

2024-25 Hurricane Helene and Winter Storms CDBG Special Urgent Need Fact Sheet

On behalf of the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development is making available approximately \$5,000,000 to be used by non-entitlement units of local government in Planning District Commissions 1-4, to support long-term recovery from the damage created by Hurricane Helene and the subsequent winter storms included in Governor Youngkin's declarations on September 25, 2024 and on February 10, 2025, respectively.

Applicants should use the CDBG [2024 Program Design](#) as a reference, in addition to information shown below.

Urgent Need Criteria

- The activity is designed to alleviate existing conditions which pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.
- The conditions are of recent origin or recently became urgent. "Recent" is defined as within the preceding 18 months.
- The locality is unable to finance the project on its own, and no other funding is available to address the problem.

Funding

- Localities may request up to \$2,500,000 per application.
- Administrative costs are capped at 10% of the application, or \$125,000, whichever is less.
- Traditional "caps" affecting the number or value of open projects do not apply to the request for these funds, but these funds will apply to subsequent applications for other CDBG projects.
- Any leverage required to complete the project must be available and committed within 60 calendar days of the date of contract negotiation meeting and prior to execution of a CDBG contract.

Use of Funds

Applicants may propose use of these funds for housing, infrastructure, and/or for business support. Examples of eligible uses include but are not limited to:

- Permanently affixed generators for treatment plants.
- Housing rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income (LMI) households.
- Semi-permanent bridges to provide access to LMI residents.
- Damage assessments.
- Debris removal.
- Fund services/staff for food banks.
- Housing counseling.
- Rental assistance for LMI households.
- Crime prevention – security staff to protect homes/businesses from looting. and
- Broadband, including satellite/cellular/radio, especially for first responders and law enforcement – permanently affixed.

Application and Project Procedures

- The application round was made available in DHCD's CAMS on February 27, 2025.
- Applications will be accepted until all funds are obligated, or until all submittals are addressed, or until DHCD determines that no more funding can be obligated. At that time, the opportunity to begin or submit an application in CAMS will be removed.
- Applicants must refer to the Citizen Participation requirements described on page 54 of the [2024 CDBG Program Design](#). Two public hearings, advertised and documented as noted, are required for DHCD to review an application.
- A locality may submit more than one application.
- If two or more localities wish to submit a joint application, they must reach out to DHCD for guidance well ahead of the intended submission date.
- The application must thoroughly describe how the locality will carry out the project, and present a well-thought-out program design where applicable.
- Successful applicants must demonstrate that activities will benefit at least 51% LMI individuals. In the case of housing or other personal property rehabilitation or interim assistance, direct beneficiaries must be LMI.
- DHCD will review submitted applications weekly on a 'first come, first served' basis.

- DHCD reserves the right to provide feedback and offer applicants an opportunity to cure application shortcomings.
- DHCD will recommend applications for funding on a “first-come, first qualified” basis.
- DHCD reserves the right to recommend funding for any, some, or all applications received, as well as any or all activities proposed within those applications. Alternatively, DHCD may choose not to recommend funding for any applications or activities.
- All typical CDBG precontract activities will be applicable and required, including but not limited to, the Environmental Review process. The precontract period is expected to not exceed 120 days. DHCD staff is available to support applicants’ project readiness.
- Awarded contracts will be for up to 12 months. Grantees must not expect the availability of contract extensions and are therefore encouraged to be very realistic about project scope and local capacity.

DHCD staff is available to assist potential applicants by appointment. For more information, contact:

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