

# First Responders Public Service Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

Are Community Disaster Loans considered a duplication of benefits?

**Section 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Act states that Community Disaster Loans shall not reduce or otherwise affect any grants or other assistance. Therefore, First Responder agencies that received Community Disaster Loans as a result of the Great Floods of 2016 are eligible to apply for funding under the First Responders Public Service Program without the CDL being considered a duplication of benefits.**

Does the application have to be submitted on the form provided?

**Yes, as a requirement of the First Responders Public Service Program, requested information must be submitted on the application provided.**

If there is not enough space in a particular box, can additional pages be attached to the application?

**If the space provided is not sufficient to address the questions, additional pages may be attached to the application.**

The instructions state that Sheriff's offices are eligible organizations. Do local police forces automatically fall into this category?

**Local police departments that are dependent upon ad valorem tax revenue as a source of revenue for operations and are located within one of the ten most impacted parishes are eligible to apply to the First Responders Public Service Program.**

Under this grant, can CDBG-DR funds be used to cover employee overtime incurred due to the storm?

**No, the funds cannot be used to reimburse overtime incurred due to the storm. Eligible expenditures are based on current and future expenses not past expenses.**

What is the proper use of CDBG-DR funds for first responder salaries? For example: Can it be used to hire additional first responder personnel? Can it be used to supplement existing personnel salaries in an upcoming year?

**Hiring of additional staff and supplementing the salaries of existing personnel for the coming year are both eligible expenses within the program. The uses of the CDBG-DR funds must be related to the losses sustained by FY2017 ad valorem tax revenue decline and address an unmet need.**

Do financial documents have to be submitted as documentation that there was a reduction in the budget as a result of the lower ad valorem tax revenue?

**Yes, financial documentation must demonstrate a reduction in the budget resulting directly from the decrease in projected ad valorem tax revenues in comparison to actual ad valorem tax revenues from FY 2017.**