

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

KENNETH W. BOSWELL
DIRECTOR

July 21, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Community Partners

From: Kenneth W. Boswell

RE: Hurricanes Sally and Zeta Disaster Recovery Grant Program Listening Session

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) invites city and county officials, public housing authority leadership and staff, city and county residents, non-profit organizations, property owners, and others who were impacted by Hurricanes Sally and Zeta in 2020, to participate in a listening session from 10 AM to 12 PM on August 10, 2022, in the Mobile City and County auditorium at the Government Plaza, located at 205 Government Street, Mobile Alabama. ADECA is hosting this session to discuss the implications of the \$501 Million Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which was awarded to Alabama to assist in the state's long-term recovery from these two 2020 hurricanes.

As you might remember, Hurricane Sally made landfall in Alabama near Gulf Shores in September 2020 as a strong Category 2 Hurricane, leaving behind a swath of destruction across the southern part of the state. Around five weeks later, fierce winds from Hurricane Zeta caused extensive damage in the southern and central parts of the state. Earlier this year, HUD announced that Alabama would be receiving more than \$500 Million to assist recovery efforts from damage caused by Hurricanes Sally and Zeta, and to support mitigation activities that reduce the impact of future events.

Alabama's allocation was made available via two Federal Register Notices that were published on February 3, 2022, and May 24, 2022, respectively, and that is broken down by amount in the table below. These Notices describe the rules the State must follow while implementing the CDBG-DR program. The Notices also describe the requirement to set aside approximately \$65 Million of Alabama's allocation for mitigation activities that will increase resilience to disasters and lessen the impact of future disasters. A link to these Notices can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/cdbg-dr-laws-regulations-and-federal-register-notices/>.

Federal Register Notice	Unmet Need Allocation	Mitigation Set-Aside	Total Allocated
Vol. 87 #23 (2/3/22)	\$271,071,000	\$40,661,000	\$311,732,000
Vol. 87 #100 (5/24/22)	\$164,800,000	\$24,720,000	\$189,520,000
Total allocated	\$435,871,000	\$65,381,000	\$501,252,000

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HUD must review and approve ADECA's disaster recovery Action Plan before HUD makes the funding available for recovery activities. The Action Plan is the document that will govern the use of the federal funds and will contain items such as the recovery and mitigation programs ADECA will propose to implement, estimates of the state's unmet (financial) needs related to the disasters, budget allocations, and the maximum award amount individual program beneficiaries may receive. *Therefore, your input is vital to the development of this Action Plan.*

The CDBG-DR appropriation and Notices require that at least 80 percent of the grant funds (\$401,001,600) benefit the "most impacted and distressed" (MID) areas resulting from a major disaster. HUD identified the following counties as MID areas in Alabama:

- Baldwin
- Clarke
- Escambia
- Mobile

Other FEMA-qualified counties may be eligible for a portion of this CDBG-DR funding as state-identified MID counties, provided significant unmet recovery needs remain in those other areas.

Please join us in Mobile on August 10, 2022 as we provide a brief overview of the allocation and its federal requirements. Your presence and the feedback you provide during the listening session will help ADECA in its completion of the disaster recovery Action Plan and will provide an opportunity for ADECA to answer any questions you may have about Alabama's federal grant award.

Immediately following the group listening session, ADECA will be available for 1 on 1 meetings with local government representatives. If you are interested in this session, please contact Mr. Trent Williams at Trent.Williams@adeca.alabama.gov to schedule a 30-minute time slot. These 1 on 1 meetings will provide an additional opportunity for ADECA to obtain local perspectives, concerns, and preferences, and to answer questions specific to your locality.

The listening session will be an opportunity for everyone who attends to coordinate with those who will be involved in and are tasked with helping Alabama and its residents recover from the devastating effects of these hurricanes. Please forward this invitation to your constituents and other parties who may benefit from or may be interested in attending.

I look forward to seeing you at the listening session in Mobile on August 10, 2022.

KWB:SAO:tmn