

**New Jersey Department of Community Affairs**  
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)  
Hurricane Ida Recovery Action Plan Substantial Amendment #8  
Pursuant to Public Law 117-43 and Public Law 117-180 and Federal Register  
Notices FR-6326-N-01 and FR-3198-N-01

Please take notice that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is soliciting public comments on Hurricane Ida Recovery Action Plan Substantial Amendment #8, which makes Action Plan modifications associated with the Blue Acres Program to change the program maximum assistance.

Through the Blue Acres Program, homeowners whose homes are storm-damaged or vulnerable to flooding have the option to sell their property to the State of New Jersey for use as natural flood storage, parks, and community open space. Over the last year of implementation of the Blue Acres Program for homeowners affected by Hurricane Ida, it became clear that the maximum award established in 2022 in the Action Plan was too low based on current market rates of housing.

The Action Plan modification would raise the maximum program award to \$706,748. The total maximum program award includes both the purchase of the buyout property and the incentive award needed to acquire replacement housing. Although this is a significant increase in the maximum award, it is necessary to allow property buyout work to occur in the northern New Jersey counties impacted by Ida flooding where property prices are higher than average.

The Blue Acres Program will continue to prioritize low- to moderate-income (LMI) households regardless of the adjustment to the maximum award. Additionally, determining the award amount is not arbitrary and will reflect the actual market rate of the area and be variable depending on the real estate appraisal of the property, the housing incentive, and the county.

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this proposed substantial amendment must be made available for public comment over a period of 30 calendar days.

Commenters are able to submit comments to this proposed amendment (i) via email to [DRMConstituentServices@dca.nj.gov](mailto:DRMConstituentServices@dca.nj.gov) (Subject: Ida APA 8); or (ii) via U.S.

mail to the attention of Lisa Ryan, Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, NJ Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 823, Trenton, NJ 08625-0823. All comments are given the same amount of consideration regardless of the method of submission.

The public comment period for Ida Action Plan Substantial Amendment #8 will be open from 9:00 am on February 28, 2024, to 5:00 pm on March 28, 2024. All comments must be received on or before the deadline to be considered.

Ida Action Plan Substantial Amendment #8 is available in English and Spanish at <https://www.nj.gov/dca/ddrm/> and can be requested by email at [DRMConstituentServices@dca.nj.gov](mailto:DRMConstituentServices@dca.nj.gov) (Subject: Action Plan Amendment #8) or by contacting the Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Constituent Services at (609) 913-4824. To obtain a copy in a language other than English or Spanish, please contact Sylvia Johnston, the language access plan (LAP) coordinator, at (609) 913-4247 or [Sylvia.Johnston@dca.nj.gov](mailto:Sylvia.Johnston@dca.nj.gov). For hearing-impaired users, text telephone service is available at (TTY/TDD) 1-800-852-7899.