



**Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources
Notice of Funding Availability
Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Assistance
(CDBG-DR)**

I. Funding Opportunity: CDBG-DR Overview

With this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Guidance, the Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) is announcing that \$15,355,000 of Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant – DR (CDBG-DR) funds are available to eligible municipalities to respond to CDBG- DR.

These CDBG-DR funds were appropriated through the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2018 for disaster relief of unmet needs resulting from severe storms, tornadoes, flooding that occurred August 17-September 14, 2018 in the State. These funds are being awarded to DEHCR by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This NOFA should be read in conjunction with the 2018 State of Wisconsin Action Plan for CDBG Disaster Recovery Funds. The Action Plan for CDBG Disaster Recover Funds is available on the DEHCR website at https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/CDBG_Disaster-Recovery.aspx

1. **Eligible Municipalities:** State CDBG-DR funds are available to counties and local units of government located in: Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Iron, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Richland, Sauk, Vernon, and Washington Counties.
2. **National Objective Compliance:** All activities funded with CDBG-DR funds must meet one of the following CDBG National Objectives:
 - a. Benefitting low and moderate income (LMI) persons (\leq 80% county median income (CMI) as adjusted for household size),
 - b. Preventing or Eliminating Slums or Blight; or
 - c. Meeting Urgent Needs.
3. **Award and Distribution:** 80% or \$12,284,000 of the available funding will be awarded to units of general local government (UGLG) in the most impacted and distressed counties of Dane County and Vernon County. The remaining 20% of funds will be available to UGLG's in the remaining counties.

DEHCR reserves the right to reallocate CDBG-DR funds among the activities and municipalities to best address the needs and requirements of municipalities to respond to the disaster. Additionally, DEHCR reserves the right to award all or only part of the funds requested in any proposal in whole or in part, or to reject any and all proposals received. Maximum award amount is \$3,000,000 per unit of local government.

DEHCR reserves the right at any time and without notice to cancel or recommence this NOFA, narrow or amend its scope, or reject any and all responses if DEHCR determines that a fair and open competitive procurement has been compromised or that doing so is in the best interest of the State. DEHCR reserves the right to use this NOFA and responsive applications to allocate future CDBG-DR awards without further notice.

II. CDBG-DR Eligible Activities

The use of the CDBG-DR funds may be used to address the following activities, with primary emphasis and preference to the construction of new housing units.

1. Construct new housing units
2. Repair/rehabilitation of existing housing units
3. Acquisition and demolition
4. Mitigation enhancement measures, improvement of resilience
5. Ancillary home improvements such as elevation and access ramps
6. Assist communities to repair and/or replace infrastructure

III. Application Requirements and Process

Municipalities wishing to apply for funding of any of the eligible activities described in this notice should submit only one application. CDBG-DR funds are awarded through a competitive process. For each Grant Application received on or before the Application Submission Deadline, DEHCR reviews, scores, & ranks the Applications based on a pre-approved list of scoring criteria. Successful Applications must meet a CDBG National Objective (in accordance with HUD program regulations).

Final funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the State of Wisconsin and may not be reflective of the rankings.

On January 6, 2021 Application Forms and Instructions will be available at:

https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/CDBG_Disaster-Recovery.aspx

IV. Evaluation:

DEHCR will evaluate all applications according to the following criteria. Total possible points 165.

Unmet Need: 35 possible points.

Applicants must quantify and document the unmet need in the identified project area. Examples may include number of housing units lost due to the 2018 disaster, amount of tax base lost, document demand for replacement housing, number of units waiting for FEMA buyout assistance and proposed use of CDBG as local match.

Scale and Impact: 25 possible points.

The extent to which application activities will directly address unmet need. Applications that document the most severe needs will be awarded the most points.

- Severe Need = 12-25 points will be awarded to projects needed to alleviate a significant existing problem. Severe need is determined where applicant has shown devastating economic, social and physical impacts of the disaster. Documentation examples may include the loss of housing units, destruction of infrastructure, loss of tax base, loss of essential services.
- Moderate Need = 6-11 points will be awarded to projects needed to alleviate a moderately serious problem.
- Slight Need = 0 to 5 points will be awarded to projects needed to address a less serious problem.

Project Readiness: 25 possible points.

The extent to which applicants have completed pre-project planning activities and projects are “shovel ready”. Project readiness may include the following: site control, proper zoning, conceptual site plan and elevations, if applicable preliminary engineering plan. Higher scoring applications will document availability of matching funds if appropriate, developer commitments without contingency other than

CDBG funding, or other funding sources are committed without contingencies. Applicant must show evidence for how proposed program or project will mobilize and operate in a timely manner.

Community Distress: 20 possible points

- Median Household Income (MHI) - UGLGs will be awarded up to 5 points based on their community's MHI in comparison to the statewide median.
- UGLGs will be awarded up to 5 points based on their community's level of unemployment rates in comparison to the statewide median.
- Per Capita Property Value - UGLGs will be awarded up to 5 points based on their community's per capita property value in comparison to the statewide median.
- Property Tax Rate - UGLGs will be awarded up to 5 points based on their community's property tax rate in comparison to the statewide average.

Overall Housing Eligible Activities: 20 points

Programs and projects with new housing development will receive these points. Development must be necessary to meet the need of displaced persons from the identified disaster.

Capacity to Deliver: 20 possible points

Taking into consideration the applicant's and partner's demonstrated ability to deliver services and perform activities, while also complying with CDBG requirements. Each project must be capable of being undertaken (design and construction) immediately to provide outcomes to intended beneficiaries affected by the disaster. For new housing units developers and staff must have completed at least one housing development equal to at least half the size of the intended project. Consideration will also be given to applicants past performance with CDBG projects including outstanding monitoring findings, ineligible project repayments, and timeliness in completing past projects.

Proposes Cost Reasonable Budget: 20 possible points

Proposal budgets reflect cost reasonableness and affirmative efforts to leverage CDBG-DR funds with additional funding to address unmet needs. Budget narrative reflects research, quotes and/or contracted pricing.

V. CDBG-DR Application Timeline

NOFA posted:	December 18, 2020
Applications available:	January 6, 2021
Application Instructional Webinar:	January 6, 2021
Applications due:	March 12, 2021
Anticipated Award date:	April 15, 2021

Applications must be submitted only by email to doabcd@wisconsin.gov. Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 12, 2021. Applications received late or incomplete will not be considered.