

New Jersey

Department of Community Affairs

SUPERSTORM SANDY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - DISASTER
RECOVERY

Public Law 113-2; January 29, 2013
FR-5696-N-01; March 5, 2013
FR-5696-N-06; November 18, 2013
FR-5696-N-11; October 16, 2014



ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT NUMBER 46

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

- **Transferring Funds to the Resilient NJ Program**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: July 29 to August 30, 2022
DATE SUBMITTED TO HUD: September 7, 2022
DATE APPROVED BY HUD: September 22, 2022

Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver
Commissioner



SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

New Jersey (State) received approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the State's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan on April 29, 2013. The Action Plan described the State's allocation of \$1,829,520,000 of first round CDBG-DR funds allocated by HUD to support New Jersey recovery efforts. As Grantee, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was chosen to administer the CDBG-DR grant. Since that time, HUD has approved forty-five amendments to the Action Plan, including Substantial Amendment Number 7, which detailed the allocation of \$1,463,000,000 of second round CDBG-DR funds across the recovery programs, and Substantial Amendment Number 11, which described the allocation of \$501,909,000 of the third (and final) round of CDBG-DR funds intended to address unmet recovery needs.

This **Action Plan Amendment Number 46 (APA 46)** is considered a substantial amendment according to the definition stipulated in the March 5, 2013 HUD [Federal Register Notice 5696-N-01](#) and in accordance with the State's Citizen Participation Plan because it adds an activity to the State's portfolio of disaster recovery programs.

This Amendment is available in English and Spanish through DCA's website: <https://www.nj.gov/dca/ddrm/>, and can be obtained by email to DisasterRecoveryandMitigation@dca.nj.gov (Subject: APA 46) or by contacting Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Constituent Services at 609-292-3750. To obtain a translated copy in a language other than Spanish, please contact Sylvia Johnston, the language access plan coordinator, at (609) 913-4247 or Sylvia.Johnston@dca.nj.gov. For hearing-impaired users, Text Telephone Service is available at (TTY/TDD) 609-984-7300 or 1-800-286-6613.

The public comment period for Action Plan Amendment 46 was open from 9:00 a.m. on July 29, 2022, to 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 2022. The State reviewed the public comments provided during the comment period. All comments received equal consideration regardless of whether they were submitted by email or U.S. mail. Per HUD guidelines, the State has synthesized the public comments received through this process. The comments and written responses prepared by the State are provided in Section 3.

SECTION 2: FUNDING TRANSFERS

Through this Amendment, the State proposes to transfer \$4.8 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to the Resilient NJ Program.

Transfer of Funds to the Resilient NJ Program

Program	Activity Previous Allocation	Amount of Transfer	Activity Revised Allocation
Blue Acres Buyout Program	\$127,164,399	(-) \$4,800,000	\$122,364,399
Resilient NJ Program	\$0	(+) \$4,800,000	\$4,800,000

The Resilient NJ Program was established through the 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – National Disaster Resilience Competition (CDBG-NDR). New Jersey was awarded \$15 million to create a Regional Resilience Planning Grant Program to support multi-municipal regions understand and address vulnerabilities due to increased flood risk, and to develop a toolkit of best practices. The Regional Resilience Planning Grant Program was subsequently renamed the Resilient NJ Program and utilized \$10 million of the total award. The remaining portion of the award was utilized to build a Stormwater Infrastructure Toolkit.

The Resilient NJ – Regional Resilience Planning Grant Program is overseen by New Jersey’s Chief Resilience Officer at the Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and is funding the development of creative and implementable approaches to regional resilience planning. This planning effort is taking place in four (4) multi-municipal regions throughout New Jersey’s nine (9) Sandy MID counties. Both Phase 1 – community and stakeholder engagement/visioning, risk assessment, and Action Plan delivery – and Phase 2 of the regional projects – implementation of more specific planning actions – will be complete in the fall of 2022.

The State recognizes a continued unmet need to further coordinate and facilitate local government action on resilience, community outreach and engagement, and implementation of resilience activities in the Resilient NJ regions. Therefore, the State proposes to reallocate \$4.8 million in response to a request for additional support from the steering committees (municipal representatives, public members, stakeholders). The funding will be provided to the project consultant teams that are performing the planning and implementation phases to perform further resilience facilitation, community engagement, and implementation of additional actions identified in the Action Plans. An additional requirement of this funding will be to identify and establish an ongoing coordination and facilitation structure to ensure that the federal and state investment in these regions continues to pay resilience dividends once this funding is expended.

All aspects of the Resilient NJ projects are based on robust and multi-faceted community engagement efforts. It is a core objective of the program to engage with and address the needs of socially vulnerable and under-represented populations. In addition to being a primary task in the project scope of work, the local government teams (regions) each include at least one community-based organization to act as a trusted partner to support engagement of socially vulnerable populations.

Resilient NJ – Regional Resilience Planning Grants Projects

The NJDEP selected the four (4) regions through a competitive grant application process and procured multiple consultant teams to perform the planning and implementation phases of the projects. The four (4) regions cover 24 municipalities in five (5) counties, including three (3) of the biggest cities in New Jersey. Each regional project has its own website which may be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/bcrp/resilientnj/projects.html>.

Resilient Northeast New Jersey

Newark, Jersey City, Bayonne, Hoboken

Community-based organization(s): Ironbound Community Corporation, HOPES Community Assistance Partnership

<https://www.resilient-nj.com/>

Resilient Raritan River & Bay Communities

Middlesex County, Carteret, Woodbridge, Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Sayreville, South River, Old Bridge

Community-based organization(s): Raritan Bay Area YMCA

<https://resilientnewjersey.com/>

Resilient LBI

Barneget Light, Long Beach, Harvey Cedars, Surf City, Ship Bottom, Beach Haven

Community-based organization(s): St. Francis Community Center

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8270c8d6d42f4783b0a4fcf530a866a3>

Resilient Atlantic County Coastal Region

Atlantic County, Atlantic City, Brigantine, Ventnor, Margate, Longport, Pleasantville, Northfield

Community-based organization(s): American Red Cross

<https://resilientnj-accr.com/>

Planning Support Grants

Three (3) grants to non-governmental organizations were also awarded to support the planning process and to provide additional guidance for implementation:

- Enterprise Community Partners – supported outreach and engagement of socially vulnerable populations

- Rutgers University/South Dakota State University – municipal primer on restoration and enhancement of post-buyout properties
- Stevens Institute of Technology – update of NJDEP Living Shorelines Guidelines with a focus on urban shorelines

By allocating \$4.8 million in CDBG-DR funds for continued coordination, facilitation, engagement, and implementation, the State is protecting the investment already made in the 24 municipalities across the state. This investment ensures that the cooperative framework of the local governments and the communities continue, and the actions they studied and advanced move to implementation, resulting in reduced risk and improved community resilience.

Allocation for Activity: \$4.8 million

Eligibility: HCDA Section 105(a)(12); (a)(16)

Projected National Objective: CDBG-DR funds spent for planning are considered to address the national objectives of the CDBG-DR program as a whole. 24 C.F.R. 570.208(d)(4).

Blue Acres Buyout Program Needs Assessment

Overseen by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Blue Acres Buyout program offers voluntary buyouts to property owners in a floodway, a flood-prone area, or an area that has sustained repetitive losses to remove residents from harm's way and create permanent open space. The program is currently over-allocated given an expenditure deadline of September 2025. Reallocating funding from the Blue Acres Buyout Program does not impact the State's ability to fund its existing commitments to those communities interested in buyouts.

SECTION 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS/RESPONSES

As required by HUD, this proposed Substantial Amendment was made available for public comment over a period of at least thirty days. Written comments were submitted to the Department of Community Affairs via email to DisasterRecoveryandMitigation@dca.nj.gov (Subject: APA 46); or via U.S. mail to the attention of Lisa Ryan, Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, NJ Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 823, Trenton, NJ 08625. All comments are given the same amount of consideration regardless of the method of submission.

The State has reviewed the public comments submitted during the comment period. All comments received equal consideration regardless of whether they were submitted by email or U.S. mail. Per HUD guidelines, the State has synthesized the public comment submitted regarding this proposed amendment. The comment and written response prepared by the State is provided below.

COMMENT 1

SUPPORT FOR ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 46 AND SUGGESTION FOR RED CROSS INVOLVEMENT

One commenter expressed support for the transfer of \$4.8 million to the Resilient NJ Program, and suggested that the American Red Cross be included on all task force teams associated with the Resilient NJ Program.

Staff Response:

The Resilient NJ program seeks to assist local and regional climate resilience planning efforts by supporting the integration of climate science into planning and other decision-making processes that affect residents, businesses and the natural and built environments. The program places a strong emphasis on robust community engagement partnering with community-based organizations like the American Red Cross and welcomes all meaningful participation in local and regional projects to further community efforts increasing resilience, reducing flooding and other hazard risks, and helping to create social, environmental, and economic benefits for future generations. The suggestion will be taken into consideration in future resilience planning efforts that come out of the Resilient NJ program.