



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary

DATE: August 12, 2013

TO: Legislators and Staff

FROM: Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program

RE: **Funding Opportunity: Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds**

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is eligible to receive and will be applying for \$7,210,000 in CDBG-DR funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDBG-DR funds may be used only for specific disaster recovery-related purposes (see below). Recovery efforts may involve housing, infrastructure and prevention of further damage to affected areas. The use of CDBG-DR funds may not duplicate funding available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Project/activity examples include:

- Constructing or rehabilitating public facilities such as streets, and water, sewer and drainage systems, government buildings, and neighborhood centers;
- Rehabilitation of homes and buildings damaged by the disaster;
- Purchase of damaged properties in a flood plain and relocating residents to safer areas;
- Homeownership activities such as down payment assistance, interest rate subsidies and loan guarantees for disaster victims;
- Economic development activities;
- Public services (generally limited to no more than 15 percent of the grant); and
- General administration costs (limited to no more than five (5) percent of the grant)

Eligible activities must meet at least one of three program national objectives: benefit to persons of low- and moderate- income, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or meet other urgent community development needs.

Projects/activities must be undertaken in compliance with all applicable Federal and State rules and regulations including, but not limited to environmental review, flood insurance requirements, Davis Bacon wage rates, and federal procurement standards. All housing rehabilitation, reconstruction and new construction should be designed to incorporate principles of sustainability. At a minimum, HUD requires grantees to meet the Green Building Standard for Replacement and New Construction of Residential Housing.

DHCD will use information collected from state and federal agencies, public forums and community site visits to identify current and future projects and activities fundable under the CDBG-DR program. In addition, DHCD is

requesting letters of interest from cities and towns describing local and regional disaster recovery projects or activities. All proposed projects must be in response to the following Disaster Declarations.

➤ FEMA Disaster 1959: Severe Winter Storm 1/11/11 – 1/12/11 (Berkshire, Essex, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk & Suffolk Counties)
➤ FEMA Disaster 1994: Tornado 6/1/11 (Hampden & Worcester Counties)
➤ FEMA Disaster 4028: Tropical Storm Irene 8/27/11 – 8/29/11 (Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk & Plymouth Counties)
➤ FEMA Disaster 4051: Severe Winter Storm 10/29/11 – 10/30/11 (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Middlesex & Worcester Counties)
➤ FEMA Disaster 4097: Hurricane Sandy 10/27/12 – 11/8/12 (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Plymouth & Suffolk Counties)

HUD has further determined that a minimum of \$1,388,800 must be provided to Hampden County. To ensure timely expenditure of funds, all funding must be expended within two years of the date HUD obligates the funds to the grantee (DHCD). At least 50% of DHCD’s funding must directly benefit low and moderate income individuals. Funds must be used to support projects that directly address the impacts of the Presidentially-Declared Disasters listed above.

DHCD is requesting letters of interest from cities and towns for potential CDBG-Disaster Recovery projects/activities by August 20th, 2013. Eligible projects/activities will be considered for inclusion in an Action Plan being developed by the Department. Submission of a letter of interest does not guarantee funding. Communities that are unable to submit a letter of interest by August 20th may have the opportunity to submit information at a later date. The Action Plan will outline the initial proposed uses of the CDBG-DR funds and the methodology for selecting additional, future projects. The Action Plan will be posted for public comment and submitted to HUD for its approval. DHCD may amend the Action Plan to include additional projects and activities at a later date.

More information on eligibility requirements may be found at:
<http://www.mass.gov/hed/community/funding/community-development-block-grant-disaster-recovery-.html>

DHCD will hold an information session regarding the CDBG-DR program at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at Union Station in Worcester, MA. Please see the attached map and directions.

Please contact Mark Siegenthaler, Community Development Manager (mark.siegenthaler@state.ma.us or 617-573-1426) or Patricia Roushanaei, Senior Program Representative (patricia.roushanaei@state.ma.us or 617-573-1427) for further CDBG-DR Program information.

Interested parties should email a letter of interest by August 20th, 2013, including the following required information, to Mark Siegenthaler at mark.siegenthaler@state.ma.us.

Applicant Name/Contact Information (including name, title, email address and telephone number):

Project/Activity Name, Community, County and Physical Address:

Project or Activity Description:

How does the project directly address the impacts of Presidentially Declared Disaster(s) in Massachusetts? Which Declaration is addressed? What unmet need is being addressed?

Project's ability to benefit persons of low- and moderate- income, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or meet other urgent community needs:

Project Budget (identify all sources & uses including known & expected match):

Project Timeline (identify expected start, project implementation, completion date – within 18 months – and any potential impacts to the timeline):

Applicant involvement in disaster recovery efforts to-date:



From I-290 East:

Take Exit 14 (Route 122 – Barre/Uxbridge), bear right onto the ramp (the sign reads “Grafton Hill”), and merge onto Water Street. Stay in the left lane and proceed straight through the traffic signal onto Grafton Street. At the second signal, turn left onto Franklin Street. The parking garage entrance is on the right. Parking fees are \$2.00 for one hour and \$3.00 for two hours, increasing one dollar for each consecutive hour.

From I-290 West:

Take Exit 14 (Route 122 – Barre/Uxbridge). At end of the ramp, turn left onto Grafton Street. Remain in the left lane and proceed under the I-290 overpass and through the traffic signal. At the next traffic signal, take a left onto Franklin Street. The parking garage entrance is on the right. Parking fees are \$2.00 for one hour and \$3.00 for two hours, increasing one dollar for each consecutive hour.

From Mass Pike (Exit 10 or 10A), I-395, Route 146

Proceed onto I-290 East and follow directions above.

By WRTA Bus:

The best bus routes to take from City Hall are the 1, 5, 15, and 16. Routes 11, 33 and 42 also stop at Union Station on the inbound runs only. All buses stop at the bus shelter on Foster Street. Proceed to Union Station either through the main entrance at Washington Square or through the Peter Pan/Greyhound bus depot entrance. CMRPC is located on the second floor of Union Station.