement economic revitalization activities that promote economic recovery, improve long-term economic resilience, and address the needs of underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

The Economic Revitalization Guide for CDBG-DR Grantees is available on the HUD Exchange or can be found [here](#). There will also be a webinar that goes over the guide on October 10, 2023 at 2:00PM EDT. Interested parties can access the joining information on HUD Exchange.



Economic Revitalization Guide for CDBG-DR Grantees



Enterprise

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

Policy FAQs

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Q: If I am a grantee providing financial assistance to businesses to create and retain jobs using the LMI jobs national objective, does each business assisted have to meet a national objective?

A: Yes. Each business must meet the national objective, with the exclusion of certain exceptions listed at 24 CFR 570.483(b)(4)(vi)(A) – (F).

“As a general rule, each assisted business shall be considered to be a separate activity for purposes of determining whether the activity qualifies under this paragraph...”

2

Q: To what extent can a grantee make changes to a substantial amendment in the period between the public comment period and submission to HUD before a new public comment period may be required?

A: It depends. If a grantee changes the action plan in response to feedback (e.g., the public and affected stakeholders) or to address a deficiency identified by HUD, the grantee is not required to resubmit the revisions as a new amendment. Instead, the grantee must provide a summary of comments on the amendment, including the changes made in response to the public comments received.

For other changes (e.g., information was missing or misrepresented in the amendment; the proposal of a new program or project; the reallocation of funds, etc.), the grantee must submit the revisions as a new amendment and follow the requirements identified in the applicable Federal Register notice.



Disaster Spotlight: Tornadoes

CDBG-DR SPOTLIGHTS

In response to extraordinary impacts from disasters, Congress can appropriate Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery 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 tornadoes and highlight activities and resources to recover from, and mitigate for tornado related disasters.



Image source: NOAA

Tornadoes are some of Mother Nature's most destructive forces. They form from a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Capable of flattening entire neighborhoods and causing severe injuries and fatalities, these massive, swirling columns of air pack winds that can reach speeds of up to 300 mph.

Tornadoes can occur anytime of day or night and at any time of the year. Although they are most common in the Central Plains and the southeastern United States, they have occurred in all 50 states.

Some of the most impactful tornado mitigation strategies include building communal safe rooms or a storm cellar in public buildings like schools and libraries, installing tornado warning systems, and using tornado-resistant building materials when rebuilding damaged properties or in the construction of new buildings and homes.

CDBG-DR & Tornado Disasters

Tornadoes can occur anywhere with little or no warning. By monitoring the weather, tracking tornado watches and warnings, and knowing the warning signs of a tornado, lives can be saved. We can't stop tornadoes from happening, but we can make infrastructure more resilient and reduce vulnerability for marginalized communities by ensuring they have the resources before a disaster ever occurs.

In its most recent grants, HUD requires the incorporation of preparedness and mitigation measures into eligible rebuilding activities that address the impacts of tornado-related disasters. For example, CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT funds can be used for various activities that reduce hazard risk and lessen the impact of future disasters, like investing in more resilient building codes. ODR has provided resources for grantees on how to upgrade local building codes to reflect resilient construction strategies which can position communities to better withstand the threats of natural hazards and severe weather events like tornadoes, those resources can be found here: [Resilient Building Codes Toolkit](#)

Additionally, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Agency (NOAA) [website](#) provides information and resources for all types of weather related disasters, including tornadoes.



Image source: NOAA

The 2011 Alabama Tornadoes

DESCRIPTION OF EF5 LEVEL TORNADO

Wind speed: >200 mph

Tornadoes move cars and other vehicles hundreds of yards; sweep away small buildings, leave serious damage on large buildings; tear out plants and trees

On April 27, 2011, the state of Alabama was hit by over 60 tornadoes, two of which were rare, extremely violent EF-5 tornadoes, the strongest category on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

Parts of Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Jefferson County and much of northern Alabama were devastated by the tornadoes.



Image source: Fox News



Image source: Washington Post

CDBG-DR & Alabama Tornado Recovery

In the aftermath of the 2011 tornadoes and storms, many small businesses and jobs were lost, resulting in a downturn of economic stability for the impacted communities. In 2012, the City of Tuscaloosa, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama and The University of Alabama, created “The Edge” Business Resource Center to provide training and incubation spaces for small businesses wishing to re-establish themselves in the disaster recovery area. The Edge provides mentoring in the development of financial management, technical skills, entrepreneurship and other fields offered through training workshops provided by The University of Alabama, Stillman College, Shelton State Community College, and others.

The 26,000-square-foot facility leases office space to companies and assists with the promotion of start-ups, focusing on growing and supporting entrepreneurs. The Edge supports both new and established firms by providing space and learning opportunities, all designed to help build and grow businesses, support innovation, and create jobs. Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds were leveraged for property acquisition and building construction as an economic revitalization activity. Construction began in 2018 and was completed in 2019. Total CDBG funding for the project was over \$4.7 million with \$1.14 million in CDBG-DR funds.



Image source: The Edge