



Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program

Grantee Update

2020-2021 FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS

May 30, 2024



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Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program

RECENT CHANGES

We have made recent changes to the Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program, including:

- Extending the **application submittal deadline to November 30, 2024** for all grantees whose CEAs were effective November 15, 2022;
- Allocating additional program funding;
- Receiving approval of HUD Waiver for the Buildings for the General Conduct of Government;
- Combining program with the Hometown Revitalization Program (HRP) to allow for more flexibility at the local level.

You will be notified when policy documents for RCIP are updated and posted to include the new allocations, the HUD waiver, and the program consolidation with HRP.

Answering Questions about Costs

- Costs related to developing your proposal(s) may be charged under planning for up to 5% of the allocation.
- Costs related to developing the specific project application are typically considered activity delivery costs and are reimbursable when and if the application is approved.
- Some application development (but excluding certain costs such as engineering and design activities) may be considered “individual project plans” and may be reimbursable under planning for up to 5% of the project cost.
- **The maximum amount that a grantee can charge to planning is 5% of the overall allocation.** See CFR 570.205 for more information on eligible planning activities.

Application Approval

OCD-DRU will make application approval determinations pursuant to current policy as well as CDBG and HUD guidelines and regulations. All applications must demonstrate:

- Meeting a low-to-moderate income national objective, including specifics regarding how the objective will be achieved;
- An eligible activity, including a scope, timeline and project estimate;
- Citizen participation; and
- Consideration of resilience and mitigation factors in design and implementation of the proposed project.

Only projects meeting the LMI national objective will be considered for approval due to the overall grant LMI percentage required by HUD. OCD-DRU can conduct a preliminary review of LMI Beneficiary Data if requested.

Citizen Engagement

- Parishes and municipalities should develop a list of possible projects based on program guidelines, prior to conducting public meetings.
- Parishes and municipalities are required to conduct at least one (1) public meeting in the development of their Recovery Proposal.
- Public notice of the meeting must be minimum of 5 and maximum of 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- **Public comment period should be a minimum of 7 days** and can be up to 30 days.
- Efforts must include solicitation of participation by vulnerable populations, including:
 - LMI
 - Disadvantaged Communities

Citizen Engagement

According to 24 CFR 91.105(a)(3) regarding citizen participation for local governments:

(3) “Citizen comment on the citizen participation plan and amendments. The jurisdiction must provide citizens with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the original citizen participation plan and on substantial amendments to the citizen participation plan, and must make the citizen participation plan public. The citizen participation plan must be in a format accessible to persons with disabilities upon request.”

If an amendment is required, a reasonable opportunity for a comment period will be a minimum of 7 days.

Identifying Project Beneficiaries – LMI

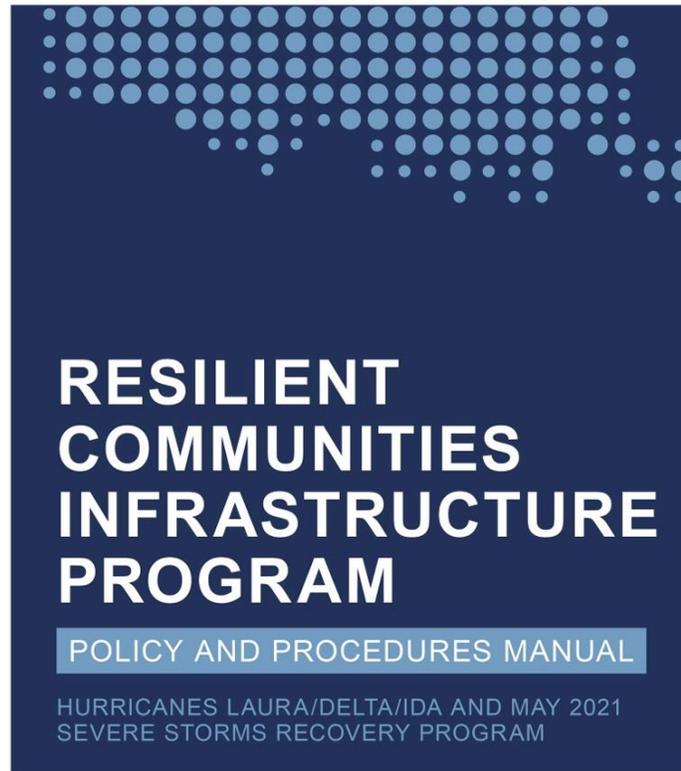
The following three tests are used for determining whether a project primarily benefits LMI households and qualifies under the LMI national objective:

- Area Benefit Test: The project benefits all residents of a primarily residential area within a delineated service area where at least 51% of the residents are persons of LMI;
- Jobs Test: At least 51% of the jobs created or retained with CDBG-DR assistance are held by or are available to persons of LMI (“available to” means no special education or training is necessary); and/or
- Limited Clientele Test: The project is limited to benefiting a specific group of persons, at least 51% of whom are LMI, or is limited to serving person of LMI only. Some activities, such as services for elderly people, are presumed to benefit persons of LMI, although the presumption can be challenged based on the facts and circumstances of the project.

Detailed information regarding the process to be followed in documenting LMI Benefit are provided on the HUD Exchange Website: hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/

Professional Services Providers

- Grantees can use an existing service provider, however if using RCIP funds, grantees must follow federal procurement rules which can be found in the Grantee Administrative Manual (which is available on the program website).



Updates To Application

Until IGX updates are complete, the grantee may address the items below by uploading separate attachments in the application in IGX under Section D. Attachments.

Citizen Participation

Under Section A. Detailed Scope of Work, or as a separate upload to Section D. Attachments, describe how the project addresses citizen input received during the citizen participation process.

Project Location and Type

Under Section A. Project Location and Type, or as a separate upload to Section D. Attachments, upload a KMZ or shapefile of the project or project area. *This is optional.*

Updates To Application

Project Budget

Under Section A. Funding Request, or as a separate upload to Section D. Attachments, include an estimated project budget that includes materials, labor, equipment costs, fees paid, and other project costs.

- Each proposed project activity should be included as a separate line item and may include: acquisition; construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation; environmental assessment and permitting; construction supervision and inspection; activity delivery costs (personnel).
- Each proposed project activity should be accompanied by an estimated cost, and the total estimated activity costs cannot exceed the total CDBG-DR allocation.
- For projects with construction activities:
 - A preliminary cost estimate can be utilized to obtain application approval.
 - Architectural/Engineering fees shall be identified by type in a line-item format.
 - A final detailed cost estimate for construction must be prepared by a Professional Engineer or Architect licensed in the State of Louisiana prior to bidding on any construction activities.
 - If a project requires acquisition, the amounts required for all stages of the acquisition process shall be included in the cost estimate. The cost estimate should identify the estimated number of parcels to be acquired.

The project budget and cost estimate documentation should be combined into one file and uploaded into IGX at application and then updated at requisite milestones.

Updates To Application

Project Schedule

Under Section A., or as a separate upload to Section D. Attachments, please include an estimated project schedule including proposed start dates, proposed end dates, and estimated durations.

- The schedule must include all major project activities. Activities may be a broad, general description of a series of tasks.
 - Activities may include: procurement, citizen participation, engineering and design, environmental review, land rights, bid advertisement, construction. For design activities, milestones for 30/60/90% design milestones should be included.
- Consider what major tasks and milestones are required to complete the project activities and include these in the schedule.
 - Tasks are detailed descriptions of actions that need to be performed. Tasks are project work that needs to be tracked over time, and may last hours, days, weeks or more.
 - Milestones are a single point in time that indicate a change in project stage or development, for example, *permit received* or *30% design complete*.

The schedule should include proposed start dates and end dates, and estimated durations. The schedule may be submitted in any format preferred by the grantee. Schedules are accepted in Microsoft Project.

Questions?

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For questions about the Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program:

 **OCD.Infrastructure@la.gov**



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