

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a CDBG-DR?

After Presidentially-declared disasters, the United States Congress often appropriates federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address long-term unmet Disaster Recovery (DR) needs in the disaster-affected areas.

2. How does the CDBG-DR work? What events are covered under this CDBG-DR?

The Congressional appropriation is followed by a HUD notice that identifies the most impacted and distressed areas and provides for rules and requirements and offers program guidance for the use of the grant funds. For this appropriation it is Hurricanes Sally and Zeta.

3. Define Most Impacted and Damaged (MID) and what counties are covered under the MID for this CDBG-DR?

The HUD notice identifies the most impacted and distressed areas based on research and input from multiple sources such as damage reports. Clarke, Dallas, Escambia, Marengo, Perry, Washington, Wilcox, Mobile and Baldwin were considered the hardest hit areas and were given direct allocations from HUD because of that.

4. Explain MID Consortium.

The consortium allows the MID counties to work together to develop one plan that represents each county as an individual, taking into account each county will most likely have very different needs. The one plan process moves much faster and is less labor intensive on the counties while still allowing each counties needs to be fully recognized.

5. Will there be a consortium agreement for the cities?

No. For this program the county commission signing the agreement covers the cities as well.

6. How is the money going to be awarded?

Once the plan is complete and the list of projects have been compiled, that list will be forwarded to ADECA. ADECA will then weigh all the projects and determine which projects will be funded.

7. Who can receive these funds?

This program focuses on multifamily housing and infrastructure, increased resilience, commercial areas recovery and providing critical public services. This part of the program is not for individual housing assistance. ADECA has a separate program geared towards individual housing assistance.

8. Is there a timeline for when the plan is to be completed?

The plan has a completion goal of June 2024, once the plan is completed it will be submitted to ADECA they will have up to 90 days to review and approve.

9. Where are we at in the process?

At this stage the ACCA completed the preliminary steps required by HUD by forming the consortium attending the ongoing training and completing all of the required documentation to ensure the counties will be able to receive Federal funds.

10. How did we get to this point in the process?

The ACCA has been working diligently with HUD, ADECA and their consultants. We have been meeting every two weeks with representatives from these groups to ensure this whole process continues to move as smoothly as possible. We have approved a contractor to assist with the financial management, tracking and reporting of this project to ensure we are compliant with the federal rules and regulations. We have an RFP out for a contractor to assist as the independent data collection point. That RFP closes Nov. the 8th.

11. What are the next steps for the program?

Once the data collection contractor is in place, we will begin to compile all the damage reports along with the other required data that will allow us to determine the best strategies to recommend. Following that we will move into the unmet needs assessments phase. All this information will help everyone make informed decisions on which projects best fit your county.

12. What can we spend this money on?

This money cannot be used to supplant any other funding, it is designed to address the most urgent needs and vulnerable populations. The good news is that the data collection and strategies suggestion will help ensure the projects comply with all the regulation and guidelines. "The idea is to let the plan determine the projects."

13. How much will this cost counties and cities?

The good news is this will not cost the counties or the cities anything.

14. What counties or cities need to actively be doing?

At this point it is a good idea to be considering potential projects and listening to suggestions. This can provide valuable information as we move forward and could offer some good project ideas to submit with the plan. It would also be helpful to remind everyone that all projects put forward must go through the competition process/ grading with ADECA to determine which projects will be funded.

15. Is there information that needs to be gathered by us prior to the application process?

At this stage, counties do not need to take any action. ACCA is currently in the planning phase and is partnering with a data collection contractor. Because this entire process is data-driven, ACCA will first gather information from areas that meet HUD requirements. Once ACCA has collected the data, it will conduct meetings to review the findings.

16. Do we need the help of an outside consultant to gather info and pre plan what our requests might be or will this be provided through ACCA?

For this CBDG-DR grant, pre-planning is discouraged. The data will determine the plan, and the plan will

determine the projects. Please note that consultant fees incurred by the counties are non-reimbursable expenses under this grant.

17. Will we need a grant writer or consultant to complete the application?

No, a grant writer or consultant should not be necessary. However, the application process and how it will work is still under review.

18. Will we be reimbursed for time spent by employees or consultants gathering info that may be needed or requested?

County employees may be reimbursed for expended time related to the planning process of the grant program. The process will be initiated by a formal request for assistance from ACCA. Counties' requests for reimbursement of expenses will be supported by documentation sufficient to substantiate the necessity and reasonableness of costs. As noted in the response to question 2, consultant fees incurred by the counties are non-reimbursable expenses under this grant.

19. Is there anything we need to be doing at this point?

ACCA is working on behalf of the consortium counties. We have already selected a contractor for financial and grant management and compliance. We issued an RFP for the data collection portion of the planning process. The request-for-proposal period will close on November 8, 2023. Once the data and planning services contractor is selected, we will initiate the next phase of the grant program process which will allow us to begin to determine what areas and projects may be eligible.

20. What entities will be able to apply for funds ie water systems, housing authorities etc.?

Determining which entities may be eligible to apply is premature at this point because this is a data-driven process. The data must be collected to determine the entities and applicants that meet the criteria set by HUD.