

**CDBG-DR  
FAQs  
& Draft Responses 01/08/2013**

**Q- Why is Passaic receiving 80% of the funding?**

*Congress set-a-side 80 percent of the funding for Passaic County due to the fact that Passaic County had the most severe impacts from Hurricane Irene.*

**Q- How many grants do we anticipate awarding outside of Passaic County?**

*We anticipate approximately 6 based on the amounts set-a-side for public facilities, housing and economic revitalization.*

**Q- Will we be required to use prevailing wages if application is approved?**

*Yes, grantees will be required to comply with federal and state prevailing wages. However, if funds are passed through to a nonprofit or for profit corporation and the nonprofit or for profit will contract directly with a contractor only federal prevailing wages will be required.*

**Q- Will an independent assessment be an allowable cost? And can we use our own engineer?**

*Costs associated with the application for grant funding are not eligible grant expense. The Pre-application requests a cost estimate from a qualified person in the field, such as an architect or engineer, including certification that prevailing wage rates were factored into the cost estimate presented. Submit a certification from a qualified person or persons who is/ are not employed in any manner by the applicant. A full SAGE application will require the following:*

*a. Deficiencies with a certification from a qualified person or persons who is /are not employed in any manner by the applicant. This person must address the specific problem or problems that you have identified and intend to correct with the CDBG-DR funds requested. Projects that clearly address a severe situation affecting the health or safety of the residents of the service area must provide evidence in this section.*

*The certification of deficiencies must be included in this section. Do not include letters of support from local residents or others with this item.*

*b. Document costs with a certification from a person qualified in the field, such as an architect or engineer. The cost estimate must appear on the letterhead of the qualified*

***person's firm and bear an original signature of the person. This documentation must be included in this section.***

***Federal Davis-Bacon and NJ Prevailing Wage Acts apply to projects assisted with CDBG-DR funds; applicants must certify that prevailing wage rates were used in developing the cost estimates.***

**Q- If a Municipality hires an Engineer through, "or" an outside consultant for their own purpose, will that assessment be ok?**

***Yes, as long as they are not employed in any manner by the applicant.***

**Q- Does this funding qualify as a FEMA match?**

***Yes, it was designed to fill needs that were not met with other sources of funding including FEMA, SBA and ACE.***

**Q- Does infrastructure in an L/M or Urgent area qualify?**

***Infrastructure activities can qualify under the L/M benefit, or Urgent Need national object. We encourage applicants to try and meet the L/M benefit first whenever possible.***

**Q- Can a new property be purchased to rebuild a structure that has repeatedly been damaged?**

***If an individual household purchases a property CDBG-DR funds can be used for a down payment if it is related to replacing housing impacted by the disaster. However, only income eligible household (within the HUD income limits) are eligible for assistance. Note: there may be a limit on the amount of the down payment, and not sure if up to 120 percent of HUD income limit also applies.***

**Q- Have any funds been obligated already?**

***In Passaic County 80 percent of the CDBG-DR funds have been obligated. This state wide funding allocation \$2,963,716 (20 percent) remains and is the subject of this workshop and request for proposals.***

**Q- Is the 2.9 million the amount of funding available after Passaic County obligation?**

***Yes, this is in addition to the funds already obligated to Passaic County.***

**Q- Does the state have a priority for funding?**

***Yes, applicants are required to explain and document need based on the severity of the impact. In addition, 50 percent of the funding \$1,481,858 must be spent on activities that benefit people of low and moderate income.***

**Q- Can any municipality apply?**

***Yes, and may join with other towns and submit a multi-jurisdictional application. County governments can also apply.***

**Q- Can a municipality apply on behalf of a non-profit?**

***Yes, see also the above response on prevailing wages.***

**Q- Will Hurricane Sandy money work the same way?**

***Yes, however there may be different waivers and similar waivers, which may have different percentage amounts. It will depend on the intent of the US Congress, the Federal Register notice and US HUD's assessment of costs for the disaster.***

**Q- Can a Municipal Utilities Authority apply?**

***They can apply only through the local government. Some restriction can apply so grantees are request to consult with the CDBG-DR staff.***

**Q- What is the time frame for submitting pre-application?**

***End of the month (January 31, 2013) and the Department's review will be given priority consideration.***

**Q- What is the time frame once applications are submitted?**

***Possibly within 30 days?***