

Stakeholder Consultation: Regional Planning and Development Councils, HUD MIDs

Date: July 14, 2020; 11PM-1PM
Presenter: Sherry Risk, CDBG-MIT Program Manager, WVCAD
Attendees: 37

Hearing Overview

To ensure full key stakeholder participation, WVCAD held a series of targeted stakeholder consultation meetings prior to the release of its CDBG-MIT Action Plan to inform key stakeholders of the HUD funding allocations, the planning process, and garner input regarding potential mitigation priorities. For the July 14th meeting, WVCAD met with Regional Planning Development Councils, and State and Local MID representatives. To ensure public safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via GoToWebinar.

Presentation

WVCAD provided a PowerPoint presentation containing the following information regarding the CDBG-MIT allocation and Action Plan process.

- Introductions
- Goals and Objectives
- Overview of Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)
 - Main requirements
 - Action Plan process and timeline
- Mitigation Needs Assessment
 - Key Takeaways
- Program Design
- Stakeholder Engagement

Discussion and Comment (note: all comments and questions were received via the Question box in text on GoToWebinar and read aloud and responded to by the presenter during the meeting. Names for participants who posed questions were not captured, but the full attendee list is attached.)

Speaker #1: The mapping identifies wastewater treatment plants in the flood zone. Has a similar analysis been done for potable water plants?

Answer: Yes, an analysis for potable water was completed.

Speaker #2: The State has a mitigation plan that needs to be updated. Can these funds be used to update that?

Answer: Yes, updating mitigation plans is an eligible planning activity.

Speaker #3: Will the new mitigation needs assessment data be integrated into the regional and/ or state plans?

Answer: This analysis incorporated information from regional development plan councils and Homeland Security as well as new data. Moving forward, we plan to provide those partners with the new data that we have gathered so that they can update their plans accordingly.

Speaker #4: For a comprehensive plan to be eligible, would it focus only on mitigation or be part of a larger plan?

Answer: The plan has to be tied to hazard mitigation.

Speaker #5: What is the maximum funding per project?

Answer: The maximum funding per project will be published in the draft action plan.

Speaker #6: I believe the analysis for landslide is off.

Answer: The information is the most current available information and will be updated as needed.

Speaker #7: Near Rainelle, we are working on damaged train tracks from the floods. Would this project qualify?

Answer: We have not yet identified specific projects at this time. However, in terms of eligible activities, transportation activities, could qualify. Transportation activities are a priority for the development of this Action Plan.

Speaker #8: Can projects that are deferred maintenance be funded?

Answer: Regular maintenance is not an eligible activity. Addressing deferred maintenance may, in some instances, qualify as eligible rehabilitation, however it depends on the specific proposed project scope.

Speaker #9: Are we qualified to rehab a building for use as a storm shelter?

Answer: We do not plan to rehab buildings, but we are considering hardening facilities.

Speaker #10: If structured buyouts are an activity, would we apply to your office?

Answer: Buyouts and elevation are eligible activities, but from CDBG-DR, we have already allocated \$12 million for coordinated match. FEMA does not have documentation of a current additional buyout need.

Speaker #11: How does the CDBG money offset the FEMA hazard mitigation funding for the 2016 flood?

Answer: FEMA provided 75% of funding for their project. HUD allowed us to use our DR funds to match the non-federal share (i.e., the 25%), so we have allocated \$12 million (of CDBG-DR) toward the coordinated match.

Speaker #12: Is updating dam structures an eligible activity?

Answer: If this is a maintenance project, it would be ineligible. If not, this could be an eligible activity, however, dams were not identified as the Top 5 highest risk in our assessment.

Speaker #13: If applying with a communications application, would CDBG broadband requirements apply?

Answer: We have not yet released application details yet. However, it is always important to consider minimum CDBG broadband standards when considering projects.

Speaker #14: Is this program funding tied only to disaster 4273 (i.e., 2016 floods)?

Answer: The awarded mitigation funds were calculated by Congress based on the CDBG-DR grant for that disaster. In addition, we have to prioritize the twelve counties identified in DR grant. The key difference is that we can select projects that are at risk even if they were not necessarily damaged in 2016. A direct tie-back to DR-4273 is not required.