

CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR  
FLOODPLAIN

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals:

This is to give notice that The City of New York is proposing to undertake activities within a 100-year floodplain relating to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. President Obama signed the "Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013" (Public Law 113-2) into law on January 29, 2013. Among other appropriations, the Act included \$16 billion in CDBG-DR funds "for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from Hurricane Sandy and other eligible events in calendar years 2011, 2012, and 2013". This notice is required by Section 2(a)(4) of Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management and is implemented by HUD Regulations found at 24 CFR 55.20(b) for the HUD action that is within and/or affects a floodplain.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. The 8-Step Decision Making Process includes public notices and the examination of practicable alternatives to building in the floodplain.

Projects funded with CDBG-DR would be located in areas of impact from Hurricane Sandy throughout the five Boroughs of New York City. The City anticipates that most of the grant would be targeted toward rehabilitation or reconstruction activities designed to help victims of Hurricane Sandy, including homeowners and tenants of rental properties to achieve permanent, sustainable housing solutions that allow them to remain in New York City, and return to their neighborhoods where possible.

The City's initial allocation of CDBG-DR funds is \$1,772,820,000. Of this total, the City has allocated \$648 million in funding for assistance to address the various unmet housing needs it has identified thus far. Of the initial \$648 million of CDBG-DR allocated to housing, \$306 million would be provided for the recovery path known as "NYC Houses Rehabilitation and Reconstruction" which targets the rehabilitation and reconstruction of single-family homes with 1 – 2 units that are either owner-occupied or occupied by year-round tenants. This category also includes 3 – 4 unit buildings occupied by the owner. Owners of these properties who are present in the U.S. and New York City and had their home impacted by Hurricane Sandy are potentially eligible for program. Landlord-owned buildings that are 3-4 units will be addressed by the Multi-family Building rehabilitation assistance and are not covered under this notice. The City will offer three core paths to provide different assistance types to eligible applicants of the program that fall into one of the following three categories:

- Reconstruction: Residential property that has been destroyed or is not practical to rehabilitate;
- Major rehabilitation: Residential property that is not destroyed but has substantial damage as assessed by the program team; and

- Moderate Rehabilitation: Residential property that was damaged by Sandy, but is not destroyed and does not have substantial damage as determined by the program team.

Under the CDBG-DR program, rehabilitation and reconstruction of storm damaged residential properties may be undertaken in the 100-year floodplain. The FEMA Advisory Special Flood Hazard Zone (A and V) comprises approximately 61 square miles (20%) of NYC territory. Details by borough follow:

- Bronx 5.66 square miles (3,622 acres)
- Brooklyn 15.20 square miles (9,728 acres)
- Manhattan 4.65 square miles (2,976 acres)
- Queens 21.79 square miles (13,946 acres)
- Staten Island 13.70 square miles (8,768 acres)

Applicants receiving CDBG-DR construction assistance for their residential properties partially or wholly situated within the 100-year floodplain will be required to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

NYC does not anticipate critical actions within the additional approximate 18 square miles (5.9%) of territory located in the 500-year floodplain. Details by borough follow:

- Bronx 1.07 square miles (685 acres)
- Brooklyn 6.57 square miles (4,209 acres)
- Manhattan 1.40 square miles (896 acres)
- Queens 7.20 square miles (4,608 acres)
- Staten Island 1.97 square miles (1,261 acres)

The City will strongly encourage that homes situated here to participate in the NFIP.

Project information including floodplain maps of the affected sites are contained in the Environmental Review Record currently on file with: Calvin Johnson, Assistant Director, 255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10007 and may be examined from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM or using the following link <http://www.nyc.gov/html/housingrecov> and then clicking on "Public Notices". To review the floodplain maps of the affected sites, visit [www.region2coastal.com](http://www.region2coastal.com). The City is interested in alternatives and public perceptions of possible adverse impacts that could result from the project as well as potential mitigation measures. All interested persons, groups and agencies are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed use of federal funds to support a project located in a floodplain. Written comments must be received by the OMB Assistant Director's office during the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, mailed to Calvin Johnson at the above address, or submitted via email at CDBGDR-enviro@omb.nyc.gov. The minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication. Such comments should be received by OMB on or before June 6, 2013.

City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, Mark Page, Director.

*Date: May 21, 2013*