STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ACTION PLAN
Hurricane Sandy Disaster

Version 4

Utilizing Supplemental CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013)


Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development
February 2015 (V4)
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1 INTRODUCTION

The State of Rhode Island is required to publish an Action Plan for Disaster Recovery (Action Plan) that describes the proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding associated with the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2) for disaster relief of unmet needs resulting from Hurricane Sandy. The State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR allocation is referred to throughout this Action Plan as “CDBG-DR funds.” This document will describe:

1. The effects of Hurricane Sandy, and the State and Federal response to date;
2. Rhode Island’s strategy for Disaster Recovery;
3. Eligible affected areas and applicants;
4. The methodology to be used to distribute funds to those areas and applicants;
5. Activities for which funding may be used;
6. Grant administration standards;
7. The citizen participation process used to develop the Action Plan.

This Action Plan will be used by the State to guide the distribution of $19,911,000 of CDBG-DR funds toward meeting unmet housing, public facility, infrastructure, business and job retention/creation, public service, disaster recovery planning and other needs. Funds may be used statewide for recovery from three federally declared disasters: 4089 Hurricane Sandy, 4107 Winter Storm Nemo, and 4027 Hurricane Irene. However, 80% of the funds are set-aside for Washington County, the “most impacted and distressed county,” as determined by HUD.

Amendments to this Plan will be made as additional funds are obligated and for the reasons identified in the section titled Action Plan Amendments.

This Action Plan is required, pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Notice of Funding Availability, provided in Federal Register / Volume 78, Number 43 and 222, Docket No. FR-5696-N-01 and FR-5696-N-06 and Volume 79, Number 200, Docket No. FR-5696-N-11.

1.1 ACTION PLAN CONTACT

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2 OVERVIEW OF HURRICANE SANDY IMPACTS

Hurricane Sandy (FEMA-4089-DR) made landfall in New Jersey on Monday, October 29, 2012. Its enormous dimensions (tropical force winds spanned almost 900 miles) created widespread devastation and affected approximately 300,000 Rhode Island residents, or 28% of the State’s population. Fortunately, there were no fatalities. Mandatory local evacuations were ordered in eight communities. Approximately 120,000 electric customers lost power (out of 482,000 customers), and 1,200 natural gas customers lost service (out of 252,000 gas customers). Nine substations went out of service, 1,433 sections of wires went down, and 63 poles were broken. An estimated 40,000 customers remained without power for two or more days. Five days passed until National Grid was able to restore electric service to 100% of customers. Four of the State’s six fuel terminals were forced to shut down during storm landfall. The Inland Terminal at Tiverton was without power for at least three days.

The highest concentration of damages resulting from Hurricane Sandy and its storm surge were located in the southern coastal communities of Newport and Washington Counties (Towns of Westerly, New Shoreham, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Narragansett, North Kingstown, and the City of Newport) (See Figure 1). The majority of the damages in these areas occurred from storm surge and wind damage. Inundation of coastal areas ranged from 1-2 meters in Newport Harbor, 2 meters in Wickford Village (North Kingstown), over 4 meters in South Kingstown, and 10 meters in Narragansett. The storm surge destroyed houses and businesses, damaged pilings and deck supports, blew out walls on lower levels, and moved significant amounts of sand and debris into homes, businesses, streets, and adjacent coastal ponds. Septic systems were damaged and underground septic tanks were exposed, creating potential hazardous material exposure. Wind damage left downed trees and branches on homes, businesses, utility lines, and roadways. The National Guard restricted entry to the community of Misquamicut (located in the Town of Westerly) due to the devastation. Over 600 housing units were damaged. In Westerly alone, over 30 businesses requested assistance from the local Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to severe impacts to homes and businesses, public buildings, roads, bridges, and related infrastructure experienced extensive impacts. Applications for FEMA Public Assistance indicate over $7.7 million in losses to public property. Large scale disruptions of normal community functions and services resulted. Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge, damage, and debris closed local and State roads along the coast for varying lengths of time. Sections of Atlantic Avenue in Westerly, Corn Neck Road in New Shoreham, Surfside Avenue in Charlestown and Sachuest Point Road in Middletown were inaccessible by
vehicle. The State's ports were temporarily closed and ferry service to New Shoreham was cancelled for several days.

Figure 1. Rhode Island Municipal Boundaries Map.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge at Sachuest Point remained closed for over six months after Hurricane Sandy swept Rhode Island. Sections of Newport’s famous Cliff Walk and Narragansett’s seawall were damaged. In Washington County, Charlestown, Narragansett, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, and Westerly suffered extensive beach erosion.

Hurricane Sandy exposed the vulnerabilities of coastal communities. Sandy exacerbated soil erosion, leaving foundations and infrastructure literally exposed. The storm surge flooded places not previously exposed, such as the grounds of the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Facility in Narragansett. The destruction of waterfront property dramatically reminded property owners of the vulnerability of flood-prone properties. Higher income households generally can adjust to increasing housing costs. Low and moderate income households are likely to already be housing cost burdened (Section 2.2 Impacted Area Pre-existing Conditions). If forced to choose between rising housing costs and relocating, LMI households may relocate to less costly urban areas with higher poverty levels.

2.1 Response

Municipalities, voluntary organizations, state agencies, and FEMA mobilized immediately. Municipal officials worked around the clock to coordinate and implement debris removal, emergency response, volunteer assistance, infrastructure repairs, damage assessments, information clearinghouses, and other response efforts. R.I. Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) opened the Emergency Operations Center and activated volunteer structural damage assessment teams. RIEMA and FEMA established a Joint Field Office that remained open through February 2013. Disaster Recovery Centers were opened to provide assistance to survivors.

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) expedited permitting, waived fees, and coordinated onsite septic system assessments with the Towns of Westerly and Charlestown.

Rhode Island Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (RI VOAD) provided an assistance hotline through 2-1-1/United Way. RI VOAD member organizations, Serve Rhode Island, the Misquamicut Business Association, and the Westerly/Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce collaborated to support extensive volunteer cleanup efforts in Westerly. RI VOAD led volunteer response efforts throughout other impacted communities. RI VOAD continued to operate a Long Term Recovery Group, tasked with resolving Hurricane Sandy cases for approximately twelve months after the disaster.
2.2 Impacted Area Pre-existing Conditions

A comparison of selected population and economic characteristics for Washington County (also known as South County) and Newport County is shown in Table 1. Available data from three coastal population centers (Westerly, Town of Westerly; Wakefield-Peacedale, Town of South Kingstown; and Newport, City of Newport) in those counties is included in Table 2. Hurricane Sandy impacted the entire region, but Small Business Administration (SBA) loan applications were concentrated in Westerly and Wakefield.

Table 1. Selected State and County characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People QuickFacts</th>
<th>Rhode Island</th>
<th>Washington County</th>
<th>Newport County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, 2010</td>
<td>1,052,567</td>
<td>126,979</td>
<td>82,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing units, 2011</td>
<td>464,728</td>
<td>62,446</td>
<td>41,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2007-2011</td>
<td>$270,600</td>
<td>$340,500</td>
<td>$380,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income, 2007-2011</td>
<td>$55,975</td>
<td>$72,163</td>
<td>$69,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons below poverty level, percent, 2007-2011</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of firms, 2007</td>
<td>96,822</td>
<td>14,253</td>
<td>9,794</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts

Table 2. Selected characteristics for census designated places impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People QuickFacts</th>
<th>Westerly CDP</th>
<th>Wakefield-Peacedale</th>
<th>Newport County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, 2010</td>
<td>17,936</td>
<td>8,487</td>
<td>24,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing units, 2011</td>
<td>8,577</td>
<td>3,720</td>
<td>13,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2007-2011</td>
<td>$290,700</td>
<td>$336,800</td>
<td>$422,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income, 2007-2011</td>
<td>$56,650</td>
<td>$60,597</td>
<td>$58,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons below poverty level, percent, 2007-2011</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts
Ethnicity and race are shown in Table 3 for the coastal population centers of Westerly, Wakefield-Peacedale, and Newport. Residents of the most impacted communities are predominately white, non-Hispanic persons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity and Race</th>
<th>Westerly CDP</th>
<th>Wakefield-Peacedale</th>
<th>Newport</th>
<th>Rhode Island</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White persons, percent, 2011 (a)</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black persons, percent, 2011 (a)</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2011 (a)</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian persons, percent, 2011 (a)</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons, percent, 2011 (a)</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2011</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin, percent, 2011 (b)</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2011</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts

Rhode Island has high rates of cost burdened households. Lower-income renters are more likely to be cost burdened than other households, contributing to their vulnerability to disasters, including Hurricane Sandy. Statewide, “over one third of Rhode Island homeowners are considered cost burdened, and 15 percent are considered severely cost burdened, spending nearly 50 percent of their income on mortgage and utilities. For Rhode Island renter households, nearly half are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing and over one quarter are severely cost burdened” (HousingWorksRI, 2013, http://housingworksri.org/sites/default/files/HWRIfactbook13_0.pdf).

3 HURRICANE SANDY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Hurricane Sandy needs assessment focuses on three categories of needs: Housing, Public Facilities and Infrastructure, and Economic Recovery. OHCD collected available data from FEMA, RIEMA, SBA, EDC (now RI Commerce Corp.), local media, and municipal sources. In addition, OHCD held four informational meetings for public officials and two
public hearings. To gather information on project level needs and to expedite recovery, OHCD solicited letters of interest from municipalities in Washington and Newport Counties, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, eligible public housing authorities, and non-profit organizations serving LMI persons in the area.

OHCD coordinated with other state agencies to identify infrastructure impacts and resulting needs. A series of discussions among OHCD, HUD's Providence Field Office, and EPA Region 1 between September and November 2013 resulted in the identification of potential Sandy recovery projects.

The State’s needs assessment involved the following:

1. Review of documents provided by SBA, RIEMA, FEMA, municipalities, EDC, local media, and other sources regarding impacts and disaster assistance;
2. Outreach to
   a. all units of general local government in the Washington and Newport Counties, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe
   b. local public housing authorities in the two priority counties (listed below) and the Rhode Island Housing Mortgage Finance Corporation
      i. Jamestown Housing Authority
      ii. Narragansett Housing Authority
      iii. Newport Housing Authority
      iv. Portsmouth Housing Authority
      v. South Kingstown Housing Authority
      vi. Westerly Housing Authority
   c. the following McKinney-Vento funded shelters and housing for the homeless
      i. Welcome House of South County
      ii. WARM Center
      iii. Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County
      iv. Galilee Mission
      v. Lucy's Hearth
      vi. McKinney Shelter
      vii. Women's Resource Center of Newport and Bristol Counties
      viii. Child and Family Services of Newport
   d. non-profit organizations, including
      i. Church Community Housing Corporation
      ii. Community Development Consortium
      iii. Washington County Community Development Corporation
      iv. South County Community Action Agency
      v. East Bay Community Action
      vi. Rhode Island Community Action Association
vii. RI VOAD

3. Review of Letters of Interest solicited directly from municipal officials, non-profits, housing authorities, McKinney-Vento funded shelters and housing for the homeless; and

4. Coordination with other state and federal funding agencies involved in response/recovery efforts.

5. Outreach to the State Agencies regarding impacts and needs, including but not limited to:
   a. Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM),
   b. Dept. of Health (DOH),
   c. Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC),
   d. Dept. of Transportation (DOT),
   e. Office of Energy Resources (OER),
   f. Economic Development Corporation (EDC), now R.I. Commerce Corp.,
   g. Statewide Planning Program (SPP), and
   h. R.I. Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA).

Outreach efforts by the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) are described in the Citizen Participation section of this Action Plan. The request for letters of interest is attached as Appendix 3. Coordination efforts involve the Review Committee, the Community Recovery Task Force and other initiatives. These efforts are detailed in the Planning & Coordination and Project Selection sections.

Hurricane Sandy National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims for all structures (residential, commercial, other) are shown for selected municipalities in Washington County (Table 4). Since not all impacted structures are covered by NFIP policies, these numbers likely understate the extent of the impacts. Structures not fully covered by NFIP include:

- Buildings valued above NFIP limits on coverage, such as some commercial buildings;
- Buildings with private flood insurance policies not associated with NFIP; and
- Buildings without flood insurance coverage.

Twenty percent of the damaged owner-occupied homes in the two most impacted census block groups were not insured (FEMADamageAssessmnts_01172013_new – Block Group Damage Summary, ArcGIS).
Table 4. National Flood Insurance Program Hurricane Sandy claims for selected Washington County municipalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>NFIP Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlestown</td>
<td>$1,545,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narragansett</td>
<td>$4,171,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Kingstown</td>
<td>$3,576,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westerly</td>
<td>$14,830,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,123,739</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIEMA, 7/10/2013.

According to the Providence Journal, “Since Sandy, the National Flood Insurance Program has paid out more than $35 million toward 1,060 property-damage claims in Rhode Island” (Salit, Richard. *A Year after Sandy: A slow recovery for thousands in Rhode Island.* 10/26/2013). The unmet needs described below have been identified by State agencies, municipalities, public housing authorities, and private businesses. However, as recovery from Hurricane Sandy proceeds, the tourism season commences, and insurance benefits/SBA loans are realized, additional unmet needs may be identified. Additional unmet needs will be documented in Action Plan amendments.

3.1 HOUSING IMPACTS

Direct housing impacts include physical damages to all housing types; damages to septic systems and utility connections; and extended power outages at elderly housing, assisted living, and long-term care facilities. Indirect housing impacts are increased awareness of hurricane and flood risk, and rising insurance costs. The indirect impacts place already cost burdened LMI households at risk of displacement and migration away from impacted counties to more urban communities with higher poverty concentrations in Rhode Island.

Hurricane Sandy direct housing impacts were concentrated in the communities of Charlestown, Narragansett, South Kingstown, and Westerly, with scattered damage across both counties. RIEMA compiled data on impacted housing units provided by local building officials (See Table 5). Storm surge damage was most severe in higher income coastal communities, such as Misquamicut (Westerly) and Roy Carpenter’s Beach (South Kingstown), generally characterized by second homes and/or small businesses. Other storm damage, including damage from wind and debris, was widespread, with severe impacts limited to a small number of residential buildings.
Table 5. Impacted housing units in selected communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th># Destroyed</th>
<th># Major</th>
<th># Minor</th>
<th># Affected</th>
<th>Total Impacted Housing Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlestown</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narragansett</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Kingstown</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westerly</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>85</strong></td>
<td><strong>233</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>624</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: RIEMA.

In the two most impacted Census Block Groups, both located in Westerly, 59 (45 owner-occupied, 14 renter-occupied) non-seasonal housing units were damaged. All 59 damaged units were single family units (FEMADamageAssessmnts_01172013_new – Block Group Damage Summary, ArcGIS). According to a Damage Summary provided by HUD, 63 homes in three Census Block Groups experienced flooding in living areas (Sept. 10, 2013).

A total of two primary residences were destroyed and received the maximum available FEMA Individual Assistance award. FEMA’s Individual Assistance Program processed a total of 598 registrations in Washington and Newport Counties and 80 registrations in other Rhode Island counties. Statewide, FEMA approved over $420,600 in grants to 104 individuals and households. Rental assistance was provided to 14 rental and 53 homeowner households for temporary accommodations. (FEMA Individuals & Households Report, May 23, 2013)

The Small Business Administration (SBA) received 67 residential applications (62 owner-occupied, 5 rental) from Washington and Newport Counties. SBA has approved 28 residential loans totaling $1,255,800. Applicant addresses were scattered throughout coastal municipalities in both counties, with the largest concentrations in the Westerly and Wakefield (South Kingstown) zip codes. (SBA Report 11460, May 21, 2013)

Damage to roofs and on-site utilities was reported by public housing authorities. A local homeless shelter reported roof and water damage to transitional housing units. To date, these are the reported direct impacts to public housing, HUD-assisted housing, McKinney-Vento funded shelters, housing for the homeless, or other assisted multifamily housing have been identified.
During Hurricanes Irene and Nemo, residential septic systems were impacted along the Washington County coastline, including Wickford Village (North Kingstown). The most damage occurred to below ground septic systems in Wickford. Damage to existing septic systems has been unreported because of liability concerns from the Rhode Island Cesspool Act and also to avoid costly repairs. Regardless, there is proof of damage and failed systems, caused by tidal and storm impacts, because Wickford Harbor is now classified by the USEPA as an “Impaired Body of Water.” The cause of impairment is categorized as “organic enrichment/oxygen depletion.” There are no point source polluters in the area; non-point, on-site septic systems are a major contributor to the pollution.

Twenty-three long-term care facilities were without commercial grid power, some for as many as five days, and one facility was forced to evacuate. Residents in assisted living residences and senior housing complexes also found themselves without power or support staff to keep them safe. During Winter Storm Nemo, 29 nursing homes and 15 assisted living residences were off commercial grid power.

Indirect impacts were more disbursed across the two counties. Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge highlighted the flood risk in AE and VE zones throughout the impacted counties. Flood insurance premiums are expected to rise significantly. The cost of NFIP backed policies will be primarily influenced by the Biggert Waters Act of 2012, as amended. However, the costs of catastrophic storm events, including Hurricane Sandy, on the insurance industry ultimately drive the cost of insurance coverage. For low and moderate income households living in high flood risk areas, increases in insurance premiums combined with high rates of housing cost burden could result in displacement. Out-migration of low/moderate income households could result in the destabilization of neighborhoods and further income segregation in the Sandy impact area.

Among the most vulnerable to displacement are low income elderly on fixed incomes. In the Town of Charlestown alone, 25 households in the coastal zone south of Route 1 are enrolled in the senior citizen, low income property tax abatement program. The neighboring coastal Towns of Westerly and South Kingstown also have property tax abatement programs for low income elderly homeowners.

3.2 Housing Unmet Needs

Physical damages and indirect impacts both contribute to unmet housing needs. Estimated unmet housing needs exceeded federal assistance by over $8 million, as shown in Table 6. VOAD and the two community development corporations that operate the majority of CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Programs in Washington and Newport Counties have experienced limited demand for assistance.
**Table 6. Estimated Housing Unmet Needs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Stabilization Needs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Damage Assessment - Major Damage</td>
<td>$ 3,310,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Damage Assessment - Minor Damage</td>
<td>$ 2,532,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Risk Identification</td>
<td>$ 487,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Counseling</td>
<td>$ 200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation/Elevation</td>
<td>$ 500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Construction</td>
<td>$ 8,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Housing Stabilization Needs</td>
<td>$ 15,229,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Stabilization Assistance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEMA PA</td>
<td>$ 18,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMA IA</td>
<td>$ 905,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBA Loans</td>
<td>$ 1,255,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Insurance (estimated)</td>
<td>$ 5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assistance</td>
<td>$ 7,179,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated Unmet Need</strong></td>
<td>$ 8,050,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific unmet housing needs identified to date include:

- Damages and debris removal at transitional housing and public housing authorities;
- Rehabilitation/mitigation of private homes occupied by LMI households;
- Flood risk identification;
- Financial counseling; and
- New construction of affordable housing outside of flood hazard areas.

Hurricane Sandy caused roof damage at non-profit, scattered site housing and Public Housing Authority properties across both counties that was not fully covered by insurance.
At Newport Housing Authority, on-site utilities were damaged. In Narragansett, housing authority units and four town-owned single family residences were damaged. In South Kingstown, four transitional housing units were damaged.

RI VOAD has resolved or referred Sandy residential cases in Washington and Newport Counties. RI VOAD member organizations are encouraged to refer potentially eligible cases with unmet needs to the appropriate community development corporation (CDC) or municipality for submission to OHCD. To date, CDCs and municipalities have received several requests for repairs.

Occupants of housing in 100-year floodplains or Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and LMI areas are doubly disadvantaged. These two pre-existing conditions make these areas especially vulnerable to tropical systems and other storm events. The lack of financial resources combined with low-lying housing and infrastructure inhibits long-term recovery from Hurricane Sandy. These areas are further stressed by the impact of increasing flood insurance rates.

Owners of many older, non-conforming structures covered by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may face flood insurance increases of up to 18% per year, depending upon the flood zone where the structure resides as well as date and type of construction. These increased costs on residents and communities with high rates of housing cost burden could result in the displacement of LMI households and increased risk of homelessness. This would create an untenable situation for impacted households, and would destabilize long-term Hurricane Sandy recovery in these affected areas.

Using GIS data, RIEMA has estimated that there are over 800 residential buildings in the area impacted by Hurricane Sandy that meet the following criteria: 1) located in 100-year floodplains/Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA); and 2) located in predominately LMI census geographies. At an estimated $600 per structure, the projected cost of flood risk identification for qualifying structures exceeds $487,000 (Table 6).

The number of residential structures in these areas demonstrates the need for services and activities that reduce flood risk and enable informed decision-making about mitigation. Two services that will address this need are flood risk identification and housing counseling services. Elevation certificates establish the baseline elevation of a structure and are the first step in determining a structure’s flood risk, actuarial insurance rating, and potential mitigation costs. Actuarially adjusted flood insurance premiums and identification of appropriate flood-proofing measures are based on elevation certificates. Residents of LMI census areas do not have the resources to obtain elevation certificates. Without elevation certificates, LMI households face uncertain increases in the costs of flood insurance premiums (or rents) and unknown mitigation costs. Consequently, they are unable to make informed housing decisions.
Construction of new affordable housing in the Sandy impacted area will provide an alternative to LMI households that choose to remain in the area, but relocate outside of special flood hazard areas.

Hurricane Sandy demonstrated the shortage of homeless shelter beds in Washington County, specifically the Westerly area. Despite the cancellation of public bus service, the WARM Shelter in Westerly was at 105% capacity. The Westerly area had insufficient homeless shelter beds for individual adults to meet the need during Hurricane Sandy. Just over three months later, during Winter Storm Nemo, WARM’s individual and family shelters were at 100% capacity.

The majority of the State’s housing stock dates to 1970 or earlier. Residential buildings damaged by Sandy may also have code violations, lead, or asbestos that can be remediated with CDBG-DR funds. Funded residential rehabilitation projects will be assessed for other housing needs.

Likely barriers to housing recovery include:

- Imminent changes to FEMA maps, base flood elevations, and NFIP insurance rates;
- Uncertainty regarding future flooding risk;
- Need for quantitative evaluation of flood risk;
- Cost of elevating structures;
- Pre-existing violations of current building/fire codes; and
- Presence of lead and asbestos in older homes, and mold in flooded homes.

OHCD will continue to outreach to communities and housing providers to ensure all eligible unmet needs in public housing, HUD-assisted housing, McKinney-Vento funded shelters, housing for the homeless, and other affordable housing units are supported with CDBG-DR funds. By allocating funds to LMI activities and activities meeting other National Objectives in roughly equal proportions, the State is encouraging timely identification of eligible housing activities that benefit low and moderate income households.

Since vacation homes are not eligible for CDBG-DR funds, no assessment of vacation home unmet needs was conducted.

### 3.3 Public Facilities & Infrastructure Impacts

Statewide FEMA Public Assistance requests totaled $12,508,392. Over forty percent of the total amount requested ($5.4 million) was for repairs to public buildings and recreational or other public facilities. Debris removal requests totaled over $4.8 million. FEMA has obligated over $6.9 million to 236 activities.
The 63 eligible applicants included 23 municipal governments, 21 special districts (fire districts, ambulance services, etc.), nine non-profit organizations, six state agencies, three colleges/universities, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe (FEMA PA Summary, December 4, 2013).

In the Town of Westerly alone, Sandy generated an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of debris. Westerly estimates 67,000 cubic yards of sand were moved from public roads to beaches and dunes. Other coastal municipalities were similarly affected.

3.3.1 PUBLIC FACILITIES
Public facilities including town offices, senior centers, and animal shelters, experienced minor damages and extended power outages. The consequences included delays and cancellations of emergency services and critical services to vulnerable populations. Public facilities throughout the two counties experienced damage to building envelopes, hardscape, and landscape features.

Town and state docks, waterfront access sites, and beach facilities were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Damaged facilities include public beaches, Westerly town beach pavilions, Camp Cronin Fishing Area, and a North Kingstown town dock. These functional use public facilities must be located in coastal areas at risk of flooding and storm damage. Mitigating and improving these facilities by restoring coastlines, elevating structures, improving wastewater treatment, and altering building envelopes benefits more than quality of life. Economic recovery depends on these public facilities, making them key elements of long-term recovery.

The storm surge and wave action of Hurricane Sandy caused erosion at a formerly capped landfill on Block Island’s coast (New Shoreham), exposing solid waste.

3.3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE
Water (wastewater, stormwater, drinking water), roads, and energy infrastructure were all directly impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Infrastructure, including stormwater pump stations, and sewage treatment facilities, experienced power outages, resulting in sewer and stormwater overflows into the Narragansett Bay watershed. Neighborhoods with wastewater pump stations damaged or without power were forced to rely on emergency septage haulers. In Wickford, three major sewage overflows were reported and documented on Brown Street, impacting the community and water quality in the harbor.

A water main on the vulnerable East Matunuck shoreline (South Kingstown) serving approximately 1,850 customers was damaged, resulting in a loss of continuous potable water and fire protection.
As noted above, several roads were temporarily closed due to damage, erosion, and/or accumulation of extensive sand and debris. The washed out sections of Corn Neck Road in New Shoreham were repaired. However, a section of the revetment on the seaward side was not replaced, leaving the road directly exposed to wave action.

During Hurricane Sandy, nine substations went out of service, 1,433 sections of wire went down, and 63 poles were broken. Five days passed until National Grid was able to restore electric service to 100% of customers. Fuel terminals were also severely impacted—four out of the six terminals were forced to shut down during storm landfall, and the Inland Terminal at Tiverton did not regain power for at least three days. During the February 2013 Winter Storm, all of the fuel terminals in the State lost electrical power for two days and were unable to provide fuel (i.e. gasoline, diesel, heating oil, jet fuel) to gas stations, homes and the airports.

Power outages in all recent declared disasters resulted in the interruption or loss of electricity at critical facilities throughout the State, including long-term care facilities. As a result of Sandy, twenty-three long-term care facilities were without commercial grid power, some for as many as five days, and one facility was forced to evacuate. Residents in assisted living residences and senior housing complexes also found themselves without power or support to keep them safe. During Winter Storm Nemo, 29 nursing homes and 15 assisted living residences were off commercial grid power.

Hurricane Sandy dramatically exacerbated coastal erosion, damaged public access to the waterfront, degraded public beaches, and exposed a previously capped landfill. The storm surge shifted massive quantities of sand inland, damaging the salt marshes and tidal ponds along the south coast, in Westerly, Charlestown, and South Kingstown. It inundated coastal areas, including village centers, such as Wickford (North Kingstown), where existing wetlands have insufficient capacity to store stormwater and storm surge.

Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo felled thousands of trees, as demonstrated by the enormous volumes of vegetative debris removed after each event. Tree roots are integral to stabilizing soil and preventing inland and riverine erosion. Trees and other vegetation provide natural stormwater control and treatment. The extensive loss of mature trees increases the susceptibility of the most impacted counties to soil erosion.

3.4  Public Facilities & Infrastructure Unmet Needs

Unmet public facilities and infrastructure needs identified to date include stormwater system repairs, public facilities repair and mitigation, road projects, restoration of coastal features, replacement of trees, and FEMA Public Assistance match.
requires a 25% match, or an estimated $3.16 million (see Table 7). Outreach to municipalities and state agencies resulted in the identification of nearly $12 million in unmet public facilities and infrastructure needs.

**Table 7.** Hurricane Sandy FEMA Public Assistance requests and Unmet Needs identified in Needs Assessment by activity category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Category</th>
<th>Total Sandy FEMA PA Requested</th>
<th>Sandy FEMA PA 25% Match</th>
<th>Identified Unmet Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debris Removal</td>
<td>$4,928,193</td>
<td>$1,232,048</td>
<td>$794,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads &amp; Bridges</td>
<td>$173,795</td>
<td>$43,449</td>
<td>$2,296,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Control Facilities</td>
<td>$63,731</td>
<td>$15,933</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Buildings</td>
<td>$3,189,381</td>
<td>$797,345</td>
<td>$1,113,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Utilities</td>
<td>$137,916</td>
<td>$34,479</td>
<td>$4,250,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational or Other</td>
<td>$4,164,988</td>
<td>$1,041,247</td>
<td>$3,466,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$12,658,004</td>
<td>$3,164,501</td>
<td>$11,921,566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The impacts of Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and other recent storm events have highlighted vulnerable roadways, stormwater pump stations, electrical substations, and recreational facilities. Westerly and South Kingstown have identified additional major Public Facilities and Infrastructure projects that are ineligible for FEMA PA.

Likely barriers to the recovery of public facilities and infrastructure are:

- Limited resources to mitigate facilities/infrastructure during recovery;
- Uncertainty about future flood risks due to increased storm activity, climate change, and sea level rise;
- Limited municipal capital budgets after extended recession and repeat storm events; and
- Burden on municipal capacity for smaller and most impacted communities.

### 3.5 Economic Development Impacts

The combined damage of Hurricane Sandy to businesses, infrastructure, and natural features along the coastline is a tremendous blow to Rhode Island’s tourism, hospitality, and leisure industries. Without immediate and extensive repairs and restoration of businesses, infrastructure, and natural features, communities and businesses in Newport and Washington Counties will experience major loss of revenue during another summer tourism season. Restoration of public beaches and public waterfront access area is critical
for the long term resiliency of this sector and the coastal communities that rely on tourism for employment, business income, and tax revenue. Summer tourism revenues sustain coastal communities and many restaurants, lodgings, and retail establishments year-round. Many low and moderate (LMI) income residents are dependent on seasonal and year-round employment in the tourism and hospitality industry.

Small businesses along the coast experienced physical damages. Damages were concentrated in the Misquamicut section of Westerly. In areas with significant inundation, such as Wickford Village (North Kingstown), private marinas experienced significant flood and tidal damage.

Local farms and fisheries were also directly impacted by the storm and faced disruptions in the regional food distribution network when they reopened. Connecticut roads were closed, the Hunts Point Terminal Market in New York was closed, and food distribution was disrupted throughout the region due to power outages and road closures.

For households, the supply chain disruptions were compounded by power outages. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in Rhode Island who lost perishable food due to power outages from Hurricane Sandy were issued additional benefits to replace these foods. Over $535,000 was issued to Rhode Islanders who lost power.

The severe erosion and inundation caused by Hurricane Sandy have spurred interest in green infrastructure. Rhode Island lacks training programs to develop a qualified workforce capable of designing, building, and maintaining green infrastructure projects.

In the Town of Westerly, over 30 businesses have requested some form of disaster assistance. In addition to structural damage, equipment loss, other physical damages, and erosion, shoreline changes are triggering onsite wastewater treatment requirements. The Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck Area Chamber of Commerce estimated a potential economic impact of $9.8 million in lost revenue if heavily impacted businesses do not reopen. The damages sustained by several other businesses will prevent them from operating at normal capacity. Businesses are relying more heavily on temporary structures. (Correspondence with Town of Westerly, 5/8/2013)

The Greater Westerly Chamber Foundation, Inc., a non-profit 501c (3) arm of the Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck Area Chamber of Commerce, has awarded over $426,000 to assist 20 small businesses with Sandy recovery through the Jump Start Small Business Recovery Grant Program. “The BRING BACK THE BEACH Jump Start Small Business Recovery Grant Program is designed to help off-set the un-insured losses incurred by businesses and non-profit organizations in the Misquamicut, RI community as a result of Hurricane Sandy” (http://westerlychamber.org/pages/BringBacktheBeach, January 31, 2014).
Directly impacted businesses, as categorized in the North American Industry Classification System, are primarily:

- Sector 72 – Accommodation and Food Services;
- Subsector 453 – Miscellaneous Store Retailers;
- Sector 71 – Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; and
- Subsector 448 – Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) received 30 business applications from Washington Counties. SBA approved eleven business loans totaling $45,000 (SBA Report 11460, May 21, 2013; HUD Aggregate Data Sept. 3, 2013).

Commerce RI (formerly R.I. Economic Development Corporation) set aside funds in the amount of $1,000,000 for small businesses in Rhode Island that were adversely affected by the storm. The program was designed to loan amounts between $10,000 and $25,000. Nineteen businesses (17 Washington County, 2 Newport County) requested applications. Nine applied for loans and three were approved (correspondence with EDC, August 2013).

3.6 Economic Development Unmet Needs

Given the preliminary damage assessment (Table 8), SBA and State loans, and Greater Westerly Chamber Foundation grants are not sufficient to restore small businesses damaged by Hurricane Sandy. OHCD is reviewing three economic recovery proposals received to date and anticipates funding economic recovery projects in amendments to this Action Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preliminary Damage Assessment - Businesses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Damage</td>
<td>$1,705,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Damage</td>
<td>$273,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Commercial Damages</td>
<td>$1,978,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Assistance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBA Loans</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce RI Loans</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Grants</td>
<td>$331,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Insurance</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assistance</td>
<td>$416,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Estimated Unmet Need before Insurance    | $1,562,000 |
| Estimated Unmet Need after Insurance     | Undetermined |

Actual unmet physical damage needs are undetermined, due to lack of data. Likely barriers to small business recovery include:

- Limited insurance benefits, due in part to locations in special flood hazard areas;
- Septic system reconstruction requirements (costs and siting);
- Shortage of a workforce trained in the design, construction, and maintenance of green infrastructure;
- Dependence on seasonal cash flow; and
- Dependence on coastal beaches and other tourist attractions damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

As additional data becomes available, OHCD will work to identify additional unmet needs that if met, will retain or create jobs for LMI persons.

Beaches must be restored in order to ensure the viability of the tourism, hospitality, and fishery industries. Public facilities, beaches, and parks in both counties must be restored to attract the visitors that support these local industries.
Since Version 3 was published in 2014, one new major unmet need has been identified. Two of the top four tide gauge spikes recorded in the Pawcatuck River during calendar years 2011, 2012, and 2013 can be attributed to Hurricanes Sandy and Irene. The Pawcatuck River divides downtown Westerly from neighboring Connecticut. The Town’s Engineering Division has determined that the stone-box culvert in downtown Westerly near the outflow to the Pawcatuck River was damaged, at least in part, as a result of the two Hurricanes. The damaged storm drain culvert led to the subsequent failure of a 12” municipal water main in November 2013, and then nearby culvert failures and roadway sinkholes in July 2014. While temporary repairs have been made, permanent repairs and/or reconstruction of the culvert remain necessary and an unmet need.

As a result, the State has allocated the third award of CDBG-DR funds, or $671,000, to the Public Facilities and Infrastructure Program Area.

OHCD and its sub-grantees continue to focus on implementing previously funded activities and predevelopment actions for proposed and phased activities.

4 PLANNING & COORDINATION

4.1 STATE EFFORTS

The State has initiated several planning efforts to promote sustainable long-term recovery, and understand vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise. Rhode Island is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan and incorporating data from Hurricane Sandy and other recent disasters. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, with support from FEMA, established a Community Recovery Task Force to guide recovery and preparedness efforts. OHCD staff is represented on the Community Recovery Task Force.

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD), responsible for administering the CDBG-DR program, is within the State’s Division of Planning. Consequently, CDBG-DR administration is coordinated with various ongoing planning efforts. Coordination is further ensured by a Review Committee (see Project Selection, below), consisting of representatives from multiple state agencies, tasked with reviewing, prioritizing, and selecting proposals. One review criterion is the ability to leverage other funds, such as FEMA PA, SBA loans, HMGP, and other sources of assistance. The Committee members are familiar with funding streams administered by their agencies and assist in early identification of 1) leveraging opportunities, and 2) potential duplication of benefits.
Climate change impacts, particularly sea level rise, are of concern in Rhode Island. “Sea level has already risen nearly 10 inches at the Newport, R.I. tide station since 1930” (CRMC, http://www.crmc.ri.gov/news/2013_0201_climate.html). The Dept. of Health is finalizing a study of the impacts of sea level rise on public drinking water systems and investigating the impacts of climate change on the elderly. The Dept. of Environmental Management is conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment of wastewater infrastructure. The Dept. of Transportation is initiating a study of the impacts of sea level rise on transportation infrastructure. The Coastal Resources Management Council is developing a Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (commonly known as the Beach SAMP) with input from stakeholders statewide. The Statewide Planning Program, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will be conducting an analysis of the economic impacts of sea level rise, using North Kingstown (Washington County) as the pilot location. The Division of Planning has developed a Risk Assessment Protocol (Appendix 9) that will be used to evaluate the predicted impacts of climate change on public facilities and infrastructure proposals for CDBG-DR funds.

In addition, the Statewide Planning Program is overseeing a Sustainable Communities grant that will guide Rhode Island’s future development.

The State has established a Disaster Housing Task Force, and is preparing a Disaster Housing Framework to guide interim and long-term housing recovery from future disasters. Hurricane Sandy’s localized direct impacts on housing in low poverty areas of Rhode Island does not significantly affect pre-disaster racial, or ethnic population concentrations. However, secondary impacts do pose a risk to low income populations in the impacted counties. Increased living expenses in coastal southern Rhode Island associated with rising property insurance costs may destabilize low income neighborhoods, pushing lower income households into more urbanized areas where poverty is currently concentrated. The Post-Disaster Housing Stabilization Program (Section 6.1) is designed to prevent outmigration of LMI households from these relatively low poverty, low minority areas. The percent of persons below the poverty level in Washington County is 7.5%, compared to 12.8% statewide (Table 1). The percent of white persons is 92.2%, 90.3%, and 86.3% in Westerly CDP, Wakefield-Peacedale CDP, and statewide, respectively (Table 3).

The Method of Distribution, Eligible Locations section specifies requirements for activities in floodplains and special flood hazard areas.

4.2 Municipal Efforts
Many Rhode Island municipalities have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place. All others are strongly encouraged to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan. R.I. Emergency Management Agency may provide up to 75% of the funds for hazard mitigation planning.

Rhode Island municipalities are also required to address climate change and natural hazard mitigation in updates to Comprehensive Plans. Cities and Towns are encouraged to develop a debris management plan. Sandy CDBG-DR funds will be available to communities to support unmet planning needs.
5 REBUILDING SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

5.1 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

All activities involving construction or rehabilitation will be required to meet building codes and standards adopted and enforced by the State of Rhode Island, as well as local ordinances that exceed state codes and standards, wherever possible.

All construction will be encouraged to be designed to achieve maximum energy efficiency to the extent that this can be accomplished on a cost-effective basis, considering construction and operating costs over the life of the structure.

In addition, whenever possible, health and safety hazards that exist in assisted units will be addressed when developing work scopes for buildings to be assisted. These include lead paint hazards, building code violations (including electrical hazards, fire hazards, and other life-safety issues), mold and moisture problems, and environmental health concerns.

In order to better ensure a sustainable long-term recovery, sub-recipients must elevate (or may, for certain non-residential structures, flood-proof) new construction and substantially improved structures to 1) one foot higher than the latest Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued base flood elevation, including any applicable FEMA advisory base flood elevations, or 2) the elevation required by R.I. state building code, whichever method is higher. In addition, new or rebuilt structures immediately along the coastline will be relocated landward, where possible, in accordance with R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council requirements.

Refer to the section on Eligible Locations for restrictions on activities in special flood hazard areas and the Coastal Barrier Resource System.

These requirements will be enforced through the following steps:

1. requirements shall be outlined in grant agreements with sub-recipients;
2. sub-recipients shall be obligated to include requirements in design, construction, and remediation subcontracts;
3. sub-recipients shall monitor compliance with conjunction with local building officials; and
4. OHCD shall monitor sub-recipients and projects.
5.1.1 ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS
For residential buildings (including single family and multifamily), all new construction and replacement of substantially damaged buildings must meet one of the following industry-recognized Green Building Standards: (i) ENERGY STAR (Certified Homes or Multifamily High Rise); (ii) Enterprise Green Communities; (iii) LEED (NC, Homes, Midrise, Existing Buildings O&M, or Neighborhood Development); (iv) ICC-700 National Green Building Standard; (v) EPA Indoor AirPlus (ENERGY STAR a prerequisite); or (vi) any other equivalent comprehensive green building program.


5.1.2 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS
The State considers two primary resiliency goals when determining CDBG-DR investments in public facilities and infrastructure projects.

**Goal One**: 100% of CDBG-DR investments in public facilities and infrastructure will enhance the resiliency of Rhode Island communities.

**Goal Two**: 100% of CDBG-DR investments in public facilities and infrastructure will reduce the exposure and/or vulnerability to natural hazards of the public assets receiving investment.

The Outcome Indicators in Appendix 10: Resilience Performance Standards have been developed to enhance sustainability and resiliency for the purposes of improving, maintaining, or creating suitable living environments. Each project shall meet at least one indicator under each goal.

Public facilities and infrastructure projects are subject to the Risk Assessment Protocol (Appendix 9). Climate change impacts covered in the risk assessment are sea level rise, and coastal, riverine, and flash flooding. The State will give funding preference to projects that limit exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. Prospective applicants for these funds should review the Risk Assessment Protocol when planning, proposing, designing, implementing, and maintaining public facility or infrastructure projects. Applicants are encouraged to consider design, site, or programming alternatives that reduce a project’s risk.

CDBG-DR supported public facilities and infrastructure projects must be implemented in a timely fashion, pursuant to the contract terms. Maintenance costs and maintenance funding sources must be identified in application materials. CDBG-DR funds are not an
eligible source of maintenance funding. Recipients will be contractually obligated to complete routine maintenance, as well as additional maintenance associated with, or resulting from, natural hazards. Replacement, reconstruction, and substantial rehabilitation are not considered maintenance activities.

5.1.3 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
Green infrastructure projects and components are encouraged to protect, retain and enhance ecosystems for the purposes of expanding storm protection and ecosystem benefits. Green infrastructure is “the integration of natural systems and processes, or engineered systems that mimic natural systems and processes, into investments in resilient infrastructure. Green infrastructure takes advantage of the services and natural defenses provided by land and water systems, such as wetlands, natural areas, vegetation, sand dunes, and forests, while contributing to the health and quality of life in those in recovering communities” (Federal Register Vol. 78, No. 222, 69107, 11/18/2013).

Projects that incorporate green infrastructure will be ranked more highly in the risk assessment protocol. Any project may receive up to nine bonus points for including green infrastructure components, and consideration of design and location alternatives. Furthermore, projects with a primary risk reduction objective of providing ecosystem benefits will receive more base points than projects with primary risk reduction objectives of armoring or provision of critical services (150, 100, and 50 base points, respectively).

5.2 PROVISION OF DISASTER RESISTANT HOUSING FOR ALL INCOME GROUPS
The State of Rhode Island, OHCD, has allocated CDBG-DR funds to public housing authorities and transitional housing impacted by Hurricane Sandy. As long as funds are available, the State will support all viable recovery proposals for public housing, HUD-assisted housing, McKinney-Vento funded shelters, housing for the homeless, and other affordable housing units meeting the LMI Housing National Objective and applicable State affordability restrictions.

OHCD and the Housing Resources Commission (HRC) encourage the provision of housing for all income groups that is disaster-resistant through the programs and activities identified in the State of Rhode Island Consolidated Plan 2010-2015, including the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Housing and individual needs continue to be met through the numerous Continuums of Care provided by local Community Action Programs and non-profit organizations. The FEMA Individual Assistance Program and volunteer activities conducted by Rhode Island
Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (RI VOAD) and other service organizations addressed the majority of immediate housing needs following Hurricane Sandy.

5.3 **ANTI-DISPLACEMENT & RELOCATION**

No person is anticipated to be displaced as a result of this plan. Furthermore, this plan includes an allocation for a Housing Stabilization Program (Section 6.1) to minimize displacement of LMI households from the disaster impacted areas as a result of direct or indirect Hurricane Sandy impacts.

OHCD will direct recipients implementing activities identified in this Action Plan to provide the assistance and protections afforded to any persons or entities under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), as amended and section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCD), as amended.

5.4 **PROGRAM INCOME**

Rhode Island CDBG-DR funded activities are not anticipated to generate program income.

The CDBG Program Management Handbook, Section E outlines the State’s policies and procures regarding program income for the annual CDBG program.

5.5 **MONITORING STANDARDS & PROCEDURES**

The following is excerpted from the Recipient Review/Monitoring section of the State of Rhode Island Consolidated Plan 2010-2015.

The State has developed a CDBG Management Handbook that instructs communities on the various regulations of the program and requires program recipients to submit written progress reports, the primary of which are the Semi-Annual Progress and Close-Out Reports.

The Progress report includes data relative to the extent to which persons or households have benefitted from CDBG activities as well as status narratives. The program Close-Out report requires recipients to provide all accomplishment information at the completion of funded activities.

Tracking and review of these reports constitutes a major portion of the off-site recipient review. This system permits state staff to remain current relative to recipient progress and to identify problem areas that require special attention.
The State Community Development staff makes every effort to visit each recipient several times during the grant period. The staff reviews all reports and requests for technical assistance, and gives weight to each of the following criteria (risk-based approach) when scheduling on-site monitoring in an effort to ensure that visits take place at the most optimum time.

CRITERIA:

1. Towns with serious problems
2. Close-Out requests reviewed
3. New Recipients
4. Stalled programs
5. Complexity of the projects
6. Projects with no prior review
7. Town with audit findings
8. Requests for assistance
9. Standing of grants, percentages of funds drawn
10. Community’s past performance

On-site monitoring visits are documented in a monitoring report. This report is submitted with a cover letter summarizing any finding and indicating actions necessary to resolve them.

To prevent duplication of benefits in the CDBG-DR program, OHCD does the following:

- Includes duplication of benefits information in program applications;
- Requires applicants and/or beneficiaries to complete a Duplication of Benefit Affidavit;
- Requires applicants and/or beneficiaries to identify other sources of funds in the application for funds;
- Reviews application information for cost reasonableness;
- Consults with other funding sources for third party verification;
- Completes a duplication of benefits analysis, including a spreadsheet for all projects, except planning-only and administration activities;
- Requires sub-recipients and/or beneficiaries to complete a Subrogation Agreement as part of their contract documents; and
- Monitors sub-recipients' financial records.

At program closeout, sub-recipients and/or beneficiaries are required to recertify the Duplication of Benefit Affidavit.

The following sources are generally considered acceptable backup documentation for duplication of benefits analyses:

1. Project budgets and/or cost estimates (including budgets and estimates in application materials and contract amendment requests)
2. Insurance proof of loss statements
3. Award and/or denial letters from SBA, FEMA, RIEMA and/or other sources
4. FEMA Project Status Reports
5. SBA loan documents
6. FEMA Project Worksheets (*Subgrant Application – Entire Application*)
7. Signed and notarized Duplication of Benefit Affidavits
8. Contracts, invoices, and/or receipts, with evidence of payment
9. Requests for payment showing actual project costs and actual amounts drawn

For projects with multiple funding sources, duplication of benefits analyses are updated prior to closeout to ensure no duplication has occurred. Generally, these updates are conducted before dispersal of the final payment.

Duplication of benefits review documentation shall be maintained in OHCD’s program files. The CDBG-DR Program Manager is responsible for duplication of benefits reviews.

### 5.6 Internal Audit Function

The Bureau of Audits performs the auditing function for the Executive Branch of State Government. See Appendix 5 for an organizational chart of the State’s Department of Administration. The Bureau’s responsibilities include:

I. Forensic audits
II. Investigative reviews of suspected employee malfeasance
III. State vendor and contractor audits
IV. Accounting assistance
V. Fraud awareness and ethics training to state employees
VI. Audit resolution workgroup – to implement corrective action plans to Office of Auditor General single audit findings
VII. Auditing special purpose funds

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) was established in 1974 to independently evaluate state government programs and financial operations for the General Assembly. Unlike the Bureau of Audits, OAG is independent of the executive branch of state government. The duties and responsibilities of the Auditor General are outlined at Chapter 22-13 of the General Laws. OAG conducts audits in accordance with the following professional standards:

- Generally accepted auditing standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants;
- Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and
• The federal Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, and implementing regulations - OMB Circular A-133.

Audit reports and additional information on State auditing procedures are available at http://www.oag.state.ri.us/index.html. Rhode Island General Law (R.I.G.L.), Chapter 35-7, Post Audit of Accounts, is available at http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE35/35-7/INDEX.HTM.

Audit concerns and findings are first submitted to agencies for response. Responses are reviewed by higher level state offices and documented by the OAG.

5.7 PROCEDURES TO DETECT & PREVENT FRAUD, WASTE, & ABUSE OF FUNDS

Monitoring activities will attempt to identify instances of fraud, waste, and abuse of funds. The Bureau of Audits maintains a fraud hotline and makes Fraud Incident Forms available online at http://www.audits.ri.gov/Fraud.htm. Complaints may be submitted electronically to the Bureau of Audits at fraudline@doa.ri.gov or CDBG@doa.ri.gov. To the maximum extent feasible, OHCD will request that all complaints be submitted in writing. However, allegations of fraud can be reported to the Bureau Fraud Line at 401-574-8175. All complaints will be investigated, and a formal response from sub-recipients may be requested. OHCD will consult/advise its HUD field office and/or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), as appropriate.

Alternatively, allegations may be submitted to HUD Region 1 and/or the Office of the Inspector General directly.

A link to the Bureau's fraud reporting page will be available on OHCD's website, and HUD posters about reporting fraud, waste, and abuse may be placed at major project sites and sub-recipient offices.

Both the State and sub-recipients shall comply with CDBG Conflict of Interest provisions outlined at 24 CFR Part 570.489(h) "Conflict of Interest" and 24 CFR Part 85.36(b)(3) "Code of Conduct." Public officials are also subject to the State’s Code of Ethics, enforced by the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

5.8 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION/ADMINISTRATION CAPACITY

The Office of Housing and Community Development will provide technical and management assistance to grant recipients. Assistance will be provided in the form of grantee workshops and training sessions, electronic and print materials, guidance via email and telephone, and on-site visits and instruction when necessary.
OHCD added a CDBG Disaster Recovery Program Manager after receiving a CDBG-DR allocation for the March 2010 Flood Disaster. The Disaster Recovery Program Manager, using CDBG-DR administrative funds, focuses on providing technical and management assistance to grantees, as well as performing the administrative, procurement, monitoring and reporting functions associated with the grant. The Program Manager will coordinate with existing OHCD programmatic and fiscal management staff to provide necessary assistance.

Following the announcement of the second Sandy award, OHCD created a second staff position dedicated to Disaster Recovery. The CDBG-DR Technical Assistance and Compliance Specialist was hired in June 2014.

6 ALLOCATION OF CDBG-DR RESOURCES

The CDBG Disaster Recovery Program is designed to supplement other forms of assistance, including, but not limited to private insurance, FEMA programs, and SBA loans. Hurricane Sandy impacts exceeded other disaster assistance available to Rhode Islanders.

The State of Rhode Island has received three allocations of Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Funds, totaling $19,911,000. Of this amount, $995,550 (5%) will be set aside for administrative purposes. The balance, $18,915,450, will be awarded to units of local government, non-profit organizations serving low and moderate income (LMI) persons, or agencies of state government, for eligible activities.

In order to ensure that program requirements, as listed in FR-5696-N-01, -06, and -11, are met, at least 50% of CDBG-DR funds (excluding funds designated for administration and planning) will be awarded to activities that primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. The remaining funds will be awarded to proposals that meet any of the three National Objectives.

Based on the needs assessment and feedback from impacted communities, the State has identified several program areas to be funded using Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds (Table 9). The programs and activities were identified through the needs assessment process and outreach to impacted municipalities, public housing authorities, community development corporations, state agencies and other interested parties. The selected programs and activities will address unmet needs and are the foundation of the State’s long-term recovery.
Table 9. CDBG-DR Allocations and Obligations by Program Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
<th>V2c Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>V3 Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>V4 Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>Cumulative Obligation</th>
<th>Cum. Obl./Total Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Stabilization Program</td>
<td>$5,750,000</td>
<td>$4,593</td>
<td>$460,866</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$465,459</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Public Services</td>
<td>$676</td>
<td>$676</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$676</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Facilities &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>$9,178,800</td>
<td>$581,020</td>
<td>$1,705,464</td>
<td>$5,292,959</td>
<td>$7,579,442</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Services</td>
<td>$24,458</td>
<td>$24,458</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$24,458</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Recovery</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Training Services</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery Planning</td>
<td>$2,986,650</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$326,265</td>
<td>$1,111,970</td>
<td>$1,438,235</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$995,550</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$590,000</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$19,911,000</td>
<td>$625,612</td>
<td>$2,692,595</td>
<td>$7,254,929</td>
<td>$10,573,136</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Total Allocation: 100% 3% 14% 36% 53%

Note: Public Service activities are capped at 15% of the Total Grant. The cumulative obligation of Public Service activities is $525,134, or 18% of the cap.

Built and natural public resources, housing, and employment are interdependent, especially along Rhode Island’s south coast, where residents value the quality of life resulting from proximity to natural resources and businesses rely on tourism. Consequently, the program areas outlined below are interdependent, and successful long-term recovery depends on the implementation of this range of activities.

OHCD’s experience with the 2010 Flood CDBG-DR grant demonstrated that recovery needs evolve over time. Therefore, the allocations to each program area are likely to change in subsequent versions of this Action Plan.

The balance of the State’s CDBG-DR allocation will be obligated in amendments to this Action Plan. Refer to Appendix 4 for activity details.

6.1 POST-DISASTER HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Households face a mix of direct and indirect impacts, from physical damages to rising insurance costs. The combination of impacts can cause localized out-migration of households, especially LMI households that were housing cost burdened prior to the disaster. This program is designed to comprehensively address those impacts through a mix of activities. Those activities include services to households facing high flood risk and rising insurance costs, rehabilitation and elevation of damaged homes, elevation of at risk
homes, and new construction of housing to prevent displacement of LMI households from Washington County.

CDBG-DR funds may be used for assisting LMI households with rehabilitation, reconstruction, mitigation, clearance and demolition activities to address unmet housing needs resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Eligible Housing Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Rehabilitation/reconstruction of existing LMI housing, damaged during Hurricane Sandy;
- Elevation of existing LMI housing in special flood hazard areas;
- Clearance and removal of debris on LMI properties, and adjacent properties;
- Demolition of structures on LMI properties;
- LMI Homeowner Assistance;
- New construction of affordable housing to prevent out-migration of LMI households; and
- Housing services to assist households in determining appropriate mitigation measures and budgeting for flood insurance premium increases.

Housing activities are critical to long term recovery. Without a comprehensive approach to reducing risk for low and moderate income households, rising housing costs are expected to cause a gradual displacement of lower income households away from coastal communities in Rhode Island. This shift will result in increased income segregation and inequality, as coastal communities in southern Rhode Island have generally higher median incomes than more urbanized communities in the Providence Metro Area.

**New Construction/Reconstruction Standard:** When applicable, reconstruction and new construction shall meet the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code, as adopted and promulgated by the State of Rhode Island, and the green building standards of the ENERGY STAR program.

**Rehabilitation Standard:** When applicable, activities shall adhere to the following housing rehabilitation standards:

- 2013 State of Rhode Island Building Code
- HUD CPD Green Building Retrofit Checklist

**Eligibility:** Second homes, as defined in IRS Publication 936 (mortgage interest deductions), are not eligible for CDBG-DR assistance. All housing assisted under this section must serve as a primary residence.
6.1.1 HOUSING RECOVERY SERVICES

CDBG funds may be used for new or expanded services designed to promote recovery and assist persons in areas affected by the disaster, as detailed below. Service activity expenditures are capped at 15% of the State’s total CDBG-DR grant.

Significant service needs have been identified for predominately low/moderate income areas that coincide with 100-year floodplains or Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Housing Recovery Service activities are described in sub-sections 6.1.1.1 and 6.1.1.2. [HCDA § 105(a) (8) and 24 CFR 570.201(e)]

6.1.1.1 FLOOD RISK IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Flood Risk Identification Program will offer elevation certificates to all residents in predominantly LMI, flood prone areas to assist residents in determining appropriate mitigation measures and budgeting for flood insurance premium increases. Generating elevation certificates for residential structures in eligible areas is estimated to cost approx. $600 per structure, or a total of $487,200.

Filling and developing floodplains shifts floodwaters to other properties within the floodplain, or causes the boundaries of the floodplain to extend. As stated in HUD’s floodplain public notice template, “…as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.” Education about flood risk and steps that mitigate flood risk benefit entire communities, not just the individuals and structures involved. Therefore, this program will benefit entire neighborhoods in flood prone areas.

Elevation certificates establish the baseline elevation of a structure and are the first step in determining a structure’s risk, actuarial insurance rating, and potential mitigation costs. Actuarially adjusted flood insurance premiums and identification of appropriate flood-proofing measures are based on elevation certificates. Residents of LMI census areas do not have the resources to obtain elevation certificates. Without elevation certificates, LMI households face uncertain increases in the costs of flood insurance premiums (or rents) and unknown mitigation costs. Consequently, they are unable to make informed housing decisions.

Note: Participation is voluntary.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants: Residential property owners
- Structures located in 100-year floodplains/Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and located in predominately LMI census geographies.
Selection Criteria: Eligible service areas were determined by a comparison of HUD’s FY13 Summary Data Table for Rhode Island, FEMA Floodplain maps, and E-911 data.

Priority 1: Washington County
Priority 2: Newport County

Application: Applicants may apply through the local Community Development Corporation.

National Objective: LMI Clientele – A minimum of 51% of persons served at/below 80% of Area Median Income (or 100% presumed) [24 CFR 570.483(b)(2)]

6.1.1.2 Financial Counseling Program
This program will provide financial and counseling services to households facing increasing housing costs due to rising insurance rates as a result of Hurricane Sandy and other extreme storm events.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants: LMI households
- Structures located in 100-year floodplains/Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA)

Selection Criteria: First received, first evaluated.

Application: Applicants may apply through the administering non-profit agency (to be determined).

National Objective: LMI Clientele – A minimum of 51% of persons served at/below 80% of Area Median Income (or 100% presumed) [24 CFR 570.483(b)(2)]

6.1.2 Rehabilitation/Elevation Program
Many residential properties incurred damages from wind and storm surge. Other residential properties in the Sandy impacted counties did not sustain physical damages, but are at risk of abandonment and deterioration due to increasing storm risk and resulting rising insurance and mitigation costs. CDBG-DR funds may be used for rehabilitation, and elevation of housing to promote long-term recovery.

This program will assist LMI households that incurred damages from wind and storm surge, and LMI households in flood prone areas eligible for elevation. Eligible property owners are encouraged to apply through the regular CDBG rehabilitation programs run by local Community Development Corporations (CDCs) or municipalities for assistance with unmet repair/rehabilitation needs. A Hurricane Sandy Supplement Form is required in
addition to the normal program application. Assistance will be structured as a forgivable grant, reduced incrementally over the affordability compliance period. [HCDA § 105(a)(4) and 24 CFR 570.202(a)]

Note: Funds were previously obligated to all public housing authorities (PHAs) and subsidized housing units that have requested CDBG-DR assistance for damages resulting from Hurricane Sandy (see Appendix 4 for activity descriptions). PHAs and owners/operators of subsidized housing with remaining unmet needs as a result of Hurricanes Sandy, Irene, or Winter Storm Nemo are encouraged to contact OHCD directly for more information, at their earliest convenience. Subsidized housing includes HUD-assisted multifamily housing, low income housing tax credit financed developments, and other subsidized and tax credit assisted affordable housing.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Structure must be located in Newport or Washington County;
- Structure was damaged by Hurricane Sandy or structure is located in 100-year floodplains/Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and is covered by the National Flood Insurance Program;
- Household(s) must qualify as low and/or moderate income households (Repairs/improvements to multifamily properties will be prorated by the % of units occupied by low/moderate income households. Minimum 20%);
- Rehabilitation/elevation costs were not fully covered by insurance or other sources of funds; and
- Participation in the Flood Risk Identification Program, if applicable.

Selection Criteria:

Demonstrate that the structure will be brought up to code, if applicable. Assistance will be prioritized by type and location of rental units, as listed below. Eighty percent of funds used to rehabilitate and/or elevate non-subsidized units will be reserved for Washington County.

Priority 1: Subsidized housing units (public housing, federally-owned housing, HUD assisted housing) directly impacted by Hurricane Sandy (Original priority, with funding obligations beginning under Action Plan V2).

Priority 2: Non-subsidized housing units directly impacted by Hurricane Sandy (Priority 2 added in March 2014).

Priority 3: Other housing units, on a first come, first served basis (Priority 3 added in March 2014).
If subsidized housing units (Priority 1) request funds for eligible activities after the current incremental obligation for this program has been designated to units in Priorities 2 and 3, OHCD will allocate additional fund in the next substantial amendment to this Action Plan.

**Application:** Applicants may apply through the local Community Development Corporation.

**National Objective:** LMI Housing – 100% of units occupied by households at/below 80% of Area Median Income, at affordable rents, if rental housing (mixed-income multifamily housing may be pro-rated) [24 CFR 570.483(b)(3)]

### 6.1.3 Alternative Affordable Housing Choice

This program will support development of new affordable units in the most impacted and distressed county, Washington County. The secondary impacts of Hurricane Sandy, including rising insurance costs, put LMI households in coastal areas at high risk of displacement. Among the most vulnerable to displacement are low income elderly on fixed incomes. In the Town of Charlestown alone, 25 households in the coastal zone south of Route 1 are enrolled in the senior citizen, low income property tax abatement program. Based on readily available data, it has been confirmed that at least four of these households are in 100-year floodplains/Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Other low income elderly households not enrolled in the tax abatement program may also live in flood zones. In nearby Narragansett, an estimated 33 low income elderly households live in 100-year floodplains/SFHA. The availability of affordable rental housing for low income elderly persons and households is scarce, especially outside of urban areas. For example, the Towns of Charlestown and Narragansett have 3,494 and 7,156 housing units, respectively. Only 70 (2%) units in Charlestown and 261 (3.6%) in Narragansett are classified as long term affordable units. None of the long term affordable units in Charlestown are reserved for the elderly (HousingWorks RI 2013 Housing Fact Book, 2013). Elderly residents facing rising housing costs as a result of the disasters do not currently have local affordable housing options. This program is designed to provide affordable housing choice in Washington County, but outside of flood zones.

Provision of new affordable rental units is a crucial component of Washington County's long-term recovery. It will assist in preventing out-migration of low income households from the area into urban areas with existing concentrations of low income households. The target population is currently living in permanent housing units in Washington County flood prone areas (100 year floodplains and Special Flood Hazard Areas) and facing an estimated 15% annual increase in flood insurance costs. All units will be marketed and leased in compliance with fair housing laws. [HCDA § 105(a)(15); and Federal Register, Volume 78, Number 43, Docket No. FR-5696-N-01]
Eligibility Criteria:

- Site Located in Washington County;
- Development leverages other (public and/or private) funds; and
- For profit and/or non-profit developer with demonstrated housing development experience.

Selection Criteria: First received, first evaluated among 2013 Building Homes Rhode Island applications with demonstrated capacity to complete within two years, as exhibited by site control, zoning and permitting approvals, and construction schedule.

Application: Applicants may apply through the municipality where the project site is located, unless otherwise stated in a request for proposals issued by OHCD.

National Objective: LMI Housing – 100% of units occupied by households at/below 80% of Area Median Income, at affordable rents, if rental housing (mixed-income multifamily housing may be pro-rated) [24 CFR 570.483(b)(3)]

6.2 Public Facilities and Infrastructure

CDBG funds may be used for projects that will repair, rehabilitate, or modify public facilities and infrastructure impacted during the disaster. Examples include repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of public buildings (eligible public buildings include structures for both citizen use and local government administration), water and sewer systems, streets, and storm drainage, and payment of non-federal share for emergency repairs. None of the infrastructure projects in this incremental obligation, or prior obligations qualify as major infrastructure projects or related infrastructure projects, as defined in FR-5696-N-06 (Vol. 78, No. 222, 69107-8). No activities in this Action Plan have total project costs approaching $50 million. CDBG-DR obligations, and counties benefiting from each activity are identified in the Activity Detail Sheets, Appendix 4.

Public facilities and infrastructure activities are critical to long term recovery. Without repairs and improvements to public buildings, waterfront access areas, and infrastructure, residents will be less likely to stay and reinvest in the communities and local businesses that rely on tourism and high-quality infrastructure may relocate or close. Municipalities in Washington and Newport Counties were financially burdened by the costs of providing extra police, fire, rescue, and emergency protective services; debris removal; and repairs during and after the disasters. The communities endured declared disasters each year from 2010 through 2013. Municipalities have the capacity and budgets to handle routine weather variations without assistance, but annual disasters of the scope experienced recently exceed municipal budgets and capacity.
6.2.1 FEMA Public Assistance Match Program

This program will provide support to eligible municipal governments and public housing authorities (PHAs) that lack resources to provide some, or all, of the required match for FEMA PA projects. The impacts of Sandy, followed shortly by Winter Storm Nemo, left municipalities financially burdened. CDBG-DR funds will be used to provide up to 100% of the FEMA match requirement for eligible FEMA PA activities. [HCDA § 105(a)(9) and 24 CFR 570.201(g)]

Eligibility Criteria:

- UGLGs in Washington and Newport County or PHAs statewide;
- FEMA PA funded projects for eligible disasters that comply with CDBG-DR program requirements.

Selection Criteria:

- Evidence that the project has been determined to be eligible and funded under the FEMA PA program;
- Evidence that the project is a CDBG-DR eligible activity;
- Evidence that the project complies with all relevant cross-cutting requirements, including but not limited to environmental review, labor standards; and
- First received, first evaluated.

Application: Applicants (UGLGs) may submit project materials directly to OHCD.

National Objective: Urgent Need – Respond to disaster-related impact [24 CFR 570.483(d), and applicable Waivers]

LMI Housing (PHAs) – 100% of units occupied by households at/below 80% of Area Median Income, at affordable rents, if rental housing (mixed-income multifamily housing may be pro-rated) [24 CFR 570.483(b)(3)]

6.2.2 Public Facilities & Infrastructure Improvements

This program will provide up to 100% of funds for selected recovery projects. Public facilities experienced damages and extended periods without power. In some cases, damages and power outages resulted in the interruption of critical services. Public infrastructure throughout the impacted region sustained damages, was inundated, and lost power, resulting in impassable roads, combined sewer overflows into Narragansett Bay and its watershed. Since State agencies are eligible applicants, activities within this category may be directly implemented by the State. In Appendix 4, any such activities will list the designated Responsible Entity as the State of Rhode Island, followed by the name of the lead agency or office. [HCDA § 105(a)(2) and 24 CFR 570.201(c)]
Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must be UGLGs or State Agencies (Sub-recipients may include publicly-owned utilities, non-profit organizations)
- Regulatory compliance
- Feasibility
- Timeliness of project implementation
- Unmet need
- Compliance with the State’s Land Use 2025 Plan

Selection Criteria: First received, first evaluated with demonstrated capacity to complete within two years, as exhibited by permitting approvals, and the design, procurement, and construction schedule.

Priority 1: Fulfills LMI National Objective

Priority 2: Addresses direct impacts of Hurricane Sandy

Priority 3: Disaster recovery need in the area (neighborhood, municipality, and county) the project will affect. CDBG-DR needs assessment will be based on the most current data at the time of review of projects.

Priority 4: Mitigates risk from future events and climate change impacts

Other considerations: Extent of public benefit; Inclusion of green infrastructure components; Geographic distribution; Applicant capacity; Ability to leverage other funding sources; Compliance with an approved hazard mitigation plan; Addresses indirect impacts of Hurricane Sandy; Addresses impacts from Hurricane Irene and Winter Storm Nemo;

Note: Otherwise eligible projects requiring increased levels of review by permitting agencies may be required to obtain necessary permits and/or meet other benchmarks before OHCD will request HUD’s approval to obligate funds.

Application: Applicants may submit project materials directly to OHCD.

National Objective: LMI Clientele – A minimum of 51% of persons served at/below 80% of Area Median Income (or 100% presumed) [24 CFR 570.483(b)(2)]
LMI Area Benefit – A minimum of 51% of residents at/below 80% of Area Median Income in primarily residential areas [24 CFR 570.483(b)(1)]
Urgent Need – Respond to disaster-related impact [24 CFR 570.483(d), and applicable Waivers]
6.3 Economic Recovery

CDGB-DR funds may be used for rehabilitation of small businesses, as defined by IRS Publication 936 that suffered physical damage to property or equipment due to the disaster. All small business assistance shall predominately benefit LMI persons, under the LMI Jobs National Objective. Funds may also be used for job training programs that address unmet recovery needs.

Mitigation activities are only allowed if they are necessary to the future operation of the business due to ongoing severe storm or flood danger, and can be qualified under the LMI Jobs National Objective. [HCDA § 105(a)(17) or (8) & (15); 24 CFR 570.203; 24 CFR 570.201(e)]

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must be municipal governments, on behalf of eligible small businesses or business associations

- Activities:
  - Rehabilitation/reconstruction of existing businesses damaged during Hurricane Sandy;
  - Replacement of fixed equipment damaged during Hurricane Sandy;
  - Clearance and removal of debris resulting from Hurricane Sandy;
  - Business relocation costs, pursuant to the Uniform Relocation Act; and
  - Job training programs that address unmet recovery needs.

- Successful underwriting analysis

Selection Criteria: First received, first evaluated.

Application: Applicants may apply through the municipality where the impacted business is located.

National Objective: LMI Jobs – A minimum of 51% of jobs held by persons at/below 80% of Area Median Income [24 CFR 570.483(b)(4)]

LMI Clientele (job training programs only) – A minimum of 51% of persons served at/below 80% of Area Median Income [24 CFR 570.483(b)(2)]

6.4 Recovery Planning

CDBG-DR funds may be used for the development of disaster recovery or hazard mitigation policies, plans, and capacity building. Planning-only activity expenditures are capped at 15% of the State’s total CDBG-DR grant.
Disaster recovery planning includes mapping, comprehensive plan updates related to natural hazards, zoning/building code ordinance revisions, floodplain/coastal hazard plans, debris management plans, vulnerability assessments, recovery ordinances, coastal hazard studies directly related to impacts of the disaster, infrastructure and engineering studies necessary for disaster recovery and mitigation, and updating building requirements. All planning activities must relate to the Hurricane Sandy disaster and should address the impacts of other recent extreme storm events, as appropriate. Since State agencies are eligible applicants, activities within this category may be directly implemented by the State. In Appendix 4, any such activities will list the designated Responsible Entity as the State of Rhode Island, followed by the name of the lead agency or office. [HCDA § 105(a)(12) and 24 CFR 570.205]

Planning activities contribute to long term recovery. The planning activities under consideration for funding provide sub-recipients the means to document, map, and/or analyze the impacts of Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, and Winter Storm Nemo. The resulting data and reports will support recovery efforts and improve community resiliency. In some cases, the results may directly influence the implementation of CDBG-DR activities funded through amendments to this Action Plan.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Applicants must be UGLGs or State Agencies (Sub-recipients may include, but are not limited to, publicly-owned utilities, non-profit organizations)
- Timeliness of project implementation
- Coordination/consistency with other State Planning efforts.
- Consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, as appropriate.

**Selection Criteria:** First received, first evaluated.

**Application:** Applicants may submit project materials directly to OHCD.

**National Objective:** Presumed [Federal Register, Volume 78, Number 43, Docket No. FR-5696-N-01 and Number 222, Docket No. FR-5696-N-06]

### 6.5 Administration

Grant administration will include direct personnel expenses (salary and fringe benefits), direct and indirect expenses, equipment, consultants, and other operating expenses involved in selection, funding, assisting, and monitoring sub-grantee projects, detailed quarterly reporting to HUD, and documentation of adherence to all laws and regulations. Administrative funds may be awarded to eligible sub-recipients for organizational capacity building specifically to enhance disaster response and recovery efforts, when no other
funds are available. Administration expenditures are capped at 5% of the State’s total CDBG-DR grant. [HCDA § 105(a)(12) and 24 CFR 570.206]

7 METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

7.1 ELIGIBLE COUNTIES AND APPLICANTS

HUD allocated CDBG Disaster Recovery funds based on the best available Hurricane Sandy impact and unmet needs data. Washington County is designated a “most impacted and distressed county.” A minimum of 80% of the grant funds must be expended in Washington County. The balance (20%) of the first award may be spent in Newport County. The balance of the second and third awards may be spent statewide, as shown in Table 10. HUD’s allocation methodology is described in Appendix A of the Federal Register, Volume 78, Number 43, Docket No. FR-5696-N-01 and Number 222, Docket No. FR-5696-N-06, and Volume 79, Number 200, Docket No. FR-5696-N-11.

Table 10. Sandy CDBG-DR funds available by county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Grant</th>
<th>Admin</th>
<th>Washington County</th>
<th>Newport County</th>
<th>Statewide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Caps - Sandy 3*</td>
<td>$ 671,000</td>
<td>$ 33,550</td>
<td>$ 509,960</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 127,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Caps - Sandy 2*</td>
<td>$ 16,000,000</td>
<td>$ 800,000</td>
<td>$ 12,160,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 3,040,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Caps - Sandy 1</td>
<td>$ 3,240,000</td>
<td>$ 162,000</td>
<td>$ 2,462,400</td>
<td>$ 615,600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 19,911,000</td>
<td>$ 995,550</td>
<td>$ 15,132,360</td>
<td>$ 615,600</td>
<td>$ 3,167,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Obligation</td>
<td>$ 10,573,136</td>
<td>$ 590,000</td>
<td>$ 8,497,877</td>
<td>$ 537,289</td>
<td>$ 947,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Total Allocation</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: *Hurricane Irene and the February 8/9, 2013 winter storm (Nemo) are eligible disasters statewide.

All units of general local government are eligible to apply for Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds.

As provided in Docket No. FR-5696-N-01, requirements at 42 U.S.C. 5306 are waived to the extent necessary to allow a state to use its disaster recovery grant allocation directly to carry out state-administered activities. OHCD reserves the right to distribute CDBG-DR funds to a State Agency, or to a direct sub-recipient of the state. Non-profit organizations
serving LMI persons are eligible direct sub-recipients. Refer to Appendix 4 for information on the Responsible Organization(s) for each activity.

Agencies of state government, and non-profit organizations serving LMI persons are eligible to apply for Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds.

Every activity must meet one of the CDBG national objectives: Benefiting Low and Moderate Income Persons; Preventing or Eliminating Slums or Blight; and Meeting Urgent Needs.

7.2 ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

Generally only projects and activities located outside of Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) Units will be eligible for CDBG-DR funds. Locations of CBRS Units are available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, at http://www.fws.gov/CBRA/Maps/Mapper.html.

Furthermore, no activity in an area delineated as a special flood hazard area or equivalent in FEMA’s most recent and current data source will be eligible, unless the activity is designed or modified to minimize harm to or within the floodplain. At a minimum, actions to minimize harm must include elevating or flood-proofing new construction and substantial improvements to one foot above the base flood elevation and otherwise acting in accordance with U.S. Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR part 55.

7.3 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES


Every activity (except planning-only activities) must meet one of the three CDBG national objectives:

- Benefiting Low- and Moderate-Income Persons;
- Preventing or Eliminating Slums or Blight; or
- Meeting Urgent Needs.

Eligible activities were determined primarily by applicable federal laws and regulations, the needs assessment, and proposals submitted by municipalities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies.
7.4 **Basis for Distribution**

7.4.1 **By National Objective**

A minimum of 50% of the State’s total allocation must be expended on activities primarily benefiting low and moderate income persons. OHCD strives to allocate Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds in approximately equal proportions by projected national objective, with approximately 50% designated for LMI projects and 50% to other National Objectives (Table 11). A minimum of 50% will ultimately be designated for LMI projects.

**Table 11. Cumulative Obligation by Program Area and National Objective.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>Cumulative Obligation</th>
<th>LMI National Objective</th>
<th>Other National Objective</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Stabilization Program</td>
<td>$465,459</td>
<td>$465,459</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Facilities &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>$7,579,442</td>
<td>$2,068,300</td>
<td>$5,511,142</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Recovery</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery Planning</td>
<td>$1,438,235</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$1,438,235</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$590,000</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$590,000</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$10,573,136</td>
<td>$3,033,759</td>
<td>$5,511,142</td>
<td>$2,028,235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Percentage of Total Allocation | 53% | 15% | 28% | 10% |

7.4.2 **By County and Municipality**

The allocation to activities in Washington County must equal or exceed 80% of the State’s CDBG-DR grant. Within Washington County, damage estimates and unmet needs in coastal communities exceeded impacts in inland communities. The allocation of funds in this Action Plan generally reflects the higher concentration of impacts in coastal Washington County communities.

7.5 **Project Selection**

**OHCD will continue to accept proposals for eligible activities that meet the CDBG national objective of Benefiting Low and Moderate Income Persons on a rolling basis until all grant funds have been obligated.** As of February 17, 2015, OHCD will no longer accept new proposals for eligible activities that meet the Urgent Need CDBG national
objective. Previously proposed Urgent Need activities may still receive new or supplemental funds. OCHD reserves the option to consider new planning-only activities.

On March 14, 2013, OHCD requested letters of interest from units of general local government and non-profit organizations serving LMI persons in Washington and Newport Counties (see Appendix 3). Respondents were asked to submit a narrative describing each project and address specific questions used to determine eligibility. Seven municipalities responded with requests for over 50 projects with cost estimates exceeding the State’s original CDBG-DR allocation. In addition, two non-profits submitted letters of interest directly to OHCD.

State agencies and Washington County municipalities were given the opportunity to propose additional projects by January 10, 2014, as part of the update to the needs assessment. Seventeen respondents submitted 36 new proposals, totaling over $18 million in new CDBG-DR requests.

OHCD staff is responsible for verifying that each proposed project fulfills at least one CDBG national objective, and meets threshold and eligibility requirements; and that CDBG-DR funds are the best available resource for implementation of the proposal. Proposals that meet these criteria are then evaluated by the Review Committee (the Committee). The Committee is comprised of representatives from OHCD, RIEMA, the R.I. Economic Development Corporation, the Division of Planning, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Management, the Coastal Resources Management Council, and the Governor’s Office.

The proposals included projects that did not meet eligibility requirements. The most common eligibility violations were location in a CBRS Unit (ineligible location) and purchase of mobile equipment (ineligible activity). Ineligible projects are not evaluated by the Committee. If a respondent submits both eligible and ineligible projects, only the eligible projects shall be evaluated by the Committee.

OHCD staff prepares reviews of each eligible, proposed project for the Committee, which include:

- A summary of the project;
- Identification of national objective and general characteristics of beneficiaries;
- Mapping of physical location on CBRS Mapper and FEMA’s most recent and current data source at time of application
- Quantitative metric data;
- Assessment of link to disaster impacts and unmet need;
- Qualitative analysis of the proposed timeline;
- Qualitative analysis of the project’s feasibility, impact and other criteria; and
• Risk Assessment scores and findings.

The Committee reviews projects benefiting LMI persons separately from projects fulfilling other national objectives and planning-only activities. Given the federal requirement that 50% of the Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds must be used to primarily benefit LMI persons, the Committee established three review categories based on national objective, 1) LMI Projects, 2) Projects Fulfilling Other National Objectives, and 3) Planning-Only Projects. Each project undergoes a competitive review by the Committee, within the appropriate national objective category.

Factors the Committee considers in evaluating proposals include, but are not limited to, the following:

Threshold Criteria
• Regulatory compliance
• Feasibility
• Timeliness of project implementation
• Unmet need
• Compliance with the State's Land Use 2025 Plan
• Risk assessment score ≥ 50 (public facilities and infrastructure proposals only)

High Priorities
• Fulfillment of low and moderate income National Objective
• Disaster recovery need in the area (neighborhood, municipality, or county) the project will affect. CDBG-DR needs assessment will be based on the most current data at the time of review of projects.
• Proposals addressing Hurricane Sandy recovery
• Proposals with high Risk Assessment scores (public facilities and infrastructure proposals)
• Public Benefit (infrastructure proposals)

Moderate Priorities
• Geographic distribution
• Applicant capacity
• Ability to leverage other funding sources

Low Priorities
• Compliance with an approved hazard mitigation plan
• Proposals addressing recovery from Hurricane Irene and Winter Storm Nemo
Eligible projects that the review committee recommended for funding in 2013 were included in Version 2 of this Action Plan. In January 2014, the review committee re-evaluated the initial proposals and all subsequent proposals. Additional projects are recommended for award at this time. The remaining proposals require further review, or must meet benchmarks before being recommended for funding. Full application materials are required for recommended projects and may be requested by OHCD for other proposals. Regardless of the status of this Action Plan, no funds will be committed to specific projects prior to the submission and review of a complete application.

Before a contract can be executed by OHCD, complete application materials must be submitted and reviewed. All proposed projects will undergo a duplication of benefits analysis. Economic Recovery applications will be subject to an underwriting analysis.

Proposals not recommended at this time may be re-evaluated by the Committee. The State reserves to the right to solicit additional proposals for projects meeting any CDBG national objective. New proposals may compete with unfunded projects and will be subject to the review process described above.

If, at any time, OHCD determines that a project does not meet a national objective, or is otherwise ineligible for Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds, OHCD reserves the right to de-obligate and/or recapture funds.

In reviewing a proposal and/or application and awarding a grant, the State may eliminate or modify a proposed activity or modify proposed funding where it is determined that such changes are necessary to comply with program requirements, national objectives, and threshold requirements, or where certain activities are not competitive in relation to other applications under review.

8 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

8.1 OUTREACH EFFORTS

OHCD invited representatives of local governments in Washington and Newport Counties and the Narragansett Indian Tribe to meetings regarding the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR allocation. Meetings were held at Portsmouth Town Hall on March 5, 2013 and Charlestown Town Hall on March 7, 2013.

A request for letters of interest (see Appendix 3) was sent via email on March 14, 2013 to representatives of each Washington and Newport County municipality, the Narragansett
Indian Tribe, eligible public housing authorities, and non-profit organizations serving LMI persons. The letters of interest directly identified the activities described in this Action Plan.

At the quarterly meeting of the State’s Housing Resources Commission (HRC) on March 22, 2013, OHCD staff announced the State’s allocation and the request for letters of interest. The mission of the HRC is to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to safe and affordable housing. Additional information on the HRC, including a membership list, is available at http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/housingresources/.

OHCD conducted additional outreach before and after the notice of the second award. Most notably, OHCD held a meeting for UGLGs in Washington County on December 10, 2013 and for state agencies at the state offices in Providence on December 12, 2013. A series of in-person meetings and conference calls with state agency representatives regarding infrastructure needs took place between November 2013 and January 2014. OHCD staffed an information booth at the annual conference of Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns on January 30, 2014. Two public hearings were held to provide affected citizens and stakeholders the opportunity to comment (February 12, 2014 at 9:30 AM, One Capitol Hill, Providence, R.I. and February 13, 2014 at 3 PM, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, R.I.).

In response to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the National Disaster Resilience Competition, OHCD briefed representatives of State agencies on September 23, 2014. During the briefing, OHCD emphasized the threshold requirements for “most impacted and distressed” and “unmet need,” detailed in Appendix G of the NOFA. OHCD sent information to all Rhode Island municipalities and the Narragansett Indian Tribe via email and responded to inquiries from interested parties, including municipalities, Rhode Island Housing, and State agencies. The NOFA outreach identified a new potential Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR project in Westerly.

A public hearing was held to provide affected citizens and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the amended Action Plan (Version 4) on January 28, 2015 at 2:00 PM, One Capitol Hill, Providence, R.I.

8.2 PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTIFICATION

As required by Docket No. FR-5969-N-06 (Federal Register Vol. 78, No. 222), a minimum of one public hearing shall be held each time this Action Plan is substantially amended. OHCD will post a draft Action Plan for the use of the funds, and any substantial amendment to the
plan as described above, online at http://www.planning.ri.gov/ for a period of not less than (30) calendar days; public comments will be accepted during this time.

Adequate notification will be given to local and regional Planning Commissions, units of local government, and public housing authorities. A Notice of Posting for public comments and a Notice of Public Hearing will be published in the following paper:

**The Providence Journal**
75 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02902

OHCD will outreach to minority and non-English speaking populations in Washington and Newport Counties via the following community action programs:

**South County Community Action Agency**
1935 Kingstown Road, Wakefield, RI 02879
401-789-3016 | [www.sccainc.org](http://www.sccainc.org)

**Eastbay Community Action - Lower Bay Region**
19 Broadway, Newport, Rhode Island
401-847-7821 | [www.ebcap.org](http://www.ebcap.org)

Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation to review this Action Plan should contact Thomas Mannock, Ph.D. ([Thomas.Mannock@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Thomas.Mannock@doa.ri.gov)) at 401-222-6377 or #711 (R.I. Relay).

All comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the draft plan for submission to HUD. E-mail your comments to [Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov) or mail your comments to:

Laura Sullivan, CDBG Disaster Recovery Program Manager
Office of Housing and Community Development
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

9 **ACTION PLAN AMENDMENTS**

This document, when approved by HUD, obligates a portion of the State’s Sandy funds. The balance of the State’s CDBG-DR allocation will be obligated in amendments to this Action Plan. Substantial amendments will be subject to the Public Comment and Notification section, above.
The following modifications will constitute a substantial amendment:

1. A change in program benefit or eligibility criteria;
2. The allocation or re-allocation of more than $1 million; or
3. The addition or deletion of an activity.

All approved amendments to this Action Plan, substantial and non-substantial, shall be available electronically at [http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/development/disaster/](http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/development/disaster/).

### 9.1 History of Action Plan Amendments

The original draft Action Plan (Version 1) was available for public comment May 24, 2013 to June 3, 2013, and submitted to HUD on June 6, 2013. The following amendments have been proposed:

#### 9.1.1 Version 2

**Submitted July 2013 and Approved by HUD August 2013**

**Incremental Obligation $625,612**  **Total Obligation to Date: $625,612**

Version 2 includes the amendments summarized below, pursuant to HUD's review of the original draft Action Plan.

1. Revision of the Needs Assessment (*Hurricane Sandy Needs Assessment* and *Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources*)
2. Addition of tables showing the Tier 1 award allocation by national objective and county (*Method of Distribution*)
3. Clarifications to public comments and notification (*Citizen Participation*)
4. Minor revisions to selected activities (*Appendix 4*)
5. Substantial Amendment: Removal of seven generator activities (*Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources, Method of Distribution*, and *Appendix 4*)

Version 2b, October 2013 (no substantial amendments)

1. Addition of Performance Projections (*Appendix 8*)

Version 2c, January 2014 (no substantial amendments)
1. Split the Middletown FEMA PA Match Activity into two activities (Method of Distribution and Appendix 4)

2. Split the Newport FEMA PA Match Activity into three activities (Method of Distribution and Appendix 4)

3. Adjusted Program Area budgets (Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources and Method of Distribution)
   a. Shifted $11,361 from Public Facilities & Infrastructure to Housing
   b. Shifted $1,165 from Public Facilities & Infrastructure to Planning

9.1.2 Version 3
Submitted March 2014 and Approved by HUD June 2014

Incremental Obligation $2,692,595 Total Obligation to Date: $3,318,207

Table 12. Incremental and Cumulative Obligations by Grant Agreement Categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Agreement Category</th>
<th>V2c Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>V3 Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>Cumulative Obligation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$ 110,644</td>
<td>$ 307,163</td>
<td>$ 417,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Facilities</td>
<td>$ 379,882</td>
<td>$ 570,432</td>
<td>$ 950,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>$ 69,951</td>
<td>$ 420,000</td>
<td>$ 489,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Services</td>
<td>$ 25,134</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>$ 125,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Planning</td>
<td>$ 40,000</td>
<td>$ 1,295,000</td>
<td>$ 1,335,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 625,612</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,692,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,318,207</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Version 3 amendments are summarized as follows:

1. Revision of public notice appendices to reflect V2 and V3 public notice and comments (Appendices 6 & 7)

2. Substantial Amendment: Restructuring of the Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources Section, including addition of Programs (Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources, Method of Distribution, and Appendix 4)

3. Substantial Amendment: Addition of Activities (Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources, Method of Distribution, and Appendix 4)
4. Substantial Amendment: Budget increases exceeding 25% for the following Activities (*Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources, Method of Distribution*, and *Appendix 4*):
   
a. Middletown FEMA Match for Debris Removal

b. Welcome House, Repairs to Scattered Site Housing

c. Westerly Old Town Beach Facility

5. Addition of a Risk Assessment requirement (*Appendix 9*, references throughout)

6. Addition of Resilience Performance Standards (*Appendix 10* and *Rebuilding Sustainable, Resilient Communities*)

7. Addition of sub-section on Green Infrastructure (*Rebuilding Sustainable, Resilient Communities*)

8. Streamlining of modifications that will constitute a substantial amendment (*Action Plan Amendments*)

9. Extension of the Public Comment period and addition of public hearing requirement for substantial amendments (*Citizen Participation*)

10. Narrative and table updates to reflect Substantial Amendments (Throughout)

11. Updates to the Needs Assessment (*Hurricane Sandy Needs Assessment* and *Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources*)

Version 3b, August 2014 (no substantial amendments)

   1. Updated Performance Projections (*Appendix 8*)

Version 3c, December 2014 (no substantial amendments)

   1. Addition of an Activity Budget Tracking Sheet (*Appendix 4*)
9.1.3 Version 4
Submitted February 2015 and Approved by HUD on DATE

Incremental Obligation $7,254,929    Total Obligation to Date: $10,573,136

Table 13. Incremental and Cumulative Obligations by Grant Agreement Categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Agreement Category</th>
<th>V2 Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>V3 Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>V4 Incremental Obligation</th>
<th>Cumulative Obligation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$3,917</td>
<td>$460,866</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$464,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Facilities</td>
<td>$486,610</td>
<td>$1,359,431</td>
<td>$2,883,137</td>
<td>$4,729,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>$69,951</td>
<td>$346,033</td>
<td>$2,409,822</td>
<td>$2,825,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Services</td>
<td>$25,134</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$525,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Planning</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$526,265</td>
<td>$1,461,970</td>
<td>$2,028,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$625,612</td>
<td>$2,692,595</td>
<td>$7,254,929</td>
<td>$10,573,136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Total Allocation: 3% 14% 36% 53%

Version 4 amendments are summarized as follows:

1. Substantial Amendment: Addition of Activities (Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources, Method of Distribution, and Appendix 4)

2. Substantial Amendment: Modification of beneficiaries for state activity: Senior Citizens Resiliency Project (Appendix 4)

3. Narrative and table updates to include third allocation of Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds (Introduction, Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources, Method of Distribution, and Tables 9-12)


5. Updates to duplication of benefits procedures (Rebuilding Sustainable, Resilient Communities)

6. Updates to Grant Implementation/Administration Capacity (Rebuilding Sustainable, Resilient Communities)

7. Clarification of job training programs' eligibility criteria under section 6.3 Economic Recovery (Allocation of CDBG-DR Resources)
8. Update of activity proposal deadlines in section 7.5 *Project Selection* (*Method of Distribution*)

9. Reformatting of Activity Detail Sheets (*Appendix 4*)
10 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CERTIFICATIONS

APPENDIX 2: RHODE ISLAND DISASTER DECLARATION MAPS

APPENDIX 3: REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

APPENDIX 4: ACTIVITY DETAIL SHEETS

APPENDIX 5: DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

APPENDIX 6: PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACTION PLAN COMMENT PERIOD

APPENDIX 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

APPENDIX 8: PERFORMANCE PROJECTIONS

APPENDIX 9: RISK ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 10: RESILIENCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
Appendix 1: Certifications

Sections 91.325 and 91.225 of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations are waived. Each State or UGLG receiving a direct allocation under this Notice (Vol. 78, No. 43, Docket FR-5696-N-01), as amended, must make the following certifications with its Action Plan:

a. The grantee certifies that it will affirmatively further fair housing, which means that it will conduct an analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice within its jurisdiction and take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions in this regard (see 24 CFR 570.487(b)(2) and 570.601(a)(2)). In addition, the grantee certifies that agreements with sub-recipients will meet all civil rights related requirements pursuant to 24 CFR 570.503(b)(5).

b. The grantee certifies that it has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the CDBG program.

c. The grantee certifies its compliance with restrictions on lobbying required by 24 CFR part 87, together with disclosure forms, if required by part 87.

d. The grantee certifies that the Action Plan for Disaster Recovery is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and that the grantee, any entity or entities designated by the grantee, possess(es) the legal authority to carry out the program for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations and this Notice.

e. The grantee certifies that activities to be administered with funds under this Notice are consistent with its Action Plan.

f. The grantee certifies that it will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the URA, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24, except where waivers or alternative requirements are provided for in this Notice.

g. The grantee certifies that it will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 135.

h. The grantee certifies that it is following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105 or 91.115, as applicable (except as provided for in notices providing waivers and alternative requirements for this grant). Also, each UGLG receiving assistance from a State grantee must follow a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 570.486 (except as provided for in notices providing waivers and alternative requirements for this grant).

i. Each State receiving a direct award under this Notice certifies that it has consulted with affected UGLGs in counties designated in covered major disaster declarations in the non-entitlement, entitlement, and tribal areas of the State in determining the uses of funds, including method of distribution of funding, or activities carried out directly by the State.

j. The grantee certifies that it is complying with each of the following criteria:
(1) Funds will be used solely for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas for which the President declared a major disaster in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, pursuant to the Stafford Act.

(2) With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG-DR funds, the Action Plan has been developed so as to give the maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income families.

(3) The aggregate use of CDBG-DR funds shall principally benefit low- and moderate-income families in a manner that ensures that at least 50 percent of the grant amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons.

(4) The grantee will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG-DR grant funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low- and moderate-income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless: (a) disaster recovery grant funds are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under this title; or (b) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the grantee certifies to the Secretary that it lacks sufficient CDBG funds (in any form) to comply with the requirements of clause (a).

k. The grantee certifies that it (and any sub-recipient or recipient) will conduct and carry out the grant in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601–3619) and implementing regulations.

l. The grantee certifies that it has adopted and is enforcing the following policies. In addition, States receiving a direct award must certify that they will require UGLGs that receive grant funds to certify that they have adopted and are enforcing:

(1) A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations; and

(2) A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location that is the subject of such nonviolent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

m. Each State or UGLG receiving a direct award under this Notice certifies that it (and any sub-recipient or recipient) has the capacity to carry out disaster recovery activities in a timely manner; or the State or UGLG will develop a plan to increase capacity where such capacity is lacking.

n. The grantee will not use grant funds for any activity in an area delineated as a special flood hazard area or equivalent in FEMA’s most recent and current data source unless it also ensures that the action is designed or modified to minimize harm to or within the floodplain. The grantee further certifies that at a minimum, actions to minimize harm will include elevating or floodproofing new construction and substantial improvements to
one foot above the base flood elevation and otherwise acting in accordance with Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR part 55. The relevant data source for this provision is the latest issued FEMA data or guidance, which includes advisory data (such as Advisory Base Flood Elevations) or preliminary and final Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

o. The grantee certifies that its activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, J, K, and R.

p. The grantee certifies that it will comply with applicable laws.

q. The grantee certifies that it has reviewed the requirements of this Notice and requirements of Public Law 113-2 applicable to funds allocated by this Notice, and that it has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Stafford Act, to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds.

r. The grantee certifies that it will apply the resilience standards required in section VI(2)(e) of Federal Register Notice Vol. 78, No. 222, Docket FR-5696-N-06.

\[ Signature \ of \ Authorized \ Representative \]

\[ 3-24-14 \]

Date

Michael Tondra, Chief, Office of Housing and Community Development
Name, Title of Authorized Representative
Appendix 2: Rhode Island Disaster Declaration Map
All counties in the State of Rhode Island are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
FEMA-4107-DR, Rhode Island Disaster Declaration as of 03/25/2013

Location Map

Designated Counties

All counties in the State of Rhode Island are eligible for Hazard Mitigation
All counties in the State of Rhode Island eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Designated Counties

Public Assistance

Source: Disaster Federal Registry Notice
09/03/2011
Appendix 3: Request for Letters of Interest
DATE: March 14, 2013

TO: All Newport & Washington County Municipalities
Non-Profit Organizations active in Newport & Washington Counties

FROM: Michael Tondra, Chief
June House, Supervisor of Community Development
Laura Sullivan, Program Manager

RE: HURRICANE SANDY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Housing and Community Development is requesting letters of interest for Hurricane Sandy recovery projects. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development allocated $3.24 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to Rhode Island. After deduction of administrative costs, $3.078 million will be available to fund projects. Funds must be used to support projects that directly or indirectly address the impacts of Hurricane Sandy.

Projects may include housing rehabilitation and new construction, economic revitalization, repair/replacement/improvement of public facilities and infrastructure, services, and disaster mitigation planning. Please note at least 50% of the funds must be spent on projects that primarily benefit low and moderate income (LMI) persons, pursuant to CDBG regulations. Eligible applicants include all municipalities in Newport and Washington Counties, and non-profit organizations active in Newport and/or Washington Counties.

Projects must be located in Newport and Washington Counties. Pursuant to the federal regulations, at least 80% of the funds ($2,462,400) must be allocated to activities in Washington County. A maximum amount of $615,600 is available for activities in Newport County.

Projects must be undertaken in compliance with all applicable Federal and State rules and regulations, including Labor Standards (Davis Bacon Wage Rates), Section 3, procurement, and environmental regulations.

To be considered, please send a letter of interest to Laura Sullivan at CDBG@doa.ri.gov by 3:00 PM on Friday, April 5, 2013. Include the following information and attach a completed CDBG-DR Supplement form for each proposed project:
• Project description (include implementation status);
• Statement of Hurricane Sandy impacts and how the project addresses those impacts;
• Statement of project beneficiaries (include service area descriptions for infrastructure projects);
• Description of how the project will comply with one CDBG National Objective (i.e. LMI Jobs, LMI Area Benefit, LMI Housing, LMI Clientele, Urgent Need, Slums, Spot Blight); and
• Budget identifying all sources and uses of funds (include known, expected matching funds).

Non-profit applicants must also include:

• Organization profile;
• Description of disaster response and/or recovery activities; and
• Letter from municipal official acknowledging notification of the proposed project.

Non-profit applicants are encouraged to contact Laura Sullivan before applying for information on the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program.

Please contact Laura Sullivan at 401-222-6844 or laura.sullivan@doa.ri.gov with any questions.
Appendix 4: Activity Detail Sheets

Projects with obligation amounts greater than zero are subject to two year expenditure deadlines. Expenditure deadlines are triggered by HUD’s approval of the Action Plan and commitment of an incremental obligation of CDBG-DR funds.

Projects with no funds obligated are included for HUD review. The State considers these projects high priorities and anticipates supporting them with CDBG-DR funds in a future Action Plan.

Total Project Costs are estimates based on current available data and may be amended. Total Project Costs may include multiple sources of funding.

At the activity level, obligation amounts and projected project durations are subject to change. Refer to the Activity Budget Tracking Sheet for summary information on activity budgets.

Activities administered directly by the State of Rhode Island show the designated Responsible Organization as State of Rhode Island, followed by the name of the lead agency or office within state government.
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<th>Action Plan V3c</th>
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State - State Administration R2 $ 200,000 $ 200,000 $ 200,000

State - State Administration R3 $ 350,000 $ 350,000 $ 350,000

Total $ 625,612 $ 3,318,207 $ 10,573,136
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Charlestown Senior Center Improvements

**Activity Type:** Public Facilities Improvements

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** LMI Limited Clientele

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of Charlestown

**Location Description:** Washington County. 100 Park Lane, Ningret Park

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** The Town of Charlestown experienced widespread, multiday power outages during Hurricane Sandy. The power outages affected the Senior Center, Town Hall, and Animal Control Office. Due to loss of power, the Senior Center closed, preventing it from providing meals and other critical services to seniors. When the Center re-opened, the antiquated records delayed safety checks of local seniors.

**Activity Description:** Installation of a permanent hardwired generator, phone and software system upgrades, parking lot lighting, and other improvements to the Senior Center to enable provision of critical services, which were interrupted during Hurricane Sandy, to the senior population.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to one (1) public facility

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** Senior citizens residing in the Town of Charlestown
Crandall House Improvements

Activity Type: Public Facilities Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: LMI Limited Clientele

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Hopkinton

Location Description: Washington County. 188A/B Main Street, Hopkinton, RI

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Town of Hopkinton experienced widespread, multiday power outages during Hurricane Sandy. The power outages forced Crandall House to close, preventing vulnerable seniors from accessing potable water and meals, as well as other services. In this rural community, households are dependent on well water. A lack of power results in a lack of potable water, putting seniors especially at risk of medical complications. Crandall House was unable to meet the critical needs of seniors.

Crandall House serves as the Senior Citizen Activity Center for the Town of Hopkinton. During Hurricane Sandy, the nearest assistance for seniors was in the Town of Richmond, limiting accessibility for local seniors.

Activity Description: Installation of a permanent hardwired generator at Crandall House (Senior Citizen Activity Center) to enable its use as an emergency shelter for seniors and to ensure critical services to senior will not be interrupted, as they were during Hurricane Sandy. Equipping Crandall House with an emergency generator will provide the back-up power source necessary to utilize it as a temporary comfort station during emergencies for seniors in this rural community. This project is a part of the town hazard mitigation strategy contained in Hopkinton’s recently FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: Senior citizens residing in the Town of Hopkinton
Middletown Senior Center Improvements

**Activity Type:** Public Facilities Improvements

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** LMI Limited Clientele

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of Middletown

**Location Description:** Washington County. 650 Green End Ave., Middletown, RI 02842

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** During Hurricane Sandy and other recent storm events, the Senior Center has been forced to close its doors due to lack of heat and electricity. During the time the center was without power, seniors were unable to access the facility and services that are typically provided, including the daily lunchtime meal, various arts and exercise programs, support groups, and other activities. These services are critical to the well-being of our local senior population, and are even more important during periods when seniors do not have power in their homes.

**Activity Description:** Installation of a new 48kw emergency generator and related improvements to the Middletown Senior Center to prevent interruption of critical services to seniors. The Center provides meals, health programs, counseling services, educational and recreational activities.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to one (1) public facility

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** Senior citizens utilizing the Town of Middletown Senior Center, an estimated 425 persons.
Narragansett Housing Authority, Repairs to Scattered Site Housing

**Activity Type:** Housing Rehabilitation

**Program Area:** Housing Stabilization

**National Objective:** LMI Housing

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of Narragansett

**Location Description:** Washington County, Narragansett, RI

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge and high winds caused erosion in coastal areas, damage to buildings across Narragansett, and extensive tree damage. Narragansett Housing Authority’s scattered site housing sustained damage to siding, windows, doors, fencing, landscaping, and down spouts, and erosion.

**Activity Description:** Repairs/improvements to building envelopes, including siding, windows, doors, and down spouts. Repairs/improvement to fencing, landscaping, walks/drives, etc.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Rehabilitation of eight (8) housing units

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** Eight (8) LMI households
Newport Housing Authority Utility Repairs at Park Holm

**Activity Type:** Public Facilities Improvements

**Program Area:** Housing Stabilization

**National Objective:** LMI Housing

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** City of Newport

**Location Description:** Newport County. Park Holm Street, Newport, RI

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, approximately $10,000 in damages was discovered in the overhead electrical utility system in the Housing Authority’s Park Holm development. The development consists of 259 units in 96 "row house" type buildings.

After the initial damage assessment, the contractor performing the emergency repairs identified other damage and needed repairs to the electrical utility system owned by Newport Housing Authority. Much of the damage is consistent with exposure to high winds, as experienced during Hurricane Sandy.

Six poles and six pole cross arms are in need of replacement. The bases of the poles show signs of stress from high winds. It has been determined that they are not in immediate danger of falling but would probably do so in another sustained high wind event. Additionally, it was noted in this inspection that a significant amount of insulation was missing from high voltage overhead cable in the southeast areas of the property and approximately 1,000 feet of this cable should be replaced.

**Activity Description:** Repair and/or replace damaged sections of the electrical utility system owned and operated by the Housing Authority of Newport. This system is a 4800 volt three phase system and consists of approximately 10 miles of cable, 8 step down transformers, 56 poles, and various switching and surge suppression devices.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to 259 housing units

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** 259 LMI households residing in the Park Holm development
Newport Housing Authority (NHA), Donovan Manor Emergency Protective Measures

Activity Type: Public Services

Program Area: Housing Stabilization

National Objective: LMI Housing

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): City of Newport

Location Description: Newport County. Chapel Street, Newport, RI

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Newport Housing Authority’s Donovan Manor lost power during Hurricane Sandy. NHA operated a generator and incurred fuel costs to maintain backup power at this 24 unit elderly housing facility.

75% of the emergency/fuel costs at Donovan Manor were reimbursed by FEMA.

Activity Description: Payment of non-federal share, or 25% of the emergency protective measure costs resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Services for twenty-four (24) elderly LMI households

Proposed Beneficiaries: 24 LMI households residing at Donovan Manor
Newport Housing Authority (NHA), Park Holm Debris Removal

**Activity Type:** Debris Removal

**Program Area:** Housing Stabilization

**National Objective:** LMI Housing

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** City of Newport

**Location Description:** Newport County. Park Holm Street, Newport, RI

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** Hurricane Sandy’s high winds damaged and destroyed numerous trees and scattered debris throughout the region, including across Newport Housing Authority’s Park Holm property. The Park Holm development consists of 259 units.

75% of the debris removal costs were reimbursed by FEMA.

**Activity Description:** Payment of non-federal share, or 25% of the debris removal and emergency electrical work costs resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Debris removal at 259 housing units.

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** 259 LMI households residing in the Park Holm development.
Newport Housing Authority (NHA), Park Holm Emergency Electrical Repairs

Activity Type: Rehab of Residential Structures

Program Area: Housing Stabilization

National Objective: LMI Housing

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): City of Newport

Location Description: Newport County. Park Holm Street, Newport, RI

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy's high winds caused property damage throughout the region, including approximately $10,000 in damages in the overhead electrical utility system in the Newport Housing Authority's Park Holm development. The development consists of 259 family units.

75% of the emergency electrical work costs were reimbursed by FEMA.

Activity Description: Payment of non-federal share, or 25% of the emergency electrical work costs resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to 259 housing units

Proposed Beneficiaries: 259 LMI households residing in the Park Holm development
Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center Improvements

Activity Type: Public Facilities Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: LMI Area Benefit

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): City of Newport

Location Description: Newport County. 20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd., Newport, RI 02840

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The MLK Community Center (MLKCC) was without power for days during Hurricanes Sandy and Irene. MLKCC provides food assistance and nutritional education to anyone in need throughout Newport County. The Breakfast Program provides a nutritious meal daily and the Food Pantry is open three-four days/week.

Staff stayed during Sandy to provide respite services to the surrounding neighborhood clients in need of comfort and care during and after the storm. However, without power or food, clients were not permitted to enter the building. Therefore, the Center was unable to provide food or safety to its predominately low and moderate income clientele. The Center also lost much needed food, as a result of the loss of power to its freezers and refrigerators.

Activity Description: Facility improvements to the MLKCC involving purchase and installation of a new, fully automatic, 100 Kw commercial, automatic standby generator and electrical upgrades to support the generator. These improvements will prevent the interruption of critical services, including food distribution, to this low income community.

A new energy efficient generator will also allow expansion of emergency food services. MLKCC recently expanded their services as a Food Pantry and now possesses four (4) commercial grade freezers and was awarded the purchase of a commercial refrigerator from CDBG funding (PY 2012) for unfreeze-able fresh perishables.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: Residents of Census Block 4012, Tract 406, Block Group 4. 66.8% of Block Group residents are low/moderate income.
Prudence Island Well Pump Power

Activity Type: Infrastructure

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: LMI Area Benefit

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Portsmouth

Location Description: Newport County. Indian Spring Well House, Prudence Island

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Prudence Island, accessible only by boat, was without power for five days after both Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo. The water district has three active wells that serve 100-120 year-round residents. Residents were forced to rely on a water tank and a low capacity generator at a single well. The other two wells remained off-line until power was restored, requiring residents to limit water use.

Activity Description: Purchase and installation of generator with capacity based on the results of a 2013 Army Corps of Engineers assessment. The generator is necessary to meet residents’ critical need for potable water.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: 2 infrastructure improvements (2 wells)

Proposed Beneficiaries: 100 residents of Prudence Island
Welcome House, Repairs to Scattered Site Housing

Activity Type: Rehabilitation of Housing

Program Area: Housing Stabilization

National Objective: LMI Housing

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of South Kingstown

Location Description: Washington County. Peacedale, RI 02879

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: During Hurricane Sandy the Welcome House of South County experienced severe wind and rain damage at 12-18 Green Street. Roof shingles were blown off in several areas, excessive aggregate washed off of the roof shingles, rain began pouring into the living units, and some of the exterior foundation stones were dislodged. Temporary roof repairs were made.

Activity Description: Rehabilitation of one 4-unit residential building, including roof and foundation repairs. Welcome Housing provides transitional housing for individuals, permanent supportive housing for families, and acts as a referral agency for mental health issues, medical, job placement and continuing education.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to four (4) housing units

Proposed Beneficiaries: Four (4) LMI households
**South Kingstown Senior Center Improvements**

**Activity Type:** Public Facilities Improvements

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** LMI Limited Clientele

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of South Kingstown

**Location Description:** Washington County. 25 & 36 St. Dominic Rd.

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** The South Kingstown Senior Center provides critical services for the elderly, including meals, adult day care, and access to health care, as well as other programs. During Hurricane Sandy, the Senior Center power was out for a period of five days, preventing the Senior Services Department from providing essential services such as the federally funded Title IIIC congregate meal program, as well as the local Meals on Wheels program for homebound seniors. Lack of power prevented the Center from serving as a central gathering point for local social service organizations to assist the elderly population with arranging for post event tasks such as clean up, repairs, and health care priorities.

Installation of a fixed emergency generator would allow the Center to remain open immediately following a weather event for the purpose of continuing critical services, including daily meals.

**Activity Description:** Improvements, including purchase and installation of a fixed generator, exterior rehabilitation (replacement of windows, doors, siding) and energy efficiency upgrades (install and/or replace insulation, and ceiling) to avoid interruption of critical services for seniors.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to one (1) public facility

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** 3,434 South Kingstown Senior Center Clients
Westerly Senior Center Improvements

**Activity Type:** Public Facilities Improvements

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** LMI Limited Clientele

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of Westerly

**Location Description:** Washington County. 39 State St.

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** The coastal Town of Westerly was heavily impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Westerly's Senior Center provides daily meals, social services, transportation services, health clinics, social activities, and other programs to area seniors. For elderly with limited access to transportation, the Center offers access to health care, both on-site and through its transportation services.

The Senior Center maintained a power supply during Hurricane Sandy and was able to provide many critical services to seniors during the disaster. However, the lack of shower facilities at the Center impeded basic hygiene. Basic hygiene is especially critical for vulnerable seniors, who often have medical conditions.

**Activity Description:** Installation of two ADA compliant shower facilities in the Town’s Senior Center.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to one (1) public facility

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** 4,143 Senior citizens served by the Westerly Senior Center
Housing Rehabilitation/Elevation Program

**Activity Type:** Housing Rehabilitation

**Program Area:** Housing Stabilization

**National Objective:** LMI Housing

**Duration:** TBD

**Responsible Organization(s):**
Washington County Community Development Corporation

**Location Description:** Washington County Sites TBD

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge and high winds caused scattered damage to housing across Washington County. FEMA flood zones VE and AE in Washington County were indirectly impacted by increasing insurance rates, especially flood insurance. LMI neighborhoods in zones VE and AE are vulnerable to destabilization, as cost-burdened households are at risk of outmigration as a result of increased housing costs. The State of Rhode Island has determined that disaster stabilization measures in these least resilient areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy are a necessary long-term recovery expense.

**Activity Description:** Repairs/improvements to housing units damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Improvements may include repairs and upgrades to building envelopes, building interiors, and landscaping/hardscaping; and mitigation measures, including elevation to at least Base Flood Elevation plus 1 foot.

Flood risk reduction of housing units in VE and AE zones occupied by LMI households by elevating structures or making other improvements to floodproof units.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Rehabilitation of two (2) housing units

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** Two (2) LMI households
Flood Risk Identification Program

Activity Type: Services

Program Area: Housing Stabilization

National Objective: LMI

Duration: TBD

Responsible Organization(s): Washington County Community Development Corporation

Location Description: Washington County. All FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas (VE or AE zones) in LMI neighborhoods, as determined by HUD FY13 Summary Data.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The lack of financial resources combined with low-lying housing and infrastructure inhibits long-term recovery from this disaster. These areas are further stressed by the disproportionate impact of increasing flood insurance rates, resulting from the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012. The State of Rhode Island has determined that disaster stabilization measures in the least resilient areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy are a necessary long-term recovery expense.

Activity Description: Surveys of residential structures to determine the elevations of the lowest living level. Provision of elevation certificates to households. Actuarially adjusted flood insurance premiums and identification of appropriate flood-proofing measures are based on elevation certificates. Residents of LMI census areas do not have the resources to obtain elevation certificates. Without elevation certificates, LMI households face uncertain increases in the costs of flood insurance premiums (or rents) and unknown mitigation costs. Consequently, they are unable to make informed housing decisions to reduce risk.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Elevation certificates for 150 housing units

Proposed Beneficiaries: LMI Residents of Census Block 0515.04, Block Groups 1, 3, & 5. 57.1% of Block Group residents are low/moderate income.
Churchwoods Phase I

Activity Type: Housing Construction

Program Area: Housing Stabilization

National Objective: LMI Housing

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Charlestown

Location Description: Washington County. 4150 Old Post Rd.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge highlighted the flood risk in AE and VE zones throughout the impacted counties. For low and moderate income households living in high flood risk areas, increases in insurance premiums combined with high rates of housing cost burden could result in displacement. Out-migration of low/moderate income households would destabilize neighborhoods and cause further income segregation in the Sandy impact area.

Among the most vulnerable to displacement are low income elderly on fixed incomes. In the Town of Charlestown alone, 25 households in the coastal zone south of Route 1 are enrolled in the senior citizen, low income property tax abatement program. Based on readily available data, it has been confirmed that at least four of these households are in 100-year floodplains/Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Other low income elderly households not enrolled in the tax abatement program may also live in flood zones. The neighboring coastal Towns of Westerly and South Kingstown also have property tax abatement programs for low income elderly homeowners, with an undetermined number of units in flood zones. In nearby Narragansett, an estimated 33 low income elderly households live in flood zones.

The availability of affordable rental housing for low income elderly persons and households is scarce, especially outside of Rhode Island’s urban areas. For example, the Towns of Charlestown and Narragansett have 3,494 and 7,156 housing units, respectively. Only 70 (2%) units in Charlestown and 261 (3.6%) in Narragansett are classified as long term affordable units. None of the long term affordable units in Charlestown are reserved for the elderly (HousingWorks RI 2013 Housing Fact Book, 2013). Elderly residents facing rising housing costs as a result of the disasters do not currently have affordable housing options in Town. This project will provide affordable housing choice outside of the flood zone, but in the same general vicinity.

Activity Description: Construction of 24 new elderly (62+) rental housing units. Phase I includes predevelopment, acquisition, design, engineering, and permitting. The project will provide affordable housing choice for cost-burdened households in Washington County.
target population is currently living in permanent housing units in Washington County flood prone areas (100 year floodplains and Special Flood Hazard Areas) and facing an estimated 15% annual increase in flood insurance costs. All units will be marketed and leased in compliance with fair housing laws.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Twenty-four (24) affordable housing units

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** Twenty-four (24) elderly LMI households
Financial Counseling Program

Activity Type: Services

Program Area: Housing Stabilization

National Objective: LMI Limited Clientele

Obligation: $0

Duration: TBD

Responsible Organization(s): TBD

Location Description: Washington County

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge highlighted the flood risk in AE and VE zones throughout the impacted counties. For low and moderate income households living in high flood risk areas, increases in insurance premiums combined with high rates of housing cost burden could result in displacement. Out-migration of low/moderate income households could result in the destabilization of neighborhoods and further income segregation in the Sandy impact area.

Activity Description: This program will provide financial and counseling services to eligible households facing increasing housing costs due to storm damage and/or rising insurance rates as a result of Hurricane Sandy and other extreme storm events.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: 95% participating households remain in Washington County for 2 years after receiving services

Proposed Beneficiaries: One hundred (100) LMI households
North Kingstown Intrepid Drive Sewers

**Activity Type:** Infrastructure Improvements; Housing Rehab

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure; Housing Rehab

**National Objective:** LMI Area Benefit; LMI Housing

**Projected Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of North Kingstown

**Location Description:** Washington County. Intrepid Drive.

**Hurricane Irene Impact and Unmet Need:** During Hurricane Irene, power outages, precipitation, and storm surge all negatively impacted septic systems in the coastal village of Wickford in North Kingstown. The septic system that serves two subsidized housing developments on Intrepid Drive, Wickford Village Apartments (WVA, 129 units) and North Cove Landing (NCL, 38 units), was shut down, forcing dependence on septage haulers. The failure of this system presents a major threat to water quality in Wickford Harbor due to the volume of wastewater that it handles.

Wastewater treatment at WVA and NCL is a critical service that was interrupted during Hurricane Irene. Had overflows of untreated sewage occurred at this site, the water quality in Wickford Harbor would have been severely harmed. Wickford Harbor is now classified by the USEPA as an “Impaired Body of Water.” The cause of impairment is categorized as “organic enrichment/oxygen depletion.” There are no direct source contributions to the pollution, only non-point sources, largely on-site septic systems.

**Activity Description (Infrastructure):** Construction of new 4,200 lf of sewer force main in the town right-of-way along Intrepid Drive, and a new pump station to handle sewage from 167 housing units in (319 residents, mostly LMI, two developments: Wickford Village Apts., North Cove Landing). Pump station components will be elevated above base flood elevation and/or flood-proofed. Replaces existing septic for the two developments. Projected flow 34,730 gallons/day from housing units. CDBG-DR funds are proposed for 60% of force main and pump station costs, prorated to the projected flow from the housing units as a percentage of overall projected flow.

The balance of project costs is expected to be funded by municipal bonds. The Town Council may issue municipal bond funds for a force main along Wickford Village’s main commercial corridor that would pass along Intrepid Drive. In 2014, voters approved “an Act authorizing the Town of North Kingstown to issue bonds and notes to an amount not exceeding $4,900,000 to finance the construction of sewers and sewerage systems in the Town, primarily for the
Wickford commercial area, including the acquisition of land therefor and authorizing the imposition of sewer assessments and user fees’ be approved.” Residential neighborhoods were not generally included in the project scope under the bond authorization due to the high projected assessment costs. However, there is a unique opportunity to connect the affordable housing on Intrepid Drive to this project due to its close proximity and CDBG-DR funding. CDBG-DR funding would allow the proposed sewer design for the Wickford commercial area to be increased to handle the flow from WVA and NCL, support the tie-in, and prevent assessments on the affordable housing units.

The Town desires to address wastewater infrastructure needs for the Intrepid Drive neighborhoods by eliminating the future interruption of critical services. With CDBG-DR funds, North Kingstown would be able to integrate this infrastructure component into the larger Wickford sewer effort. If the sewer project for Intrepid Drive housing were to be completed on its own, the cost would be greater.

Activity Description (Housing): Construction of new 500 lf of tie-in sewer pipe for 167 housing units in (319 residents, mostly LMI, two developments: Wickford Village Apts., North Cove Landing). Replaces existing septic for the two developments. Projected flow 34,730 gallons/day from housing units. CDBG-DR funds proposed for 100% of tie-in costs for eligible subsidized housing units.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: 4,200 of new sewer main
Sewer tie-ins for 167 households

Proposed Beneficiaries: 167 low/moderate income households
Green Infrastructure Job Training Program

**Activity Type:** Services

**Program Area:** Public Facilities and Infrastructure

**National Objective:** LMI Limited Clientele

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** City of Newport

**Location Description:** TBD

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, and winter storm Nemo left massive amounts of vegetative debris across Rhode Island. The municipalities of Newport and South Kingstown alone estimate they handled 1,750 and 1,350 cubic yards of vegetative/woody debris storm, respectively, as a result of the three disasters. In addition to extensive damage to trees and other vegetation, storm surge and precipitation, from these events and snow melt from Nemo exacerbated coastal erosion, and overwhelmed and undermined traditional stormwater systems. The Town of Westerly estimates that 67,000 cubic yards of sand had to be shifted from public roads back to beaches and dunes after Hurricane Sandy.

As a result, there has been increased demand for arborists and other landscape professionals. Municipalities and industry representatives have both identified a need for job training in green infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance. Green infrastructure is a key component of resilient recovery.

At the same time, Rhode Island continues to experience unemployment rates among the highest in the nation. The employment statistics for Rhode Island’s young adult workforce (18-30) are even worse than the statistics for the entire workforce.

**Activity Description:** This program will provide job training in green infrastructure design, construction, and/or maintenance to eligible low/moderate income persons. It involves coordination among industry (represented by Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA)), local government (City of Newport and/or Town of South Kingstown), academia, nonprofit service providers, and state government. Job training will include both classroom instruction and observation/construction/maintenance of green infrastructure improvements at 1-2 experiential learning sites that primarily benefit low/moderate income persons. Students will interact directly with design and construction professionals and observe work at the experiential learning site(s).
• Tailoring of existing green infrastructure job training (GIJT) curricula to RI's needs for use in a certificate program generally equivalent to one fulltime semester, by collaborating with industry, academia, government, and non-profit partners.
• Outreach through partners and directly to low/moderate income persons, and identification of sufficient prospective students to meet minimum requirement of eligible persons trained/placed.
• Income verification and qualification of prospective students by experienced partners prior to enrollment.
• Delivery of GIJT curriculum generally equivalent to one fulltime semester to a minimum required number of low/moderate income persons (at/below 80% of Area Median Income), including project implementation at experiential learning site(s).
• Provision of coaching and career services to all trainees, utilizing RINLA membership contacts
• Identification, tracking, and reporting on quantitative measures of program success, including student outcomes, and environmental measures of GI at experiential learning site(s).

The project budget includes funding for curriculum development, instruction, design and construction of green infrastructure improvements at the experiential learning site(s), job coaching, and program evaluation. The estimated per student cost is $18,500.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: 50-150 persons complete job training program

Proposed Beneficiaries: Fifty – One hundred and fifty (50-150) LMI persons
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Charlestown Animal Control Facility Rehabilitation

Activity Type: Public Facilities Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Charlestown

Location Description: Washington County. 50 B Sand Hill Road

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy winds damaged the roof of the Town-owned Animal Control building. Roof damage quickly leads to more extensive building damage, due to water penetration.

Damage to the animal control facility puts animals at risk and presents a danger to the public. The lack of an adequate animal shelter facility poses a public health risk if nuisance animals are loose in the community. Nuisance animals may include diseased animals and/or animals with a history of aggressive behavior towards humans.

Activity Description: Repair/replacement of the roof on the Charlestown Animal Control building.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 7,827 residents of the Town of Charlestown
Charlestown, FEMA Match for Emergency Services

Activity Type: Public Services

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Charlestown

Location Description: Washington County. Town of Charlestown

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Town incurred disaster response costs as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The activities included:
- Code enforcement related to the storm
- Additional policing related to the storm

FEMA reimbursed 75% of the emergency response/repair costs.

Activity Description: Payment of non-federal share, or 25% of the CDBG eligible response costs resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Disaster services to 7,827 residents

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 7,827 residents of the Town of Charlestown
Charlestown, FEMA Match for Emergency Repairs

**Activity Type:** Rehabilitation of a Public Improvement

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of Charlestown

**Location Description:** Washington County, Charlestown Beach Road

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** The Town incurred emergency repair costs as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The activities included:

- Repairs to Charlestown Beach Road

FEMA reimbursed 75% of the emergency response/repair costs.

**Activity Description:** Payment of non-federal share, or 25% of the CDBG eligible repair costs resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to one (1) public road, 4,224 linear feet

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** The 7,827 residents of the Town of Charlestown
Tipping Fees for Hurricane Sandy Debris Removal

Activity Type: Debris Removal

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Charlestown

Location Description: Washington County. Charlestown Beach area

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy’s high winds and storm surge damaged and destroyed numerous trees and scattered debris throughout the region, especially in coastal areas. Charlestown Beach, Charlestown Beach Road, and adjacent properties were covered with debris. Neighbors and volunteers mobilized to clean up the debris. The Town incurred disposal costs (tipping fees).

Activity Description: After Hurricane Sandy, the Town provided six roll-off containers in the beach parking lot for the dumping of storm debris in the Charlestown Beach area. This greatly increased residents’ ability to clean their property and helped begin to restore the area to pre-storm conditions.

The Town organized a volunteer cleanup effort in the Charlestown Beach Road area on Earth Day, April 22, 2013, to restore the area to pre-storm conditions.

The Town is requesting reimbursement of tipping (disposal) fees associated with both debris removal events.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to two (2) public facilities (Charlestown Beach and Charlestown Beach Road) and adjacent properties

Proposed Beneficiaries: Area residents in Town of Charlestown
Hopkinton Animal Shelter Improvements

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Hopkinton

Location Description: Washington County. 395 Woodville Rd., Hopkinton, RI

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Hopkinton Animal Shelter is an all-day/seven day operation that lost power for hours during Hurricane Sandy. The Animal Shelter has a mobile generator, however, the Department of Public Works staff was very busy during the height of the storm and they were not able to set up the generator until late in the evening.

The animals need to be cared for, even in the worst weather conditions. Heat is important—especially with a cinderblock, non-insulated building, but more importantly we need access to water, for drinking and cleaning. During power outages, the shelter has provided vital fresh water for the livestock of many families. The delay in connecting the backup generator inhibited the operation of this facility during Hurricane Sandy.

Lack of power at the animal control facility puts animals at risk and presents a danger to the public. If the animal shelter facility is forced to close because of lack of power, people evacuating during a disaster have no place to safely leave animals. This poses a public health risk if nuisance animals are loose in the community. Nuisance animals may include diseased animals and/or animals with a history of aggressive behavior towards humans.

Activity Description: Modifications to a kennel run to house the generator in place on a permanent basis, thus avoiding another possibly long period of power interruption.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 8,188 residents of the Town of Hopkinton
Hopkinton Town Hall Improvements

**Activity Type:** Public Facility Improvements

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of Hopkinton

**Location Description:** Washington County. One Town House Rd., Hopkinton, RI

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** The Hopkinton Town Hall lost power during Hurricane Sandy, rendering this facility entirely useless to serve the public during this emergency. Without a functioning center of Town government operations, Town officials were delayed in addressing response and recovery needs, putting the health and safety of the public at risk. The continuity of local government was a necessity but essential employees could not report to work.

Equipping Town Hall with an emergency generator will provide the back-up power source necessary to continue serving the public during future hurricane events, thereby providing a measure of calm and confidence in the community.

**Activity Description:** Installation of a permanent hardwired generator and related building improvements.

This project is a part of the hazard mitigation strategy contained in the Town’s recently FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Improvements to one (1) public facility

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** The 8,188 residents of the Town of Hopkinton
Middletown, FEMA Match for Debris Removal

Activity Type: Debris Removal

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Middletown

Location Description: Newport County. Town-wide, Town of Middletown

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Town incurred debris removal costs as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The activities included:

- Debris (vegetation and sand) removal, town-wide
- Debris removal on Aquidneck School grounds

75% of the debris removal/emergency response costs were reimbursed by FEMA.

Activity Description: Payment of non-federal share, or 25%, of the costs of CDBG eligible response/repair activities resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to two (2) public facilities

3,300 CY of debris removed

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 16,150 residents of the Town of Middletown
Middletown, FEMA Match for Police/Fire Overtime

Activity Type: Public Services

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Middletown

Location Description: Newport County. Town-wide, Town of Middletown

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Town incurred a total cost of $169,192 in debris removal and repair costs as a result of Hurricane Sandy. This included $43,456 in police and fire overtime costs in response to storm-related calls, many resulting from downed trees, wires, and blocked roadways.

75% of the cost was reimbursed by FEMA Public Assistance.

Activity Description: Payment of non-federal share, or 25%, of the costs of CDBG eligible response/repair activities resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Increased public safety services for 16,150 town residents.

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 16,150 residents of the Town of Middletown
Col John Gardner Road Reconstruction

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Narragansett

Location Description: Washington County. Bonnet Shores, Narragansett

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: A low-lying segment of Col. John Gardner Road in the Bonnet Shores neighborhood was significantly damaged by the flood surge of Hurricane Sandy. This section of roughly 1,000 feet took a direct hit from the easterly winds and rising flood waters. Much of the area was undermined and washed out.

Activity Description: Reconstruction of damaged road segment.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

1,000 linear feet of public improvement

Proposed Beneficiaries: Residents of Bonnet Shores, Narragansett
Stanton Ave. WW Pump Station Improvements

Activity Type: Infrastructure Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Narragansett

Location Description: Washington County. Stanton Ave.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The storm surge from Hurricane Sandy breached the wastewater pump station site, with wave-driven sea water surrounding the facility. Line power in this area was out for about five (5) days; no evacuation order was issued for this tributary area, and people remained at home using water. We were ultimately able to connect a trailer-mounted trash pump to operate in place of the pump station and thus were able to manage this impact without significant damage (this time).

Activity Description: The Town is looking to design and install an on-site stand-by power generator (mounted above the base flood elevation) and automatic transfer switch system that would provide full power to the site during line power outages. The pump station serves approx. 668 accounts with average daily flow 110,000-135,000 gallons.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: 668 residences and businesses in the service area.
Flood Proofing at Scarborough WWTF

Activity Type: Infrastructure Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (no obligation to date)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Narragansett

Location Description: Washington County. 990 Ocean Rd.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The storm surge from Hurricane Sandy breached the facility site, with wave-driven sea water entering the facility grounds near the influent headworks. The storm surge flooded the at-grade head works (an open channel within the plant site where incoming sewage is first treated (automated grit screw to remove solids), below-grade motors, and the influent pump station (where the incoming flow is pumped up to the aeration chambers for the next level of treatment). It introduced salt water into the treatment process, which the plant, as a biological plant, was not designed to take. The motors were repaired/replaced, and fortunately the plant was able to assimilate the salt water without major damage or overflows into Narragansett Bay. The storm surge also caused significant soil erosion of the ocean side, grass buffer area and tore up a section of the security fence. The buffer area had to be filled in and re-vegetated. The fence had to be replaced.

Activity Description: Flood proofing of the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Currently, the facility services approximately 2,400 accounts, with an average daily flow of 600,000 gallons. It provides secondary wastewater treatment services to the south end of town, including a number of residential neighborhoods and the commercial fishing port of Galilee. Options would include, but not be limited to, the construction of an earthen berm/dike in a semi-circular design to buffer the at-grade operations from waves or rising seas, construction of an armored earthen berm in a similar fashion, or the construction of fixed or movable flood barriers that would protect the immediate at-grade structures from waves or rising seas.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: Residents of the Town of Narragansett in the WWTF service area.
Block Island Landfill Erosion Reconstruction

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V4)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of New Shoreham

Location Description: Washington County. West Beach Rd.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy wave action caused erosion on Block Island’s coastline, including at the site of a capped landfill. The new erosion exposed previously buried trash to wind and waves.

Activity Description: Repairs and/or reconstruction of the landfill.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: 1,051 residents of the Town of New Shoreham
Chariho Regional Shelter Improvements

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Richmond

Location Description: Washington County. 455B Switch Road, Wood River Junction

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: During the last three declared disasters (Irene, Sandy and Nemo), the Chariho Middle School has been open and used as a regional emergency shelter. Chariho Middle School serves as primary shelter in times of emergency for the Washington County communities of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton.

During Winter Storm Nemo, over 150 clients used the facility, which lost power. The existing generator did not provide sufficient energy to power durable medical equipment needed by shelter clients. To address this critical need, portable generators were brought in to operate required medical and other apparatus.

Activity Description: Third party analysis of generator capacity and electrical improvements needed at Chariho Middle School. Electrical improvements. Purchase and installation of new generator, if needed.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: 23,723 residents of the Towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton
Matunuck Water Main Relocation

**Activity Type:** Infrastructure Improvements

**Program Area:** Public Facilities & Infrastructure

**National Objective:** Urgent Need (original obligation V4)

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** Town of South Kingstown

**Location Description:** Washington County. Intersection of Matunuck Beach Rd/Rt 1 east along Rt 1 North breakdown lane, south along Succotash Rd. to intersection with Victoria Lane.

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** The existing water main, located on a barrier beach, was exposed and damaged due to severe coastal erosion during Sandy resulting in a loss of continuous potable water and fire protection to approx. 1,850 properties. Emergency repairs were made to restore service, until the water main is relocated inland.

Sandy erosion has permanently altered the East Matunuck shoreline and increased the vulnerability of the water main at its current location.

**Activity Description:** Construction of a new public water main connection (approx. 6,350 linear feet) in the Town’s South Shore water supply system. The South Shore water supply system is owned and operated by the Town’s Water Division.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** 6,350 linear feet of water main

**Proposed Beneficiaries:** 1,850 residences and businesses in the service area.
Westerly Old Town Beach Facility Rehabilitation

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V2)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly

Location Description: Washington County. 365 Atlantic Ave., Westerly, RI

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Town of Westerly sustained damages to the Old Town Beach Pavilion during Hurricane Sandy. Repairs and mitigation are eligible for the FEMA Public Assistance Program. Total estimated project costs are approximately $1,030,000; the Town is requesting $244,074 in matching funds.

Activity Description: Rehabilitation and mitigation of the Old Town Beach Pavilion, including repairs, elevation of the structure, and installation of an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System. The structure must be elevated to comply with current National Flood Insurance Program standards.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 22,787 residents of the Town of Westerly
Westerly Town Hall Improvements

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly

Location Description: Washington County. 45 Broad St., Westerly, RI

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The Westerly Town Hall lost power during Hurricane Sandy, hindering the Town’s ability to maintain continuity of operations. The Town Hall houses the computer servers, the EMA Director, and the Building Office. The lack of power during Sandy and Irene impeded the Town’s ability to update public messaging, and the Building Department’s ability to conduct emergency inspections and issue permits. Expedited messaging, inspections, and permitting are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public during and following a disaster.

Equipping Town Hall with an emergency generator will allow the Town to maintain continuity of operations during major storm and emergency events.

Westerly Town Hall also lost power during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and is requesting FEMA HMGP funding (75%) for this project. Total estimated project costs are $63,124; the Town is requesting $15,781 in matching funds (25%).

Activity Description: Installation of a permanent hardwired generator and related building improvements to the Westerly Town Hall.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility

Proposed Beneficiaries: The 22,787 residents of the Town of Westerly
Westerly WW Pump Station Improvements

Activity Type: Infrastructure Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly

Location Description: Washington County. Apache Dr. at intersection w/Gardner and east end of Wilson St.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The pump stations were without power for two-five days during/after each of the three declared disasters: Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, and Winter Storm Nemo. The Town had to rely on septage haulers when the power was out after each of those events, putting the households and other buildings in the area at risk of experiencing sewage backups in bathrooms and kitchens.

Activity Description: Installation of fixed generators at wastewater pump stations located on Apache Drive and Cimalore.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to two (2) public facilities

Proposed Beneficiaries: Residences and businesses in the service area.
Misquamicut SW Pump Station Improvements

Activity Type: Infrastructure Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly

Location Description: Washington County. Fishermen’s Ave. Misquamicut section of Westerly.

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: The storm water pump station’s electrical components were damaged by storm surge during Hurricane Sandy. Large portions of the stormwater collection area remained flooded for 48 hours due to the damages to this pump station, resulting in delays in sand and debris removal, emergency assessments, placarding of damaged structures, and repairs to buildings. Emergency repairs to the stormwater pump station were made with assistance from the FEMA PA program.

Activity Description: Harden the facility by changing PVC to stainless steel, adding bollard protection to vent riser, waterproofing, elevating electrical components, etc.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facilities

Proposed Beneficiaries: Residences and businesses in the service area.
Camp Cronin Fishing Area

Activity Type: Public Facility Improvements

Program Area: Public Facilities & Infrastructure

National Objective: Urgent Need (original obligation V3)

Obligation: $3,406,346

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): State of Rhode Island, Dept. of Environmental Management

Location Description: Washington County, west of the Point Judith lighthouse

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Severe coastal erosion undermined the gravel access road leaving large depressions which still prevent safe access to the parking area. The storm surge left behind a huge number of stones, ranging from massive boulders to smaller cobbles, deposited all throughout the site. The cobble beach between the access road and the ocean was also eroded leaving the road more susceptible to future damage from coastal storm events and further jeopardizing public access to the site.

Activity Description: The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) will be performing Hurricane Sandy related repairs to the adjacent breakwater and federal shoreline and has approached DEM to increase the scope of the project to include shoreline stabilization (revetment) of approximately 300 linear feet (LF) of the state-owned portion.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Improvements to one (1) public facility, 300 linear feet

Proposed Beneficiaries: 1,052,567 residents of Rhode Island
Activity Detail Sheets – Administration and Planning

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Coastal Resilience, Washington County (State Administered)

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $300,000

Duration: Two Years

Responsible Organization(s): State of Rhode Island, Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)

Location Description: Washington County

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Many portions of Rhode Island’s nearly 400-mile coastline suffered damage from the storm, including extensive erosion. Sandy’s five-foot storm surge caused damage and disruption to Rhode Island.

Activity Description: CRMC, in conjunction with a University of Rhode Island (URI) research team will:

1) Update the shoreline change maps for five Washington County municipalities (Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Narragansett, and North Kingstown),

2) Provide a technical report with tailored recommendations for applying adaptation tools and policies in future planning for CRMC and Washington County municipalities,

3) Develop a modeling tool that depicts wave and storm surge impacts for a 100-year storm, with and without sea level rise, as well as with and without coastal erosion scenarios for all six coastal Washington County municipalities, and

4) Provide a technical report on what adaptation tools and policies should be considered in future state and local planning with regards to storm surge.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Two (2) technical reports, five (5) shoreline change maps, and one (1) modeling tool.

Proposed Beneficiaries: 104,658 residents of 6 Washington County towns (New Shoreham, Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Narragansett, and North Kingstown)
Senior Citizens Resiliency Project (State Administered)

**Activity Type:** Planning

**Program Area:** Recovery Planning

**National Objective:** NA

**Obligation:** $150,000

**Duration:** Two Years

**Responsible Organization(s):** State of Rhode Island, Dept. of Health

**Location Description:** Washington & Newport Counties

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** Twenty-three long-term care facilities were without primary power during Sandy. Twenty-nine nursing homes and fifteen assisted living residences were without primary power during Winter Storm Nemo. Facility managers and at-risk residents struggled to meet basic needs.

**Activity Description:** Intensive, site-specific building resiliency audits and the development of all-hazards emergency plans that emphasize sheltering in place for three selected Washington and Newport County facilities (1 nursing home, 1 assisted living facility, and 1 senior housing complex) located outside of FEMA 100 year floodplains and special flood hazard areas.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Three (3) facility specific all-hazards emergency plans and one (1) resiliency audit tool (tailored separately for nursing homes, assisted living residences, and senior housing complexes)

**Proposed Beneficiaries:**
- 126,979 residents of Washington County
- 82,888 residents of Newport County
Energy Resilience Project (State Administered)

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $150,000

Duration: Two Years

Responsible Organization(s): State of Rhode Island, Office of Energy Resources

Location Description: Washington County

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Four recent disasters have posed significant energy security risks to the State. During Sandy, approximately 120,000 (nearly one-quarter) of electric customers lost power. In addition, nine substations were out of service, 1,433 sections of wires went down, and 63 poles were broken. Five days passed until electric service was restored to 100% of customers.

Activity Description: Assessment of the opportunity, cost and benefits of deploying resilient microgrids in Rhode Island. Microgrids, combined with backup or distributed generation, are a cutting-edge and emerging technology that enables a host site to continue operating without power interruption or loss even if the surrounding electric grid loses power. Microgrids are designed to separate a facility or area from the electrical grid when the grid fails. Sites with microgrids can operate independently of the electric utility during a power outage, using local alternative power sources, such as solar panels, wind turbines, fuel cells or generators.

The project will help identify high-priority locations for microgrids in areas impacted by Sandy with vulnerable populations. The project will result in information and tools necessary to prioritize demonstration microgrid projects to maintain critical services. This project includes a RI Microgrids Opportunity and Needs Assessment, and development of supporting materials for a pilot initiative.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) feasibility study

Proposed Beneficiaries: 1,052,567 Residents of Rhode Island
Digitization of Parcel Data (State Administered)

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $120,000

Duration: Two Years

Responsible Organization(s): State of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)

Location Description: Little Compton (Newport County) and West Greenwich (Kent County)

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Parcel data is qualitative and quantitative land use data including location, size, type and value of land and structures. Digital parcel data sets provide critical information for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation purposes. A geographic information system (GIS) allows mapping, viewing, and modelling of assets, hazards, impacts, and mitigation measures. The lack of digital parcel data for Little Compton inhibited damage and needs assessments after all three disasters. Likewise, RIEMA and local officials struggled to conduct damage and needs assessments in West Greenwich, after Hurricane Irene and Winter Storm Nemo. Without digitized parcel data, RIEMA had difficulty identifying the extent of damage, and was unable to effectively target response efforts.

Activity Description: Digitize parcel data sets for two communities: Little Compton (Newport County) and West Greenwich (Kent County).

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: Two (2) data sets.

Proposed Beneficiaries: 9,627 residents of Little Compton and West Greenwich
Washington County Standardized Parcel Data Set (State Administered)

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $150,000

Duration: Two Years

Responsible Organization(s): State of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)

Location Description: Washington County

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Parcel data is qualitative and quantitative land use data including location, size, type and value of land and structures. Digital parcel data sets provide critical information for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation purposes. A geographic information system (GIS) allows mapping, viewing, and modelling of assets, hazards, impacts, and mitigation measures. Rapid assessment teams, municipal public works departments, debris removal teams, building officials, coastal zone managers, and others rely on parcel data to respond quickly and effectively.

To effectively target disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, RIEMA and other entities need a standardized parcel data set. During all three disasters, but most prominently Hurricane Sandy, RIEMA was forced to rely on varying data sets, inhibiting the ability to predict impacts and make preliminary damage assessments. In addition, incomplete and inconsistent data on land use and structures hindered the ability of local, state, and federal agencies to effectively target response and recovery efforts.

Activity Description: Develop a digital, standardized parcel export and data set for each of the nine municipalities in Washington County that is compatible with multipurpose planning tools, including HAZUS, a disaster modeling software.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) standardized data set.

Proposed Beneficiaries: 126,979 residents of Washington County
Charlestown Disaster Resiliency Planning

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $3,850

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Charlestown

Location Description: Town of Charlestown, Washington County

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: In Charlestown, Hurricane Sandy altered the shoreline, damaged and destroyed buildings and infrastructure, spread debris, and caused multiday utility interruptions.

Activity Description: Community-wide planning for hazard mitigation and disaster resiliency.

The Town is seeking $3,850 in matching funds for its hazard mitigation plan.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) hazard mitigation/resiliency plan

Proposed Beneficiaries: 7,827 residents of the Town of Charlestown
Hopkinton Natural Hazards Planning

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $8,600

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Hopkinton, Washington County

Location Description: Town of Hopkinton

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy highlighted the need to reconsider local energy production/consumption as well as to reassess the impacts of natural hazards on a town-wide basis.

Activity Description: Community-wide planning for natural hazards, including local energy production and consumption, to minimize the adverse impacts of similar weather events in the future.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) updated Comprehensive Plan element

Proposed Beneficiaries: 8,188 residents of the Town of Hopkinton
Green Infrastructure Skills Gap Analysis

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $237,970

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): City of Newport, Newport County

Location Description: Statewide

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, and winter storm Nemo left massive amounts of vegetative debris across Rhode Island. The municipalities of Newport and South Kingstown alone estimate they handled 1,750 and 1,350 cubic yards of vegetative/woody debris storm, respectively, as a result of the three disasters. In addition to extensive damage to trees and other vegetation, storm surge and precipitation, from these events and snow melt from Nemo exacerbated coastal erosion, and overwhelmed and undermined traditional stormwater systems. As a result, there has been increased demand for arborists and other landscape professionals. Municipalities and industry representatives have both identified a need for job training in green infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance. Green infrastructure is a key component of resilient recovery.

At the same time, Rhode Island continues to experience unemployment rates among the highest in the nation. The employment statistics for Rhode Island’s young adult workforce (18-30) are even worse than the statistics for the entire workforce.

Activity Description: The goal of the study will be to identify areas of strength for workforce training and expansion, and areas with a “skills gap” where additional resources are needed to get full value from green infrastructure investment. Researchers will conduct surveys of the State’s plant-based industry and agriculture businesses and regional (NY and New England) relevant degree and certification programs, and execute economic analyses of potential growth. The project will include modeling of industry response to infrastructure investment scenarios. The City of Newport will coordinate with Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) and the University of Rhode Island.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) report

Proposed Beneficiaries: 1,052,567 residents of Rhode Island
Water Infrastructure Design & Green Infrastructure Policy
Analysis

**Activity Type:** Planning

**Program Area:** Recovery Planning

**National Objective:** NA

**Obligation:** $223,000

**Duration:** Two years

**Responsible Organization(s):** City of Newport

**Location Description:** City of Newport, Newport County
Town of South Kingstown, Washington County

**Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need:** Water infrastructure systems in Rhode Island have suffered significant damage from storms in recent years, from Hurricanes Sandy and Irene to the 100-year flood events of 2010. Hurricane Sandy caused coastal flooding that inundated stormwater infrastructure in Newport and South Kingstown that is not designed to handle salt water storm surge. Behind the headlines, South County and Aquidneck Island communities regularly experience flooding and storm water contamination of beaches from heavy rains and sea level rise. These trends are likely to increase in the coming years and decades. The result is the disruption of vital services in and around affected areas, as well as major financial damages.

**Activity Description:** Development of stormwater and green infrastructure reports and maps for South Kingstown and Newport. The City of Newport will coordinate with Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA), The Town of South Kingstown, and Harvard University’s Zofnass Program (Graduate School of Design) and Environmental Policy Initiative (Law School). The Zofnass Program will develop maps displaying current water and landscape infrastructure systems and planning strategies for a sustainable redesign of these infrastructure systems. The Environmental Policy Initiative will provide each municipality with a compendium of state and local rules that may pose as barriers to green infrastructure deployment, and examples of rules from other jurisdictions that serve to remove those barriers or otherwise incentivize deployment of green infrastructure.

**Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures:** Two (2) reports

**Proposed Beneficiaries:**
- 24,672 residents of the City of Newport
- 30,639 residents of the Town of South Kingstown
Westerly Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Activity Type: Planning

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $7,500

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly, Washington County

Location Description: Town of Westerly

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy impacted the Misquamicut section of the Town of Westerly with a vengeance on October 29, 2012. The storm surge inundated the equivalent of two city blocks, impacting over 500 structures. Rapid assessments were conducted on all buildings for safety and they were placarded accordingly. The Town's re-entry procedures were put into place to delay re-entry into the area due to safety concerns and sand displacement that covered the roads 3-4 feet deep.

Activity Description: Update the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and create a Mitigation Annex focused on Misquamicut.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) hazard mitigation plan

Proposed Beneficiaries: 22,787 residents of the Town of Westerly
Mitigation Component of Westerly’s Comprehensive Plan Update

Activity Type: Planning and Capacity Building

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $6,315

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly, Washington County

Location Description: Town of Westerly

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: Hurricane Sandy impacted the Misquamicut section of the Town of Westerly with a vengeance on October 29, 2012. The storm surge inundated the equivalent of two city blocks, impacting over 500 structures. Rapid assessments were conducted on all buildings for safety and they were placarded accordingly. The Town's re-entry procedures were put into place to delay re-entry into the area due to safety concerns and sand displacement that covered the roads 3-4 feet deep.

Activity Description: Conduct comprehensive planning activities associated with addressing natural hazard mitigation and prepare a mitigation plan element for inclusion in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) hazard mitigation element

Proposed Beneficiaries: 22,787 residents of the Town of Westerly
Washington County Debris Management Plan

Activity Type: Planning and Capacity Building

Program Area: Recovery Planning

National Objective: NA

Obligation: $81,000

Duration: Two years

Responsible Organization(s): Town of Westerly

Location Description: Washington County’s eight mainland municipalities

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: During Hurricane Sandy, the Town of Westerly experienced over 100,000 cubic yards of vegetative and construction and demolition debris. Some was on unimproved land and had to be coordinated with volunteers and Department of Labor and Training laborers. The Town also had over 67,000 cubic yards of sand on the public right of ways that had to be removed, screened and disposed of back on the dune line. Proper disposal would have been less complex and completed more quickly with a written plan to for staging areas, disposal sites, etc. The other Washington County municipalities faced extensive debris removal challenges after Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo, and lacked debris management plans.

Activity Description: Development of a debris management plan for eight Washington County communities (Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Narragansett, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, and Westerly), in a format generally consistent with FEMA guidance. The plan shall consist of a base county-wide plan, with separate annexes for each of the eight communities listed above.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: One (1) debris management plan

Proposed Beneficiaries: 125,928 residents of the Towns of Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Narragansett, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, and Westerly
Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Administration (Program Area)

Activity Type: Program Administration

Program Area: Administration

National Objective: NA

Obligation: V2: $40,000  V3: $200,000  V4: $350,000

Duration: Two years (each obligation)

Responsible Organization(s): State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development

Location Description: NA

Hurricane Sandy Impact and Unmet Need: NA

Activity Description: Program and grant administration, and provision of technical assistance to sub-recipients.

Proposed Accomplishments/Performance Measures: NA

Proposed Beneficiaries: NA
Appendix 5: Department of Administration
Organizational Chart
Appendix 6: Public Notice of Action Plan Comment Period

Version 1

State of Rhode Island
Office of Housing and Community Development
Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant

The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development intends to submit an Action Plan for the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery allocation to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 78, No. 43, dated Tuesday, March 5, 2013. The Action Plan is available online at http://www.planning.ri.gov/ or can be obtained at One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, R.I. by contacting Laura Sullivan at 401-222-6844. Comments will be accepted through 3 PM on Monday, June 3, 2013.

Michael Tondra, Chief

Version 2

State of Rhode Island
Office of Housing and Community Development
HURRICANE SANDY CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT

The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development encourages citizens to participate in the development of the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The amended Plan sets forth the method of distribution of funds for this U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant and will be submitted to HUD in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 78, No. 43.

Members of the public are invited to review the amended Plan online at http://www.planning.ri.gov/ or may contact Laura Sullivan at 401-222-6844 during the hours of 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM to review the Plan at the Office of Housing and Community Development, One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, RI 02908. Comments will be accepted via e-mail at Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov or the address listed above, Attention: Laura Sullivan, through August 19, 2013 at 3 PM.

Michael Tondra, Chief
Version 3

State of Rhode Island
Office of Housing and Community Development

HURRICANE SANDY CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT

The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) encourages citizens to participate in the development of the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The amended Plan shall set forth the method of distribution of this U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) $19.24 million grant and will be submitted to HUD in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 78, No. 222.

Public Hearings will be held at the following times and locations to obtain the views of citizens on disaster recovery unmet needs and proposed activities:

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C
9:30-11 AM on Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, Council Chambers
3-5 PM on Thursday, February 13, 2014

Members of the public are invited to attend the Public Hearings. The public is encouraged to review and comment on Version 3 of the amended Plan, available online at http://www.planning.ri.gov/ beginning February 12, 2014. Alternatively, the public may review the Plan at the Office of Housing and Community Development, One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, RI 02908 during the hours of 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM by contacting Laura Sullivan at 401-222-6844. Comments will be accepted via e-mail at Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov or at the address listed above, Attention: Laura Sullivan, through March 17, 2014 at 3 PM.

These meeting places are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact James A. Pitassi, Jr. at 222-6395 (voice) or #711 (R.I. Relay) at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Michael Tondra, Chief
Version 4

State of Rhode Island
Office of Housing and Community Development
HURRICANE SANDY CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT

The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) encourages citizens to participate in the development of the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The amended Plan shall set forth the method of distribution of this U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) $19.9 million grant and will be submitted to HUD in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 79, No. 200.

A Public Hearing will be held at the following time and location to obtain the views of citizens on disaster recovery unmet needs and proposed activities, including state agency projects:

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B
2:00 PM on Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Members of the public are invited to attend the Public Hearing. The public is encouraged to review and comment on Version 4 of the amended Plan, available online at http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/development/disaster/. Alternatively, the public may review the Plan at the Office of Housing and Community Development, One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, RI 02908 during the hours of 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM by contacting Laura Sullivan at 401-222-6844. Comments will be accepted via e-mail at Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov or at the address listed above, Attention: Laura Sullivan, through February 16, 2015 at 3 PM.

This meeting place is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact Thomas Mannock, Ph.D. at 222-6377 (voice) or #711 (R.I. Relay) at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Michael Tondra, Chief
State of Rhode Island
Office of Housing and Community Development
Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant
The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development intends to submit an Action Plan for the State's Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery allocation to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 78, No. 43, dated Tuesday, March 5, 2013. The Action Plan is available online at http://www.planning.ri.gov/ or can be obtained at One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, R.I. by contacting Laura Sullivan at 401-222-6844. Comments will be accepted through 3 PM on Monday, June 3, 2013.

Michael Tondra, Chief
LEGALS

$5,000.00 in cash, certified or bank check is required to bid. Other terms will be announced at the sale.

State of Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development
Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant
The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development encourages citizens to participate in the development of the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The amended Plan sets forth the method of distribution of funds for this U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant and is submitted to HUD in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 78, No. 43.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE
62 Doyle Avenue Providence, Rhode Island
The premises described in the mortgage will be sold, subject to all encumbrances, prior liens and such matters which may constitute valid liens or encumbrances after sale, at public auction on August 23, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. on the premises by virtue of the power of sale in said mortgage made by J. M. S. Peltier, on August 7, 2007, and recorded in the Providence, RI Land Evidence Records in Book 8084 at Page 273, the conditions of said mortgage having been broken.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a Local Working Group Meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the USDA Conference Room, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886. The meeting will review funding pools and ranking process, development of local ranking questions, and recommendations for State funding pool questions. Please visit the NRCS Web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov or contact Dan Green at (401) 222-8848 for additional information. If communication assistance (reader / interpreters / captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact 401-822-8811 at least 21 business days prior to the meeting. NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

August 23, 2013

State of Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development
Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant
The State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development encourages citizens to participate in the development of the State’s Hurricane Sandy CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The amended Plan sets forth the method of distribution of funds for this U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant and is submitted to HUD in accordance with the Federal Register Notice, Vol. 78, No. 43.

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August 27, 2013

Williams, Margaret Estate #2013-92 Petition for Change of name for hearing August 27, 2013
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
FAMILY COURT
JUVENILE CLERK’S OFFICE

ADVERTISEMENT PROVIDENCE COUNTY
DATE: July 2, 2013
WHEREAS, Department of Children, Youth and Families has a petition in said office alleging that Josue Miguel Queiroz is a dependent and/or neglected child.

Now, therefore, you are hereby ordered to appear at the Family Court to be held at ONE DORANCE PLAZA, PROVIDENCE, RI 02905 within the county of PROVIDENCE COUNTY on the day of JUNE, 2013 at 9:00 AM, then and there to respond to said petition.

ORLANDO MORAN PLLC
Attorney for the present Holder of the Mortgage
P.O. Box 540540
Wallingford, RI 02454
Phone: 781-790-7809
715-0348

FAMILY COURT
JUVENILE CLERK’S OFFICE

ADVERTISEMENT PROVIDENCE COUNTY
DATE: July 2, 2013
WHEREAS, Department of Children, Youth and Families has a petition in said office alleging that Josue Miguel Queiroz is a dependent and/or neglected child.

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Phone: 781-790-7809
715-0348

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Appendix 7: Public Comments Received

Version 1

The following comments were received relative to the State’s Draft Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan (Version 1). The Plan was available for public comment from May 23, 2013 to June 3, 2013. Notice of availability was posted in the Providence Journal on May 24, 2013, and in the online Legal Notices section of http://www.providencejournal.com/.


   **Response:** Comment incorporated in revised Action Plan.

2. **Comment:** On p. 2, paragraph 2: Southern not southeastern. Washington County is not in the southeastern portion of the state.

   **Response:** Comment incorporated in revised Action Plan.

3. **Comment:** On p. 2, paragraph 3: Define the period of time (hours, days?)

   **Response:** Comment incorporated in revised Action Plan.

4. **Comment:** On p. 10, paragraph 4: Add at the end of the sentence "as required under the state building code." Add new sentence as follows: "In addition, new or rebuilt structures immediately along the coastline will be relocated landward, where possible, in accordance with Coastal Resources Management Council requirements."

   **Response Part 1:** The requirement that new construction and substantially improved structures be elevated one foot higher than the latest FEMA base flood elevations has been clarified. The requirement for these funds is differs from the state building code, as it also applies to advisory base flood elevations, where applicable.

   **Response Part 2:** Language regarding landward relocation was incorporated in revised Action Plan, as recommended by CRMC staff.
Version 2

The following comments were received relative to the State’s Draft Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan (Version 2). The Plan was available for public comment from August 9, 2013 to August 19, 2013. Notice of availability was posted in the Providence Journal on August 9, 2013, and in the online Legal Notices section of [http://www.providencejournal.com/](http://www.providencejournal.com/).

1. Comment: Email correspondence from Ronald J. MacDonald III, EMA Director, Town of Hopkinton (See attached.)

   Response: The State is committed to recovery activities that promote community resiliency and incorporate mitigation. In Version 3 of this Action Plan, OHCD will re-propose fixed generator activities for facilities that provide critical services that were interrupted by extended power outages during Hurricane Sandy.

2. Comment: Email correspondence from William A. McGarry, Town Manager, Town of Hopkinton (See attached.)

   Response: The State is committed to recovery activities that promote community resiliency and incorporate mitigation. In Version 3 of this Action Plan, OHCD will re-propose fixed generator activities for facilities that provide critical services that were interrupted by extended power outages during Hurricane Sandy.

3. Comment: Email correspondence from Ashley V. Hahn, Planning Director, Town of Charlestown (See attached.)

   Response: The State is committed to recovery activities that promote community resiliency and incorporate mitigation. In Version 3 of this Action Plan, OHCD will re-propose fixed generator activities for facilities that provide critical services that were interrupted by extended power outages during Hurricane Sandy.

4. Comment: Letter from James Lamphere, Town Planner, Town of Hopkinton (See attached.)

   Response: The State is committed to recovery activities that promote community resiliency and incorporate mitigation. In Version 3 of this Action Plan, OHCD will re-propose fixed generator activities for facilities that provide critical services that were interrupted by extended power outages during Hurricane Sandy.
This letter is being written in support of the Town of Hopkinton’s request for fixed emergency power generators for the town hall and Crandall House, which serves as the town's senior/community center. I agree with Town Planner Jim Lamphere's justifications in the town’s initial request for CDBG-DR funding. This request serves low and moderate income residents in Hopkinton and is an "activity that is designed to alleviate existing conditions which pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community which are of recent origin or which recently became urgent, that the recipient is unable to finance the activity on its own, and that other sources of funding are not available" (29 CFR 570.208(c)). People are depending on power more and more with the increase in use of home, life-sustaining medical devices such as oxygen, ventilators and heart assist pumps. The town hall and Crandall House will be used for personal care centers/temporary sheltering where residents can charge these devices if there is power loss due to a disaster, get water or even heat during the winter. Without these local town facilities, residents may overload local hospitals unnecessarily or may not be able to make it to a regional Red Cross shelter due to road hazards.

The town hall and Crandall House as public facilities are used by both citizens and local government officials. These facilities function as back-up emergency operation centers (EOC) should the primary EOC at the police station go down due to storm damage. These public facilities help disseminate critical information and provide services to residents before, during and after disasters. The town hall having back-up power will also assist in economic recovery as town employees will be able to conduct business (tax, finance, planning, licensing, information systems, etc.), which they would be unable to during extended power outages. Power is a critical resource and having emergency generators will help mitigate the effects of disasters for the town's residents, especially ones that cannot afford to purchase a generator for their own home.

It is my hope funding for the emergency generators will be provided to Hopkinton to best serve our community.

--

Thank you,
Ronald J. MacDonald III, EMA Director
Town of Hopkinton
406 Woodville Rd
Hopkinton, RI 02833
Cell: (401) 413-8861
Email: ema@hopkintonri.org
Web: www.hopkintonri.org
Facebook
Twitter
Dear Laura:

I am writing in support of the Town’s request for two (2) fixed emergency-powered generators that the Town requested in its CDBG-Disaster Relief Grant.

One of these generators is needed at the Crandall House, which serves low and moderate income families, and also serves as the Town’s Senior/Community Center. Town residents depend on the services of the Crandall House. If we are able to acquire a generator, residents will be able to respond to the Crandall House during emergency situations when power is out. They can then obtain fresh drinking water, cook, bathe and use the facility to provide the necessary and basic needs of life.

The second generator is needed at the Town Hall which serves as the center of Town government operations, along with its Council chamber, employee offices, cooling center, and emergency location designation, etc. It is imperative that Town government operations remain open and centralized during emergencies. The continuity of local government is truly a necessity during these emergencies. Essential employees can report to work and manage the crisis from a centralized location. This building also provides a haven for those who are unable to return to their homes.

In addition, Hopkinton is a rural community. When residents lose electricity, their wells become inoperative. Consequently, there is no drinking water or water to flush toilets during these power outages. We do not have Town water with back-up generators that would continue to provide water to residents.

Please emphatically relay our concerns to HUD, so that they will make the generators eligible under this grant. Thank you.

William A. McGarry
Town Manager
1 Town House Road
Hopkinton, RI 02833
townmanager@hopkintonri.org
(t) 401-377-7761  (f) 401 377-7756
www.hopkintonri.org
Per your request for comments on the current action plan, I offer the following:

According to the following document:

*Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) for 2011 Disasters Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

Which is provided online by HUD, the following FAQ is asked and answered (emphasis added):

9. **What types of activities can CDBG-DR funding be used for?**

Grantees may use CDBG-DR funds for a variety of disaster recovery activities including housing, economic development, and infrastructure. **When rebuilding, grantees may incorporate measures to prevent or mitigate damage from future disasters,** such as elevating or incorporating roof tie-downs while rebuilding a damaged home. However, CDBG-DR funds cannot duplicate funding available from FEMA, SBA, USACE, insurance, or any other source.

Additionally, the following information is provided online by HUD in a slide presentation titled “CDBG Disaster Recovery Overview”:

“**Incorporating preparedness and mitigation in to the rebuilding of facilities is encouraged**”

“**The goal is to rebuild in ways that are safer and stronger**”

“**Equipment that is attached to a structure, and becomes an integral fixture**” is listed as an eligible application.

It is for these reasons cited above, that I believe that the installation of stationary generators, solar lighting at the Senior Center, Senior Center Phone System Upgrades, Senior Center Computer Software Upgrades and a Senior Center Ice Machine should be allowed to be considered for CDGB-DR funding. It is clear through the information provide directly from HUD that the criteria for CDBG-DR money includes equipment (attached) and prevention and mitigation measures. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
From: Laura Sullivan [mailto:Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2013 2:25 PM
To: Planning
Cc: June House; Michael Tondra
Subject: Sandy Action Plan - Public Comment Period NOW!
Importance: High

All,

The amended Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Action Plan is now available for public comment at http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/development/disaster/. Comments will be accepted until 3 PM on Monday, August 19, 2013. Send your comments to me at Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov.

We substantially amended the Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Action Plan, pursuant to HUD's review of the original Action Plan. The amendments included the removal of seven projects involving generators from Tier 1. A summary of the changes can be found on page 31.

Because the Sandy CDBG-DR funds have strict expenditure deadlines, funds will be allocated incrementally. We anticipate multiple amendments to the Action Plan over the next few years. Therefore, we are numbering each version of the Action Plan. The current version (#2) and all previous versions will be available on the web, at http://www.planning.ri.gov/community/development/disaster/ (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Sandy Action Plans:

- Version 1, June 2013 - not approved by HUD
- Version 2, July 2013 - approved by HUD, now available for public comment
- Version 3 - not yet available

Some of you have inquired about venues to provide feedback on the changes to this Plan. This is an opportunity for you to provide written comments, either formal or informal. OHCD will consider your comments when drafting Version 3. Your comments will be submitted to HUD in the Appendix of Version 3.

We welcome your comments on the amended Action Plan.

Laura
TOWN OF HOPKINTON
James M. Lamphere, Town Planner
One Town House Road
Hopkinton, Rhode Island 02833
401-377-7770 Fax 401-377-7754

August 14, 2013

Laura Sullivan
CDBG Disaster Recovery Program Manager
Office of Housing and Community Development
One Capitol Hill 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Laura:

This letter serves to supplement the case made in my initial Letters of Intent and my e-mail to you of August 1, 2013 concerning the need in town for backup generators in hopes that they will be included in the Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Action Plan.

Hurricane Sandy hit the Town of Hopkinton hard. The Crandall House and Town Hall buildings were, in effect, damaged for 3 days due to the loss of electric power. Consequently, Crandall House was not open to provide basic needs for Senior Citizens and Town Hall was not open to serve the public. In periods of crisis, citizens turn to their local government for assistance. An open Town Hall enables staff to field questions and provide direction to those in need, thereby lessening the call burden on local police, fire and rescue units. Please keep in mind that the metropolitan municipalities served by Providence Water still get drinking water during a power interruption. In contrast, rural communities rely on electric-powered well pumps for their drinking water. When rural communities lose electricity, they no longer have water for drinking and rest room facilities.

The Hopkinton Town Council is very much interested in avoiding such future disruption. Toward that end, and in an effort to provide the public with some welcome good news, the Town Council was pleased to announce at its July 15, 2013 meeting that the June 19, 2013 State-approved Tier I project List included its request for generators. With that in mind and in accord with the CDBG-DR application requirements, the Town Council proceeded to advertise the CDBG-DR Hurricane Sandy application in the July 26, 2013 Westerly Sun. At 2:34PM on July 26, 2013,
your office sent an e-mail notifying affected communities that "At HUD's request, OHCD removed the generator projects from the initial Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Action Plan." At the August 5, 2013 Public Hearing, the Council regretfully informed the public of this unfortunate action, unanimously expressed its dissatisfaction, and authorized submission of the application as advertised.

The unfathomable request made by HUD is inconsistent with their prior guidance and, in my view, needs to be independently reviewed. I strongly urge the State Office of Housing and Community Development to continue advocating for the reinstatement of backup generators in the Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR Action Plan.

Sincerely,

James M. Lamphere
Hopkinton Town Planner
Version 3

The following comments were received relative to the State’s Draft Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan (Version 3). The Plan was available for public comment from February 12, 2014 to March 17, 2014. Public Hearings were held on February 12, 2014 at 9:30 AM, One Capitol Hill, Providence and February 13, 2014 at 3 PM, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown. Notice of the public hearings and comment period was posted in the Providence Journal on February 4, 2014, and in the online Legal Notices section of http://www.providencejournal.com/.

1. Comment: The Town of Hopkinton raised questions about the distribution of CDBG-DR funds among communities and supports geographic equity in the distribution of funds.

   Response: The State has considered geographic distribution of CDBG-DR resources. The State’s primary priority, however, is to fund the most competitive projects with the greatest impact. Projects are selected based on a number of criteria, including:
   - Disaster recovery need in the area (neighborhood, municipality, or county) the project will affect (High Priority)
   - Geographic distribution (Medium Priority)

   Refer to Section 7.5 Project Section for additional information on threshold requirements and selection criteria.

   Action Plan V3, as proposed, would incrementally obligate $2,592,595, for a cumulative obligation of $3,218,207, or 17% of the State’s total allocation. The State proposes to support activities in the Town of Hopkinton, totaling $96,600, or 73% of Hopkinton’s total request for CDBG-DR funds.

2. Comment: FEMA Public Assistance (FEMA PA) match should be available consistently to all communities in the impacted area. It was noted that CDBG-DR is the only resource able to assist municipalities with this cost.

   Response: The State’s primary priority is to fund the most competitive projects with the greatest impact. The proposed projects in 2013 included three requests for matching funds for completed FEMA Public Assistance (FEMA PA) activities. Given the pool of projects at that time, all three requests were determined to be sufficiently competitive to receive funds in Action Plan V2, approved by HUD in July 2013. The actual awards were adjusted based on the cost of the FEMA PA activities that qualified for CDBG-DR assistance. Not all FEMA PA activities are eligible for CDBG-DR assistance.

   In October 2013, the second Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR allocation of $16 million was announced. The expanded pool of funds, coupled with an updated needs assessment, resulted in a larger pool of proposed projects, including three new requests for FEMA PA matching funds. None of the new FEMA PA match projects are determined to be
sufficiently competitive to receive CDBG-DR funds at this time. The FEMA PA match proposals remain in consideration for future incremental obligations of CDBG-DR funds.

3. **Comment:** Several comments were received in support of generator projects, particularly those that support facilities serving senior populations. Safe, familiar, accessible senior centers are critical to the health and safety of the elderly when there are wide-spread power outages as experienced during Sandy, Irene, and Nemo. Local emergency responders utilized the State’s registry but, without access to safe areas for the elderly to congregate, could provide little assistance.

**Response:** The State has included several generator projects in facilities providing critical services to populations, including the elderly.

4. **Comment:** Several comments were received in support of housing, specifically senior housing, projects. Seniors represent a large portion of the area’s population and may have significant affordability challenges with increased housing costs. Some communities, such as Charlestown, lack alternatives and do not want this population forced to relocate out of the area. Several parties, including a member of the Charlestown Town Council and members of the Charlestown Affordable Housing Commission, expressed support for the Alternative Affordable Housing Choice Program and the Churchwoods project. “There is currently no senior housing facility in Charlestown. Relief brought by the availability of alternative housing created with these funds couldn't come at a better time for senior citizens displaced, or threatened by displacement, by Hurricane Sandy and the rising costs of home-owner insurance for those living in this flood-prone zone. We are working to preserve the quality of life of our senior citizens by supporting their opportunity to age in place, and funding for the ChurchWoods senior housing project would be a big step in that direction.”

**Response:** The State has included the development of affordable housing options for seniors in the Action Plan. Other housing-related activities, such as housing counseling, flood risk identification, and elevations funding, may also assist seniors and other impacted low/moderate income households.

5. **Comment:** How are projects in the pipeline being addressed?

**Response:** The State anticipates working with communities on an ongoing basis. Key project benchmarks will be identified and funds will be committed if and when appropriate.

6. **Comment:** The State was commended for cautioning applicants on the need to complete the environmental review process prior to obligating/expending any funds on a potential CDBG-DR project.

**Response:** Limitations on activities pending (environmental) clearance are outlined at 24 CFR Part 58.22. Violations of this requirement would prohibit CDBG investment in an activity.
7. **Comment:** Concern was expressed that funds are not available quickly enough through this process to fund activities which need to be addressed urgently.

**Response:** Other federal resources, such as those distributed by FEMA/SBA, are often available to support activities which require immediate response. CDBG-DR assists in recovery efforts, often supplementing these programs. CDBG-DR may also assist long-term response and recovery activities, addressing the impact of these disasters.

8. **Comment:** Why are the amounts specified for some activities less than the full funding needed to complete the project or listed as “TBD” (To Be Determined)?

**Response:** Regulations require projects complete two years from the date funds are obligated. This requirement was factored when determining obligations in this (partial) Action Plan. Full funding for larger projects may be obligated in multiple phases. Funding for some projects may be obligated when certain benchmarks are met, assuring deadlines can be met. Some project descriptions have been detailed in the plan with no current obligation identified so that HUD may now consider these projects, which are identified State priorities for subsequent submittals. All projects must be completed by September of 2017.

9. **Comment:** Non-State planning activities have been grouped in the Action Plan. How will the State determine which specific planning efforts will proceed?

**Response:** Additional application information will be requested of applicants. In consultation with State staff, the review committee will determine those projects which will proceed.

10. **Comment:** Is there a priority list for projects not detailed in the Action Plan?

**Response:** Other activities under consideration have not been prioritized at this time. Additional application information has been requested and will be considered by the funding committee when received. The State anticipates partnering with municipalities throughout program implementation.

11. **Comment:** What are the State’s plans regarding economic development?

**Response:** Several job training and business assistance proposals are under consideration. The State will seek guidance/assistance from HUD to assure it is reviewing such projects properly.

12. **Comment:** Is it acceptable to apply for other sources of funds?

**Response:** Applicants are encouraged to apply for other sources of funds, when available. Applicants should notify OHCD of any pending applications and changes to funding status. CDBG-DR funds may supplement, but not supplant, other sources.
13. **Comment:** Is the State considering a buy-out program, especially for repetitive loss properties?

   **Response:** The State has supported residential-buyouts with a prior CDBG-DR grant (2010 Floods) and is investigating the feasibility of additional buyouts with existing resources.

14. **Comment:** May previously-funded projects be expanded?

   **Response:** Previously funded projects, with no significant changes in purpose, beneficiaries or eligibility, may be expanded at the discretion of the State staff. Original expenditure deadlines shall apply. New funds will trigger the risk assessment requirements for all public facilities and infrastructure projects.

**Note:** Additional letters describing potential disaster recovery projects were received during the public comment period. The Needs Assessment section of this Action Plan was updated to reflect newly identified impacts and/or unmet needs. Proposed projects will be considered for inclusion in subsequent versions of this Action Plan.
**Version 4**

The following comments were received relative to the State’s Draft Hurricane Sandy Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan (Version 4). The Plan was available for public comment from January 16, 2015 to February 16, 2015. A Public Hearing was held on January 28, 2015 at 2:00 PM, One Capitol Hill, Providence. Notice of the public hearing and comment period was posted in the Providence Journal on January 16, 2015, and in the online Legal Notices section of [http://www.providencejournal.com/](http://www.providencejournal.com/).

1. **Comment:** Vincent Murray, Director of Planning in the Town of South Kingstown, was present at the public hearing and requested an obligation of V4 CDBG-DR funds for the Matunuck Water Line Relocation project. The Matunuck Water Main is an infrastructure project in Washington County that meets the Urgent Need criteria, has a direct tie to the disaster, and has received partial funding of over $1.3 million from FEMA. The waterline was damaged during Hurricane Sandy and the Town conducted emergency repairs at the time. Properties to the west were temporarily without water for household/business use and fire suppression. The permanent project that will relocate the water line inland is shovel-ready. Final engineering is complete and a CRMC Assent has been obtained. RI Dept. of Transportation (RIDOT) has issued a Physical Alteration Permit. The Town has asked RIDOT to revise the permit conditions. The Town has pursued several funding sources and a gap remains. With V4 funding, the project will be completed in 2015, dramatically reducing risk to water supply and fire suppression west of East Matunuck.

**Response:** This project was included in Version 3 of the Action Plan, based on a review of the Town’s letter of interest. No obligation was recommended at that time because decisions by other funding sources were pending.

The Review Committee has considered the application, received during the comment period, and recommends an obligation of V4 funds in the amount requested.
Appendix 8: Performance Projections
### Housing Assistance Expenditures

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### Non-Housing Assistance Expenditures

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**[Grantee] Disaster Recovery Program**

**Housing Assistance Expenditures**

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**Est. completion: MM/YYYY**

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**[Grantee] Disaster Recovery Program**

**Non-Housing Assistance Expenditures**

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### Planning & Admin

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### [Grantee] Disaster Recovery Program

#### Planning & Administrative Expenditures

- **Projected Expenditures**
- **Actual Expenditure**

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### [Grantee] Disaster Recovery Program

#### Total CDBG-DH Grant Expenditures

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**Projected Units (Quarterly Projections)**

**Actual Units (Populated from QPR Reporting)**

---

**[Grantee] Disaster Recovery Program**

**New Housing Construction Accomplishments**

- **Projected Units**
- **Actual Units**

---

**Estimated Completion:** 10/2017
### Quarterly Projections by Activity Type:

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<tr>
<td>Debris Removal</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation/reconstruction of public facilities</td>
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### Est. completion:

- **MM/YYYY**
### Public Infrastructure Accomplishments

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</table>

#### Quarterly Projections by Activity Type:

- **Construction/reconstruction of streets**
  - # of Linear Feet of Public Improvements
  - Est. completion: MM/YYYY

- **Dike/dam/stream-river bank repairs**
  - # of Linear Feet of Public Improvements

- **Rehabilitation/reconstruction of a public improvement**
  - # of Linear Feet of Public Improvements

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**[Grantee] Disaster Recovery Program**

- Linear Feet of Public Improvements
- Estimated completion date: MM/YYYY
Appendix 9: Risk Assessment Protocol
OVERVIEW

Public facility and infrastructure projects funded through post-Sandy CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds in Rhode Island shall endeavor to generate long-standing value to communities. The State of Rhode Island will give funding preference to projects that limit exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. Prospective applicants for these funds should review this risk assessment protocol when planning, proposing, designing, implementing, and maintaining public facility or infrastructure projects. Applicants are encouraged to consider design, site, or programming alternatives that reduce a project’s risk.

The protocol is divided into five sections: project objectives and location, exposure analysis, vulnerability analysis, other considerations, and overall finding of risk. Each section builds on the findings of prior sections. The hazards emphasized in the risk assessment are sea level rise, and coastal, riverine, and flash flooding. These natural hazards are likely to affect Rhode Island, especially along its coastline. Applicants are encouraged to consider and mitigate risks associated with other natural hazards. Each section of the protocol includes directions for reviewers, and considerations for applicants.

Recent climatic changes have been observed locally and globally. Existing climate models predict future climate change impacts. However, the extent and timing of actual impacts remains uncertain. The online climate resources needed to complete this assessment are referenced throughout the protocol and are listed in the appendix. Key terms are defined in Box 1. This assessment protocol will be updated as new data becomes available.

Rhode Island is in the process of conducting risk baseline analyses (climate vulnerability assessments) for different types of infrastructure, including drinking water and wastewater systems, transportation infrastructure, and energy infrastructure. The development of a Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan and research on local salt marsh migration are also underway. As data from these analyses becomes available, infrastructure proposals in each category will be evaluated for consistency with the findings in the relevant report(s).

Applicability

All public facilities or infrastructure activities are subject to this risk assessment protocol, unless 100% of the CDBG-DR funds were awarded in Action Plan Version 2.

Box 1. KEY TERMS

Exposure
The proximity of the project to hazards like storm surge, riverine flooding, or sea level rise.

Vulnerability
The impact of exposure if it occurs.

Risk
A consideration of vulnerability in the context of how likely and how soon the exposure is to occur.
**Exposure versus Vulnerability**

Two identical houses (A and B) are on adjacent lots in a VE Zone with a base flood elevation of 12’. House B has been elevated above base flood elevation. House A has not. The houses are equally exposed, but House A is more vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise than House B, as shown in Figure 1.

![Risk Assessment Diagram](image)

*Figure 1. Exposure versus Vulnerability*

**Authority**

This protocol has been designed to meet the Comprehensive Risk Analysis requirement detailed in the Federal Register Notice, *Second Allocation, Waiver, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Hurricane Sandy*, Vol. 78, No. 222, dated November 18, 2013 [Docket No. FR-5696-N-06].

**STATE REVIEW**

The state will conduct the risk assessment based on project materials provided by applicants.

Staff will utilize the exposure and vulnerability matrices included below to rank projects, determine project eligibility, and prioritize eligible projects. The review committee will incorporate the risk analysis results as a criterion when making funding decisions. The review committee includes subject matter experts for several state agencies and considers conceptual design and no-build alternatives to each proposal.

Projects will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Primary risk reduction objective
- Exposure to sea level rise and flooding
• Vulnerability to sea level rise and flooding
• Feasibility of the “no-build” alternative
• Consideration of alternative locations and designs, including green infrastructure
• Physical damages caused by Hurricane Sandy

First, a project is assigned base points that reflect the relative priority of the primary risk reduction objective. The five primary risk reduction objectives are:
• Relocation to areas with no predicted risk of flooding or sea level rise through 2100 (200 points),
• Flood proofing of structures or utilities (150 points),
• Ecosystem benefits (150 points),
• Armoring (100 points), and
• Provision of critical services (50 points).

Second, point values are assigned based on the project’s exposure and vulnerability, assuming the project is constructed as proposed. The points are then totaled and subtracted from the project’s base points. Deductions range from zero for a project with no predicted risk to 144 points if the project is exposed and highly vulnerable to both sea level rise and flooding.

Third, bonus points are assigned for Sandy physical damages, and design and location considerations. Bonus points are also assigned if the no-build scenario is problematic or infeasible. A project may receive a maximum of 71 bonus points.

The range of possible final scores is -94 to 271. Projects will be ranked in descending order. Projects must receive a minimum score of 50 points to be considered for CDBG-DR funding. The risk assessment score is one of several criteria considered by the review committee when making funding determinations. Refer to the Project Selection subsection of the Action Plan for additional information on project evaluation criteria.

CDBG-DR supported public facilities and infrastructure projects must be implemented in a timely fashion, pursuant to the contract terms. Maintenance costs and maintenance funding sources must be identified in application materials. CDBG-DR funds are not an eligible source of maintenance funding. Recipients will be contractually obligated to complete routine maintenance, as well as additional maintenance associated with, or resulting from, natural hazards. Replacement, reconstruction, and substantial rehabilitation are not considered maintenance activities.

SECTION 1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND LOCATION
In Section 1, the state shall determine the project’s primary risk reduction objective based on the project description and location. Because projects eligible for Sandy CDBG are located in areas affected by Sandy, it is likely that many projects may be vulnerable to future storms and natural hazards.
Directions
Identify the project location using address, street names, or latitude/longitude coordinates, as appropriate. Select the primary risk reduction objective from the following:

- Relocation to areas with no predicted risk of flooding or sea level rise through 2100,
- Flood proofing of structures or utilities,
- Ecosystem benefits,
- Armoring, and
- Provision of critical services.

Identify if the project qualifies as any of the following, as defined below: Functionally dependent use, Critical action, and/or Green infrastructure.

24 CFR 55.2(b)(5) Functionally dependent use means a land use that must necessarily be conducted in close proximity to water (e.g., a dam, marina, port facility, water-front park, and many types of bridges).

24 CFR 55.2(b)(2)(i) Critical action means any activity for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great, because such flooding might result in loss of life, injury to persons, or damage to property. Critical actions include activities that create, maintain or extend the useful life of those structures or facilities that:

(A) Produce, use or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic or water-reactive materials;

(B) Provide essential and irreplaceable records or utility or emergency services that may become lost or inoperative during flood and storm events (e.g., data storage centers, generating plants, principal utility lines, emergency operations centers including fire and police stations, and roadways providing sole egress from flood-prone areas); or

(C) Are likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid loss of life or injury during flood or storm events, e.g., persons who reside in hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes, intermediate care facilities, board and care facilities, and retirement service centers. Housing for independent living for the elderly is not considered a critical action.

Green infrastructure is defined as the integration of natural systems and processes, or engineered systems that mimic natural systems and processes into investments in resilient infrastructure. Green infrastructure takes advantage of the services and natural defenses provided by land and water systems such as wetlands, natural areas, vegetation, sand dunes, and forests, while contributing to the health and quality of life of those in recovering communities [Federal Register Vol. 78, No. 222, page 69107].
Considerations for Applicants
Briefly analyze the objectives of the project (e.g. to provide housing, storm protection, or infrastructure for a particular community or number of residents). Could the project achieve its objectives in a less risky location or by using green infrastructure? What are you doing to reduce the vulnerability of the project to future storms?

SECTION 2. EXPOSURE ANALYSIS
The exposure analysis characterizes the exposure of the project to given hazards over the short-term (Present-2020), medium-term (2021-2050), and long-term (2051-2100). Exposure to a hazard does not necessarily mean that damage will occur, only that the threat is present.

Directions
Fill in the exposure matrix for the project, citing data and providing a brief narrative. The description should include a consideration of how likely the exposure is to take place in the given timeframe. For each entry in the matrix, select UNLIKELY exposure, POSSIBLE exposure, and LIKELY exposure and document as appropriate. Assign overall exposure values. Include in the narrative any consideration of exposure of the project to higher temperatures or strong winds, if these are relevant to the function of the project (e.g. energy projects should consider exposure to more high-heat days).

Considerations for Applicants
Has the site been directly impacted by prior storm events? Using the online resources identified in the exposure matrix, how likely is the project to experience flooding or sea level rise? Are other climate change impacts likely to affect the project?

Table 1. Exposure Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPOSURE</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Key Question</th>
<th>Level of Impact - Project Assessment</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Level Rise</td>
<td>Short Term (5 Years or 2020)</td>
<td>Is the project location or its key access points flooded by astronomical high tides?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td>Observation; NOAA SLR Viewer for mean higher high water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Term (35 Years or 2050)</td>
<td>Will the project be flooded by 1.5-2 feet of sea level rise?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td>NOAA SLR Viewer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term (85 Years or 2100)</td>
<td>Will the project be flooded by 3-6 feet of sea level rise?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td>NOAA SLR Viewer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Exposure to Sea Level Rise:</td>
<td>Unlikely = 1; Possible = 2; Likely = 3</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Flooding (Riverine, Coastal, Heavy Precipitation)

| **Short Term (5 Years or 2020)** | Is the project or key access points located in a place that flooded during a recent event, such as Sandy or the March 2010 Floods? Is the project located within the 100-year flood plain or in any type of A or V zone? | REVIEWER FILLS IN | Observation: NOAA SLR Viewer for Shallow Coastal Flooding, RIEMA Floodplain Mapping Tool |
| **Medium Term (35 Years or 2050)** | Will the project site or key access points to this site flood periodically or experience erosion? Is the project or its key access points located within typical nor'easter storm surges of 3 feet? | REVIEWER FILLS IN | Observation: storm surge measurements in RIGIS; RIEMA Floodplain Mapping Tool |
| **Long Term (85 Years or 2100)** | Is the project located in the 500-year flood plain? | REVIEWER FILLS IN | RIEMA Floodplain Mapping Tool |

### Overall Exposure to Flooding:
- Unlikely = 1; Possible = 2; Likely = 3

---

**SECTION 3. VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS**

The vulnerability analysis is a way to explore what will happen if exposure occurs, or in other words, what the impact of a particular hazard is. For this section, **assume the project has been completed and is now facing the hazards** that are described in the Long Term rows of the Exposure matrix.

**Directions**

Fill in the vulnerability matrix for the project, citing data and providing a brief narrative. Key questions are listed by type of impact. For each entry in the matrix, select NONE, LOW impact, MODERATE impact, or HIGH impact. Include in the narrative any consideration of vulnerabilities of the project to higher temperatures or strong winds, if these are relevant to the function of the project (e.g. an energy project’s function might be compromised by more days of high heat). Add the Vulnerability Impact Scores and multiply each subtotal (sea level rise, flooding) by the respective Overall Exposure number. Subtract from the base score.

**Vulnerability Assessment Questions by Type of Impact**

**Human health and safety, particularly on vulnerable communities**

Will health and safety of people be compromised if and when hazard occurs? For background information, see RIDOH’s reports on Climate and Health impacts [http://www.health.ri.gov/materialbyothers/SafeWaterRIReport.pdf].
Physical impact to structure, infrastructure, or access
Will project or its key access points withstand the hazard if and when it occurs? How will the project’s function be affected if this happens?

Replacement & maintenance costs
Estimate the amount and percentage of the project’s value not covered by insurance. For buildings, identify the values of the hazard insurance coverage, the flood insurance coverage, and the assessed value. For infrastructure, estimate the present value of the replacement cost of the asset(s). If applicable, estimate annual and/or hazard event maintenance costs associated with repeated exposure.

Impact on businesses and jobs
If and when the project is exposed to the given hazard, what will be the effect on businesses and jobs in the area? For example, if the proposed project is utility infrastructure that serves a Main Street, losing it to a natural hazard would have an impact on businesses and jobs. Depending on the type of project the applicant is proposing, it may be difficult to extract this impact from the broader impact of a given hazard on a community or on the state.

Environmental impact
What will be the environmental impact if the project is exposed to a given hazard? Is there any potential for exacerbation of erosion, contamination, or habitat loss?

Social impact
What will be the impact on the community if the project is exposed to a given hazard? How will cultural centers, iconic places, or important gathering spaces be impacted? Will community identity be lost or disrupted?

Cumulative impact, cross-sector impact, other notes
If the project is exposed, what will be the effect on other infrastructure, public facilities, and communities? Are there important impacts that should be considered in concert with one another? Is there an overall, cumulative impact that has not yet been captured?

Considerations for Applicants
If the project is completed, what types of impacts is it likely to experience due to sea level rise and flooding through the year 2100? Refer to the questions above.
Table 2. Vulnerability Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Impact</th>
<th>Key Question</th>
<th>Level of Impact - Project Assessment</th>
<th>Vulnerability Impact Score*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sea Level Rise</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human health and safety, particularly on vulnerable communities</td>
<td>What is the likelihood that health and safety of people are compromised if and when project is exposed to SLR?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical impact to structure, infrastructure, or access</td>
<td>What is the likelihood that the project loses accessibility or functionality (before its typical lifespan is over) due to SLR?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement and Maintenance Costs</td>
<td>What is the likelihood that the project will need to be replaced in part or entirely if flooded due to SLR? Will public funds be required to rebuild?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on businesses and jobs</td>
<td>If and when the project is exposed to the given hazard, what is the likelihood of significant negative impact on businesses and jobs in the area?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental impact</td>
<td>What will be the environmental impact if the project is exposed to a given hazard? Is there any potential for exacerbation of erosion, contamination, or habitat loss?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social impact</td>
<td>What will be the impact on the community if the project is exposed to a given hazard? How will cultural centers, iconic places, or important gathering spaces be impacted? Will community identity be lost or disrupted?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative impact, cross-sector impact</td>
<td>If the project is exposed, what will be the effect on other infrastructure, public facilities, and communities? Are there important impacts that should be considered in concert with one another?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other impacts</td>
<td>Is there an overall impact that has not yet been captured?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise Subtotal (Range 0 - 24)**

*Vulnerability Impact Score: None = 0; Low = 1; Moderate = 2; High = 3*
**Flooding (Riverine, Coastal, Heavy Precipitation)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Reviewer Fills In</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human health and safety, particularly on vulnerable communities</td>
<td>What is the likelihood that health and safety of people will be compromised if and when hazard occurs?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical impact to structure, infrastructure, or access</td>
<td>What kind of impact will flooding have on the project or its key access points if and when it occurs? How will project's function be affected if this happens?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement and Maintenance Costs</td>
<td>Will the project need to be replaced in part or entirely if flooded? Will public funds be required to rebuild?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on businesses and jobs</td>
<td>If and when the project is exposed to the given hazard, what will be the effect on businesses and jobs in the area?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental impact</td>
<td>What will be the environmental impact if the project is exposed to a given hazard? Is there any potential for exacerbation of erosion, contamination, or habitat loss?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social impact</td>
<td>What will be the impact on the community if the project is exposed to a given hazard? How will cultural centers, iconic places, or important gathering spaces be impacted? Will community identity be lost or disrupted?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative impact, cross-sector impact</td>
<td>If the project is exposed, what will be the effect on other infrastructure, public facilities, and communities? Are there important impacts that should be considered in concert with one another?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other impacts</td>
<td>Is there an overall impact that has not yet been captured?</td>
<td>REVIEWER FILLS IN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vulnerability to Flooding Subtotal (Range 0 - 24)**

*Vulnerability Impact Score: None = 0; Low = 1; Moderate = 2; High = 3

**SECTION 4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Hurricane Sandy CDBG-DR funds were allocated to ensure recovery. Rebuilding and mitigation projects that address physical damages sustained during the disaster are a high priority.

An assessment of risk would be incomplete without considering project alternatives. Potential alternatives include the no-build scenario, location alternatives, and design alternatives. The range of location and design alternatives depends on the primary purpose of the project (e.g. improve public...
access to the waterfront, improve stormwater management, protect inland property, or preserve 3 acres of wetlands).

A project is more competitive if the no-build scenario is infeasible. Infeasibility is determined by the extent inaction will compromise access to public facilities, private businesses, and private residences, as well as the extent inaction increases the vulnerability of an existing public asset.

Projects may be awarded a maximum of 71 bonus points, divided into the following categories:

- Site sustained physical damages during Hurricane Sandy (up to fifty bonus points);
- Inclusion of green infrastructure components (up to three bonus points);
- Consideration of other design alternatives that reduce risk (up to three bonus points);
- Consideration of alternative locations (up to three bonus points); and
- Infeasibility of no-build scenario (up to twelve bonus points).

**Directions**

Assign bonus points, as appropriate. Add to the adjusted score from Section 3.

**Considerations for Applicants**

Key points of comparison among the proposed project, the no-build scenario, and alternatives include:

- Is there a green infrastructure alternative that achieves the primary purpose?
- How would exposure be different in each alternative?
- How would vulnerability be different in each alternative?
- What are the other benefits and drawbacks of each alternative?
- If an alternative would be preferable but is more expensive, how much more would it cost and how much more CDBG funding would you require?

If the project will significantly enhance resilience to natural hazards and climate change in ways that have not been considered (e.g. capturing stormwater, decreasing impermeable pavement, etc.), include that information in project proposals. Likewise, if the project exceeds regulatory requirements to reduce the vulnerability of the project to future natural hazards, include that information in project proposals. Future potential natural hazards include increased high heat days, drought, wind, and earthquakes, as well as, sea level rise and flooding.

**SECTION 5. OVERALL FINDING OF RISK**

The overall finding of risk is a computation of the primary risk reduction objective, the predicted exposure and vulnerability through 2100, and other considerations. Other considerations include physical damages caused by the disaster, the relative risk of the no-build scenario, and design and location alternatives.

**Directions**

Rank order projects by overall score. Identify any projects with a score below the minimum threshold of 50 points.
APPENDIX 1: DATA INPUTS

NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer: http://csc.noaa.gov/slr/beta/viewer/

RIEMA Floodplain Mapping Tool: http://www.riema.ri.gov/prevention/floods/flood_mapping.php


SafewaterRI: http://www.health.ri.gov/materialbyothers/SafeWaterRIReport.pdf. For sea level rise projections, see Phase 2 report, page 32, Table 4, and use the 50% probability row. For wind speed projections, see Phase 2 report, pages 54-56, Figures 42-44.

EPA Climate Change Impacts Online Summaries

- Climate change and transportation: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/transportation.html
- Climate change and energy: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/energy.html

Other References


National Climate Assessment: http://www.globalchange.gov/what-we-do/assessment

Rebuild by Design: http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/ An Initiative of the President’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force.
Appendix 10: Resilience Performance Standards
RESILIENCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The State considers two primary resiliency goals when determining CDBG-DR investments in public facilities and infrastructure projects.

**Goal One:** 100% of CDBG-DR investments in public facilities and infrastructure will enhance the resiliency of Rhode Island communities.

**Goal Two:** 100% of CDBG-DR investments in public facilities and infrastructure will reduce the exposure and/or vulnerability to natural hazards of the public assets receiving investment.

These goals are consistent with the *Suitable Living Environment* objective and the *Sustainability* outcome identified in the CPD Performance Measurement System implemented by HUD in 2006.

The Outcome Indicators below have been developed to enhance sustainability and resiliency for the purposes of improving, maintaining, or creating suitable living environments. Each project shall meet at least one indicator under each goal.

**GOAL ONE - OUTCOME INDICATORS**

1. Number of persons assisted:
   - a. With access to more resilient public facilities or infrastructure
   - b. With ecosystem and/or flood mitigation benefits from restored, created, protected, or improved wetlands, coastal features, or other natural areas

**GOAL TWO - OUTCOME INDICATORS**

1. Number of linear feet of infrastructure/utilities:
   - a. Relocated outside of FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and 100-Year Floodplains
   - b. Improved by flood proofing measures
   - c. Improved by incorporation of green infrastructure features
   - d. Hardened to impede erosion
2. Number of public facilities:
   - a. Improved by flood proofing measures
   - b. Improved to better serve critical needs
   - c. Elevated to or above Base Flood Elevation plus 1 foot
   - d. Relocated or reconstructed outside of FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and 100-Year Floodplains
e. Relocated or reconstructed outside of areas projected to be inundated by 5 feet of sea level rise above 2011 levels

f. Added new backup or alternative power generator capacity

g. Designed and (re)constructed to exceed the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code or meet the most current International Code Council (ICC) 500 ICC/NSSA Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters

3. Number of acres of wetlands, coastal features, and other natural areas:

   a. Restored to/beyond pre-disaster conditions
   b. Created to enhance ecosystem benefits
   c. Protected from future development