

# 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 55 NON-SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT**

- **Modification to Section 4.1.4 add Pathway 4: DCA selected Non-Profit Contractors to the Homeowner Assistance and Recovery Program (HARP)**

DATE SUBMITTED TO HUD: January 18, 2024

DATE APPROVED BY HUD: January 18, 2024

Philip D. Murphy  
Governor

Tahesha L. Way  
Lieutenant Governor

Jacquelyn A. Suárez  
Acting Commissioner



*Building stronger communities*



## SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

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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 a grantee, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was chosen to administer the CDBG-DR grant. Since that time, HUD has approved 53 amendments. Included in those amendments was Substantial Amendment 7, which detailed the allocation of \$1,463,000,000 of second-round CDBG-DR funds across the recovery programs, and Substantial Amendment 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 55 (APA 55)** is considered a non-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 does not change a program benefit or eligibility criteria; add or delete an allowable activity described in the approved application; or reallocate more than \$10 million or propose a reduction in the overall benefit requirement.

## SECTION 2: CLARIFICATIONS

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Through this Amendment, the State proposes to modify the Program Method of Distribution for Homeowner Assistance Recovery Program (HARP) by adding Pathway 4: DCA-selected Non-Profit Contractors.

### Clarifications to the Homeowner Assistance and Recovery Program

Substantial amendment # 54 reallocated Sandy funding to support Ida recovery. HUD allows interchangeably of funds across disaster allocations. In addition to the CDBG-DR grant received for the recovery from Superstorm Sandy, the State received an allocation of CDBG-DR funds through Public Law 117-43 in response to Hurricane Ida. Pursuant to Federal Register (FR) Notice 6323-N-01(iV)(A)(3), the State intends to dedicate Sandy funds to address unmet needs from both disasters.

In the previous amendment, the State established pathways for construction contracts, and these included: 1) Homeowner with Existing Construction Contract, 2) Homeowner Selects Own Contractor 3) Acquisition. By this amendment a fourth pathway will be added 4) Non-Profit Contractors. DCA found that a number of applicants did not have the ability or feel comfortable selecting contractors on their own. Therefore, DCA created this alternative to assist homeowners find competent contractors in a timely manner. The Action Plan modifications include:

#### **Modification to Program Method of Distribution: Overview**

{insert} 4) DCA proposes to select a pool of non-profit organizations to act as contractors to rehabilitate HARP applicant homes. The HARP applicant can then choose from the pool of contractors. Payment would go from DCA to the contractors. DCA will maintain programmatic oversight including eligibility checks and DOB and provide construction estimates to homeowners.

A solicitation will be issued in a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for non-profit organizations that do rehabilitation construction. The NOFA will include:

1. Scope of Work - the type of housing repair work to be performed including construction standards.
2. Process overview – roles and responsibilities of DCA and the non-profit contractor
3. Service delivery cost – up to 15% of the repair estimate can be billed for project delivery to cover the non-profits overhead and worker payrolls. Additional services such as providing temporary relocation coordination for the household and/or managing escrow accounts could be paid on a unit price or time and materials for staff time.
4. Qualifications - appropriate construction registrations and or licenses, not debarred, and qualified to work in homes with lead-based paint, and/or abate lead-based paint, relevant experience, financial stability.