



State of West Virginia

CDBG-MIT Stakeholder  
Consultation  
Overview and Minutes

## **Stakeholder Consultation: Federal Agencies and Emergency Management**

**Date:** July 16, 2020; 11AM-1PM

**Presenter:** Sherry Risk, CDBG-MIT Program Manager, WVCAD

**Attendees:** 20

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, WVCAD met with federal agencies and emergency managers. 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**

Francis Holton: On slide 21, does the map include water lines that can be easily damaged from floods too?

Answer: No, this map does not account for water lines. It shows wastewater treatment plants.



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Carrie Robinette: For the planning activities, can we use the funds towards updating the 5-year plans for regional planning and development councils? A few plans will need to be updated in the next year to eighteen months. Is this eligible activity?

Answer: Yes, it is an eligible activity. We were planning to assist for this update and even subsequent updates. We should discuss further about trying to determine whether FEMA could leverage funds toward the areas outside of the 12 counties.

John Butterworth: I would strongly encourage acquisition, demolition, buyout, and elevation projects. We already have priorities detailed in the local Charleston plans for hazard mitigation.

Answer: This point was acknowledged by the presenter.

Carrie Robinette: Can funding be used for private water crossings to help reduce water flow and reduce future damage? For example, many private bridges that cross waterways for private housing were destroyed in 2016. Is this an eligible activity?

Answer: In CDBG-DR program, we have a program that assists homeowners with damaged private bridges from the 2016 floods. However, for CDBG-MIT, we are not opening an individual application process for private bridge owners. This is because we aim to maximize risk reduction the overall regions. Application processes will target local government on a regional level, not individuals.

Francis Holton: Would I be better off applying through Lincoln County government or through a regional planning & development council?

Answer: You can apply through either entity. Funds will be made available for cities and counties.

John Butterworth: Are you focusing exclusively on infrastructure rather than individual property projects (e.g., relocations, retrofits, acquisitions)?

Answer: In CDBG-DR, we provide coordinated match to serve projects related to acquisition, buyout, elevation, etc. At this point, we don't have data that supports an additional need. However, we have identified a need for infrastructure projects.

Matt McCullough: Does data collection qualify as an eligible activity?

Answer: Yes, data collection is eligible as a planning activity.