

DISASTER RECOVERY INITIATIVE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Allocations, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Disasters Occurring in 2016
The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017, The Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 and The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017
(Public Law 114-223, 114-254 and 115-31)

Federal Register Docket No.

FR-5989-N-01, FR-6012-N-01 and FR-6039-N-01, FR-6136-N-01

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – DISASTER RECOVERY



**STATE OF LOUISIANA
ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 26 (SUBSTANTIAL)
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS
IN RESPONSE TO THE GREAT FLOODS OF 2016**

Public Comment Period: June 23, 2025 to July 7, 2025

Submitted to HUD: July 8, 2025

Approved by HUD: October 10, 2025

Jeff Landry
Governor

Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor

Taylor F. Barras
Commissioner of Administration



Louisiana Division of Administration

**Office of Community Development –
Disaster Recovery**



A. Summary of changes

The purpose of Action Plan Amendment 26 is to reallocate funding from programs that are reaching completion.

This amendment utilizes the interchangeability of funds provision authorized by Congress, which allows states to use previously received CDBG-DR funding (2016 Floods) in areas affected by newer disasters (2020-2021 Disasters).

As required by HUD guidance, this substantial amendment ensures that all funds used under interchangeability will follow the requirements, waivers, and alternative requirements associated with the original 2016 appropriation, even when addressing unmet needs from the 2020-2021 Disasters. This means the rules follow the money.

For interchangeability to be implemented, the funds can only be used in parishes that were designated as Most-Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas for both disaster periods. The overlapping MID parishes eligible for this funding are: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, La Salle, Lafayette, Lincoln, Livingston, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Union, Vermillion, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana and Winn.

The following program budgets are decreased:

- Homeowner Assistance Program
- RLHP Flood Insurance Assistance Program
- Neighborhood Landlord Rental Program
- Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase II
- Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase III
- Multifamily Rental Gap Program
- Piggyback Program
- Resilient and Mixed Income Piggyback Program
- Soft Second Program
- Safe Haven Program
- Louisiana Military Department – Affordable Rental Housing
- Cypress at Ardendale – Affordable Rental Housing

- Middle Market Loan Program
- Fast Gap A Program
- Regional Capacity Building Grant

The following program budget is increased and modified to allow for interchangeability of funds:

- Infrastructure Program (Public Assistance Match)

The following program is being modified:

- OCD CDBG Homeownership (OCHO) Pilot Program

The following program is created to allow for interchangeability of funds:

- Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program (RCIP)

Per the state's Master Action Plan, this amendment is considered substantial as the reallocation of funds is more than \$5 million dollars and constitutes a change of 15 percent or greater of a program budget. The creation of RCIP also meets the requirements of a substantial amendment as it changes program benefit and adds an activity.

B. Detailed budget changes by program category

Table 1: Restore Louisiana Homeowner Program (RLHP) Allocations and Changes

Program	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
Homeowner Assistance Program	\$1,050,216,475.00	(\$2,000,000.00)	\$1,048,216,475.00	0.19%
Flood Insurance Assistance Program	\$325,098.65	(\$580.00)	\$324,518.65	0.18%
Interim Housing Assistance Program	\$4,964,274.87	\$0.00	\$4,964,274.87	0%
Total	\$1,055,505,848.52	(\$2,000,580)	\$1,053,505,268.52	0.19%

Table 2: Rental Housing, Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention Program Allocations and Changes

Program	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
Neighborhood Landlord Rental Program	\$29,667,886.96	(\$2,755,940.67)	\$26,911,946.29	-9%
Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase II	\$3,449,923.32	(\$889,499.81)	\$2,560,423.51	-26%
Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase III	\$5,479,999.60	(\$953,461.61)	\$4,526,537.99	-17%
Multifamily Rental GAP Program	\$13,616,062.71	(\$662,211.64)	\$12,953,851.07	-5%
Piggyback Program	\$75,165,006.00	(\$1,508,058.07)	\$73,656,947.93	-2%
Permanent Supportive Housing Program	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000,000.00	0%
Rapid Rehousing Program	\$11,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,000,000.00	0%
Resilient and Mixed Income Piggyback Program	\$106,300,000.00	(\$1,904,346.27)	\$104,395,653.73	-2%
Soft Second Program	\$6,000,000.00	(\$47,571.18)	\$5,952,428.82	-1%
Safe Haven Program	\$4,000,000.00	(\$394,081.38)	\$3,605,918.62	-10%
Louisiana Military Department - Affordable Rental Housing	\$10,000,000.00	(\$88,420.00)	\$9,911,580.00	-1%
Cypress at Ardendale - Affordable Rental Housing	\$8,000,000.00	(\$33,269.60)	\$7,966,730.40	0%
Rural Repair and Rehabilitation Program	\$12,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000,000.00	0%
OCD CDBG Homeownership (OCHO) Pilot Program	\$8,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000,000.00	0%
Middle-Market Loan Program (MMLP)	\$34,264,319.82	(\$691,814.00)	\$33,572,505.82	-2%
Fast Gap A Program	\$5,292,296.00	(\$260,685.00)	\$5,031,611.00	-5%
Total	\$337,235,494.41	(\$10,189,359.23)	\$327,046,135.18	-3.1%

Table 3: Restore Louisiana Economic Recovery and Revitalization Program Allocations and Changes

Program	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
Small Business Loan Program	\$38,671,714.00	\$0.00	\$38,671,714.00	0%
Farm Recovery Program	\$19,741,171.00	\$0.00	\$19,741,171.00	0%
Total	\$58,412,885.00	\$0.00	\$58,412,885.00	0%

Table 4: Restore Louisiana Infrastructure and Public Service Allocations and Changes

Program	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
Infrastructure Program (Public Assistance Match)	\$105,000,000.00	\$8,345,837.02	\$113,345,837.02	3%
First Responders Public Services Program	\$1,691,140.00	\$0.00	\$1,691,140.00	0%
Professional Resilience Occupations (PRO) Louisiana Workforce Development	\$8,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,500,000.00	0%
Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program	\$0.00	\$3,846,000.00	\$3,846,000.00	100%
Total	\$115,191,140.00	\$12,191,837.02	\$127,382,977.02	10.1%

Table 5: Administration and Planning Allocations and Changes

Program	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
Watershed Modeling and Planning	\$53,707,752.07	\$0.00	\$53,707,752.07	0%
Regional Capacity Building Grant	\$7,200,000.00	(\$1,897.79)	\$7,198,102.21	0%
Administration and Planning	\$81,153,880.00	\$0.00	\$81,153,880.00	0%
Total	\$142,061,632.07	(\$1,897.79)	\$142,059,734.28	0.001%

Table 6: Allocation and Change Totals by Program Category

Program Category	Previous Total Allocation	Total Change	Total Revised Allocation	Total Percent Change
Restore Louisiana Homeowner Program	\$1,055,505,848.52	(\$2,000,580.00)	\$1,053,505,268.52	0.19%
Rental Housing, Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention Program	\$337,235,494.41	(\$10,189,359.23)	\$327,046,135.18	-3.1%
Restore Louisiana Economic Recovery and Revitalization Program	\$58,412,885.00	\$0.00	\$58,412,885.00	0%
Restore Louisiana Infrastructure and Public Service	\$115,191,140.00	\$12,191,837.02	\$127,382,977.02	10.1%
Administration and Planning	\$142,061,632.07	(\$1,897.79)	\$142,059,734.28	0.001%
Total	\$1,708,407,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,708,407,000.00	0%

C. Programs with budget decreases

Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program

Eligible Activity	- Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Buyouts, Acquisitions, New Construction, Public Facilities, Interim Housing Assistance, Expansion of Homeownership (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4)); HCDA Sections 105 (a)(1-4), 105(a)(7-8), 105(a)11, 105(a)24). Housing Incentive, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01 and other applicable Federal 15 Register Notices. - Also eligible are elevation expenses related to rehabilitation and reconstruction activities and reimbursement of eligible rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.
National Objective	Urgent Need or benefit to low-to-moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$1,050,216,475
Budget Change	(\$2,000,000)
Revised Program Budget	\$1,048,216,475
Geographic Eligibility	Qualifying Parishes in Flood AP
Administering Entity	State of Louisiana or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Homeowner Assistance Program budget is being decreased because all awards within the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Program are fully obligated and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan 1 and amended in APAs 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 24, and 25.

Restore Louisiana Homeowner Flood Insurance Assistance Program

Eligible Activity	HCDA Section 105 (a)(4)
National Objective	Benefit to low-to-moderate income persons and urgent need
Program Budget	\$325,098.65
Budget Change	(\$580.00)
Revised Program Budget	\$324,518.65
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Restore Louisiana Homeowner Flood Insurance Assistance program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 11 and amended in APA 25.

Neighborhood Landlord Rental Program

Eligible Activity	Rehabilitation, new construction, loan financing (HCDA Sections 105 (a)(4)); 105(a) (8-9); 105(a) (15)).
National Objective	Benefit low-to-moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$29,667,886.96
Budget Change	(\$2,755,940.67)
Revised Program Budget	\$26,911,946.29
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Neighborhood Landlord Rental program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 1 as the In-fill Rental Development Program and amended in APAs 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 25.

Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase II

Eligible Activity	Rehabilitation, new construction, loan financing (HCDA Sections 105 (a)(4)); 105(a)(8-9); 105(a)(15)).
National Objective	Benefit to low to moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$3,449,923.32
Budget Change	(\$889,499.81)
Revised Program Budget	\$2,560,423.51
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase II budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 11 and amended in APAs 14, 16, 20, and 25.

Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase III

Eligible Activity	Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Construction of Buildings (Including Housing), HCDA Section 105(a)(4) New Housing Construction, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01
National Objective	Benefit to low to moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$5,479,999.60
Budget Change	(\$953,461.61)
Revised Program Budget	\$4,526,537.99
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase III budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 16 and amended in APA 20 and 25.

Multifamily Rental GAP Program

Eligible Activity	Rehabilitation, new construction, loan financing, HCDA Sections 105 (a)(4); 105(a) (8-9); 105(a) (15)
National Objective	Benefit to low-to-moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$13,616,062.71
Budget Change	(\$662,211.64)
Revised Program Budget	\$12,953,851.07
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Multifamily Rental GAP Program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 1 and amended in APAs 7, 11, 14, 21, and 23.

Piggyback Program

Eligible Activity	Acquisition, clearance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction, elevation, loan financing HCDA Sections 105 (a)(1),(4) and (14)
National Objective	Benefit to low-to-moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$75,165,006.00
Budget Change	(\$1,508,058.07)
Revised Program Budget	\$73,656,947.93
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Piggyback Program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 1 and amended in APAs 7, 8, 11, 16, 18, and 24.

Resilient and Mixed Income Piggyback Program

Eligible Activity	Acquisition, clearance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction, elevation, loan financing HCDA Sections 105 (a)(1), (4) and (14)
National Objective	Benefit to low-to-moderate income persons
Program Budget	\$106,300,000.00
Budget Change	(\$1,904,346.27)
Revised Program Budget	\$104,395,653.73
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Resilient and Mixed Income Piggyback Program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 11 and amended in APAs 14, 16, and 25.

Soft Second Program

Eligible Activity	Direct assistance to facilitate and expand homeownership among persons of low and moderate income. HCDA Sections 105(a)(24)
National Objective	Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons
Program Budget	\$6,000,000.00
Budget Change	(\$47,571.18)
Revised Program Budget	\$5,952,428.82
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Soft Second program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 11.

Safe Haven Program

Eligible Activity	HCDA Sections 105(a)(1-2),(4) and (8)
National Objective	Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons
Program Budget	\$4,000,000.00
Budget Change	(\$394,081.38)
Revised Program Budget	\$3,605,918.62
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Safe Haven program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 11.

Louisiana Military Department – Affordable Rental Housing

Eligible Activity	HCDA Sections 105(a)(4), Clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements
National Objective	Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons and urgent need
Program Budget	\$10,000,000.00
Budget Change	(\$88,420.00)
Revised Program Budget	\$9,911,580.00
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared Rapides Parish impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Louisiana Military Department – Affordable Rental Housing budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 13 and program language updated in APA 25.

Cypress at Ardendale – Affordable Rental Housing

Eligible Activity	HCDA Sections 105(a)(4), Clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties
National Objective	Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons
Program Budget	\$8,000,000.00
Budget Change	(\$33,269.60)
Revised Program Budget	\$7,966,730.40
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared East Baton Rouge Parish impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Cypress at Ardendale – Affordable Rental Housing program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 19.

Middle Market Loan Program

Eligible Activity	Acquisition of Real Property, HCDA Sections 105 (a)(1) Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Construction of Buildings (Including Housing), HCDA Section 105(a)(4) New Housing Construction, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01
National Objective	Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons
Program Budget	\$34,264,319.82
Budget Change	(\$691,814.00)
Revised Program Budget	\$33,572,505.82
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana

Program change summary

The Middle-Market Loan program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in the Action Plan Amendment 16 and amended in APAs 19, 20, and 25.

Fast Gap A Program

Eligible Activity	Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Construction of Buildings (Including Housing), HCDA Section 105(a)(4) New Housing Construction, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01
National Objective	Benefit to low- to moderate-income persons
Program Budget	\$5,292,296.00
Budget Change	(\$260,685.00)
Revised Program Budget	\$5,031,611.00
Geographic Eligibility	Qualifying Parishes in Flood AP
Administering Entity	State of Louisiana or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Fast Gap A Program budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 16 and amended in APA 20.

Regional Capacity Building Grant

Eligible Activity	Planning, HCDA Section 105 (a)(12)
National Objective	N/A
Program Budget	\$7,200,000.00
Budget Change	(\$1,897.79)
Revised Program Budget	\$7,198,102.21
Geographic Eligibility	Must align within one of the watersheds impacted during the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding. Local governments not located in one of the 56 Presidentially-declared parishes are not eligible for funding under this program.
Administering Entity	State of Louisiana or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Regional Capacity Building Grant budget is being decreased due to the program end and the remaining funds are not needed. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 11 and amended in APA 23.

D. Program with budget increase and modification for interchangeability of funds

Infrastructure Program (Public Assistance Match)

Eligible Activity	Non-federal share 105(a)(9)
National Objective	Urgent need, benefit to low- to moderate-income persons, elimination of slums and blight
Program Budget	\$105,000,000.00
Budget Change	\$8,345,837.02
Revised Program Budget	\$113,345,837.02
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster Declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding and overlapping MIDS for the 2020-2021 Disasters (identified in the Summary of Changes).
Administering Entity	State of Louisiana or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The Infrastructure Program (Public Assistance Match) budget is being increased and is being changed to allow for the interchangeability of grant funds. This means remaining funds can be used in parishes that experienced impacts from both the 2016 Floods and the 2020-2021 Disasters. The Public Assistance Match unmet need exists within the 2016 Floods Action Plan and the 2020/2021 Action Plan. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 1 and amended in APAs 3, 11, and 19.

E. Program with modified national objective

OCD CDBG Homeownership (OCHO) Pilot Program

Eligible Activity	- Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Construction of Buildings (Including Housing), HCDA Section 105(a)(4) - New Housing Construction, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01 - Housing Services, HCDA Section 105(a)(24)
National Objective	Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons; Urgent Need
Program Budget	\$8,000,000.00
Budget Change	\$0.00
Revised Program Budget	\$8,000,000.00
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Program change summary

The OCD CDBG Homeownership (OCHO) Pilot Program is being amended to correct the allowable national objectives to include urgent need. This program was created in Action Plan Amendment 16 and modified in APAs 21 and 22. No change to the budget amount is required at this time.

The program's scope is also being clarified to ensure flexibility in achieving its intended outcomes. The program allows for:

1. Transfer of properties or homes to eligible subrecipients who can manage the sales or rental process;
2. Sale of homes to qualified homebuyers, with priority given to LMI households (under 80% AMI), but also allowing for sales to moderate-income households (between 80% and 120% AMI) if needed. This was originally detailed in the creation of the program in Action Plan Amendment 16; however, the urgent need national objective, to support homeowners between 80% and 120% AMI, was inadvertently not included.
3. Rental of units to LMI households if sales to qualified homebuyers cannot be completed.

These clarifications align with the program's existing language in previous APAs while ensuring the state has adequate flexibility to fully implement the program and achieve its goals of creating affordable homeownership opportunities.

F. New program

Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program

Eligible Activity	105(a) 1-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19, 21-22
National Objective	Benefit to low-and moderate-income persons; Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Urgent Need - Mitigation
Program Budget	\$0
Budget Change	\$3,846,000.00
Revised Program Budget	\$3,846,000.00
Geographic Eligibility	Disaster-declared parishes impacted by both the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding and the 2020-2021 Disasters.
Administering Entity	The State of Louisiana and/or its subrecipient(s)

Interchangeability requirements and compliance

This program utilizes the interchangeability provisions authorized by Public Law 117-43, Public Law 117-180, and Public Law 117-328, which allow CDBG-DR funds from different appropriations to be used interchangeably when MID areas overlap. As required by HUD in Federal Register Notices FR-6303-N-01, FR-6326-N-01, and FR-6368-N-01, as well as HUD's Policy Bulletin on Interchangeability Provisions and Other Flexibilities:

1. All requirements, waivers, and alternative requirements from the 2016 Floods appropriation will continue to apply to these funds (i.e., "the rules follow the money"), even though they will address unmet needs from both the 2016 Floods and the 2020-2021 Disasters.
2. Activities funded through this program must address unmet recovery needs from both the 2016 Floods and the 2020-2021 Disasters within the overlapping MID areas.
3. All projects will be reported in the Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) system according to the original grant requirements, with care taken to avoid double-counting beneficiaries and to clearly report outcomes under the applicable activity in DRGR.
4. This substantial amendment satisfies HUD's requirement for implementing Grant Funds Interchangeability, as it addresses the necessary changes in program benefit and eligibility criteria.

Program description

This program will enable parishes affected by both the 2016 Floods and the more recent 2020-2021 storms to address remaining economic revitalization and infrastructure unmet needs through interchangeability of CDBG-DR funds. Congress has authorized a provision in recent appropriations acts that allows CDBG-DR funds allocated under different appropriations to be used interchangeably in overlapping Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas. This means that while these funds were originally appropriated for the 2016 Floods, they can now be used in the parishes that were declared MIDs for both the 2016 Floods and the 2020-2021 Disasters. These parishes include: Acadia (zip codes 70526 and 70578), Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Iberia, Iberville (zip codes 70764 and 70788), Jackson, Jefferson Davis, La Salle, Lafayette, Lincoln, Livingston, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry (zip code 70570), St. Martin (70517), St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Union, Vermillion (70510), Vernon (71446), Washington, West Baton Rouge (70767), West Feliciana, and Winn.

The Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program (RCIP) will provide funding for local governments to develop mitigation activities that allow Louisiana communities to better withstand future disasters. Projects funded through this program will demonstrably increase

community resilience by reducing hazard risks identified in the Mitigation Needs Assessment portion of this Action Plan, while making efficient use of remaining disaster recovery funds that would otherwise go unused.

Program Tieback to Disaster/Unmet Needs

This program addresses unmet needs in the areas of economic revitalization and infrastructure by utilizing the interchangeability provision authorized by Congress. While the funds were originally appropriated for the 2016 Floods, the MID parishes in this program experienced impacts from both the 2016 Floods and the more recent 2020-2021 storms, creating a compounded recovery challenge for these communities.

The State's unmet needs assessment from the 2016 Floods identified approximately \$3.16 billion in unmet economic needs, including \$190.5 million in agricultural losses and over \$3.12 billion in business losses even after accounting for SBA loans. Infrastructure unmet needs totaled over \$207 million, including \$114.5 million for Public Assistance cost share and \$92.7 million for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program cost share.

The interchangeability provision allows the state to fully utilize remaining 2016 Flood funds in ways that address continued recovery needs in these overlapping disaster areas. The overlapping MID parishes have been particularly affected by these compounded disasters. For example, Livingston Parish experienced peak business disruption during the 2016 Floods with approximately 1,800 businesses and 18,700 employees impacted, and an estimated 60% of businesses experienced some flooding—the highest percentage among all affected parishes. Tangipahoa Parish similarly faced significant impacts with 1,500 businesses and 17,000 employees disrupted during the 2016 Floods.

By implementing RCIP, the State can ensure that recovery assistance reaches communities still struggling to recover from repeated disasters, addressing both immediate recovery needs and long-term resilience gaps, while preventing these federal funds from going unused due to the completion of other 2016 Flood recovery programs.

How Program will advance long-term resilience

This program will require construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation projects to meet the definition of mitigation. Mitigation activities are defined as those activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters.

The state's assessment identified approximately \$600 million in resilience gaps following the 2016 Floods, across five key categories: structural investments (\$75 million), resilience add-ons to planned infrastructure (\$132.9 million), household stormwater retention (\$122.4 million), community stormwater retention (\$239.7 million), and planning and flood-risk modeling (\$30

million). The RCIP program will target these identified resilience gaps, addressing critical needs in the overlapping MID areas.

Mitigation activities under this program include actions taken to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters.

Activities aimed at economic revitalization will require mitigation where construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of facilities are involved.

Program maximum assistance

The maximum award amount is \$120 million.

Program estimated begin and end dates

The state estimates the begin and end dates will be August 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026

Other program details

The program policies and procedures may include further project selections and priorities including, but not limited to:

- Most impacted and distressed areas
- Low-Income area populations
- Underserved communities that were economically distressed prior to the events (i.e. Opportunity Zones, Promise Zones, Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas, tribal areas etc.)

Program method of distribution

The program method of distribution is identified in the [2020-2021 Disaster Events Master Action Plan](#).

G. Public comments

Per the state's initial Action Plan, this Amendment is considered substantial as the reallocation of funds is more than \$5 million dollars and constitutes a change of 15 percent or greater of a program budget. The formal public comment period for the amendment begins June 23, 2025 and runs until July 7, 2025. Citizens and organizations can comment on this amendment by:

- Submitting them to the [LOCD-DR website contact form](#).
- Emailing them to ocd@la.gov.
- Mailing them to the Louisiana Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett.
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at (225) 219-9605.

The plan is available in Vietnamese and Spanish to reach the limited English proficiency citizens in the impacted areas. Citizens with disabilities or those who need other technical assistance can contact the LOCD-DR office for assistance via the methods listed above.

Appendix

No comments received.