

Mobile County Commission Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

Hurricanes Sally and Zeta Public Engagement Meeting



City of Prichard
March 11, 2024

CDBG-DR Team

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Agenda

- Hurricane Overview
- CDBG-DR Overview
- Eligible Activities
- Unmet Needs Assessment and Local Recovery Plan
- Next Steps
- Discussion and Questions

Image source:

<https://alabamane.wscenter.com/2020/09/15/a-look-at-alabama-gulf-coast-as-hurricane-sally-approaches/>



Goals

- To determine how CDBG-DR funding will be spent.
- To obtain local data to determine the unmet needs for the community.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to weigh in on the CDBG-DR process.

Your Role in the Process

- What does the community need to recover?
- How did the hurricanes impact residents in your area?
- Do you have damage images that you would like to share?
- What gaps still exist that need to be addressed?



Image Source:

<https://myNBC15.com/news/local/hurricane-zeta-leaves-wind-damage-across-alabama>





Hurricane Overview

Hurricanes Sally and Zeta Overview

Hurricane Sally

- Hurricane Sally (“Sally”) made landfall on September 16, 2020, along the coast of Alabama and the western Florida Panhandle and Gulf Shores as a Category 2 hurricane. This resulted in heavy rainfall and record river flooding.
- Estimated Damages in the United States - **\$7.3 billion**

Hurricane Zeta

- Hurricane Zeta (“Zeta”) was a late season hurricane that made landfall on October 28, 2020, as a category 3 storm in southeastern Louisiana. Zeta’s speed brought very strong winds that impacted Mobile, while still recovering from Hurricane Sally one month prior. Zeta not only created damage in the area, but exacerbated the damage caused by Sally.
- Estimated Damages in the United States - **\$4.4 billion**





BRAINSTORM

Following the disasters, what damage impacted the community most?

- A. Storm Surge Flooding
- B. Wind Damage
- C. Structural Damage
- D. Widespread Power Outages

The background of the slide is a dark blue topographic map. It features white contour lines of varying thicknesses, representing elevation. There are also several dashed white lines, likely representing roads or administrative boundaries. The overall appearance is that of a technical or geographical map.

CDBG-DR Overview

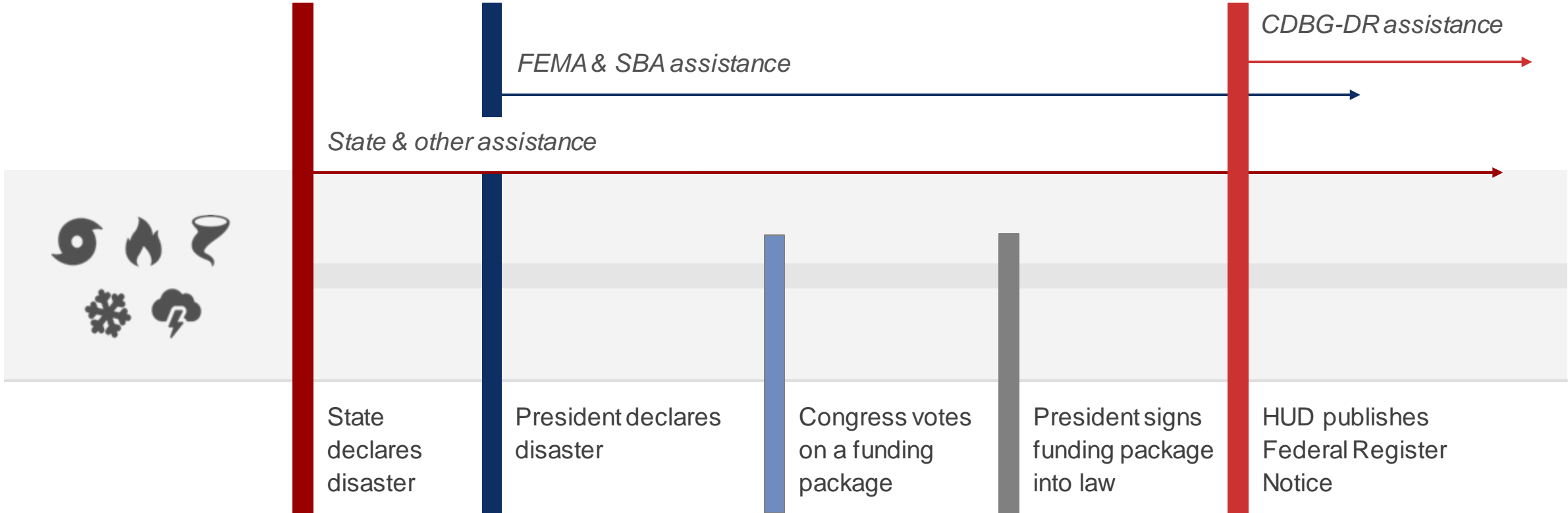
Purpose of CDBG-DR Funds

- CDBG-DR is built upon the basic requirements of the annual CDBG program which is authorized by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
 - To provide flexible grants to states and local governments to support long-term recovery efforts.
 - Act as a source of funding to address unmet needs associated with housing, infrastructure, economic revitalization and, often, mitigation.
 - Supplement available resources and fill remaining gaps.
 - CDBG-DR cannot replace FEMA or US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funding; however, CDBG-DR can supplement the non-Federal cost share.
 - With requirements to focus on low- and moderate-income populations, CDBG-DR benefits communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover from a disaster due to limited resources.



CDBG-DR Grant Process

Disaster Recovery funds focus on long-term recovery efforts.



CDBG-DR Funding Process Flow



Mobile County Commission Subrecipient Agreement

- HUD has allocated **\$501,252,000** in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to assist the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) in rebuilding and recovering from the damage caused by Hurricanes Sally and Zeta.
- The Mobile County Commission (MCC) was selected to be a direct Subrecipient to ADECA for CDBG-DR funding.
 - MCC was awarded **\$28,379,808** in CDBG-DR funding as a subrecipient to ADECA.
 - In accordance with the executed Subrecipient Agreement, MCC must submit the Unmet Needs Assessment (UNA) and Local Recovery Plan (LRP).



Total Allocation Overview

- MCC is a Subrecipient to ADECA and received an allocation of **\$28,379,808**. The designation for the funds are:
 - Housing Activities - **\$12,135,432**
 - Non-Housing Activities - **\$15,244,376**
 - Local Recovery Planning Program - **\$1,000,000**
- In order to be funded through the CDBG-DR, each activity must:
 - Be **eligible** for CDBG-DR funding
 - Meet a **CDBG national objective**
 - Have a **tieback** to the storm/disaster
 - Meet an **unmet recovery need**



Funds must:

Document a tie to the qualifying disaster (except for mitigation activities).

- The tie-back to the disaster can be shown using damage or insurance estimates or post-disaster assessments.

Meet a national objective

- Low/Moderate Income Benefit (LMI)
- Urgent Need
- Elimination of slums or blight

Overall "Big Picture"



It is important to note, that program implementation is dependent upon the approval of the LRP from ADECA. All dates provided for activities that happen after the LRPs adoption, are subject to change.



A dark blue background with a faint, light-colored topographic map. The map features contour lines, a network of roads (some solid, some dashed), and irregular shapes representing geographical features or land parcels. The overall aesthetic is clean and technical.

Eligibility

A stylized, monochromatic blue illustration of a cityscape. It features various buildings of different heights and styles, some with windows. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of people: two runners on the left and a person pushing a stroller on the right. The background is a dark blue gradient with faint outlines of clouds and a small airplane in the top left corner.

CDBG-DR Eligible Activities

- CDBG-DR Appropriations – CDBG-DR funds must be used for *“...necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing, economic revitalization and mitigation against future disasters...”*
- As part of the Subrecipient Agreement with ADECA, the Mobile County Commission must spend **\$12,135,432** on Housing related activities and **\$15,244,376** must be spent on Non-Housing related activities.

All potential projects and partners will be guided by eligible activities and unmet needs. Not all municipalities, tribes, districts are guaranteed to receive CDBG-DR Funding.

ADECA Single-family Home Repair Program

- ADECA is administering the Home Recovery Alabama Program (**HRAP**) which will provide housing assistance to eligible single-family owner/occupant applicants (Owner-Applicants) and owners of single-family rental properties (Landlord-Applicants) affected by Hurricanes Sally or Zeta.
- HRAP assists property owners by providing funding to **repair, reconstruct, or replace** single-family homes that suffered damage from one or both of the qualifying storms.
- The program serves low- to moderate-income (**LMI**) households impacted by the qualifying storms in nine (9) HUD- and State-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (**MID**) counties, which include: Mobile, Clarke, Baldwin, Escambia, Dallas, Marengo, Wilcox, Perry, and Washington counties.
- The HRAP application period is currently **closed**.



For additional information individuals may contact the HRAP call center at **(251)265-7958**.

Housing Allocation

Affordable Housing activities can consist of the following:

- New Construction
- Rehabilitation
- Demolition

Property types generally consist of:

- Single-family
- Multi-family
- Apartment Complexes
- Townhomes



What is Affordable Housing?

HUD defines Affordable Housing as housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of their gross income for housing costs, including utilities.

Grantees must expend (unless stated otherwise in the Federal Register Notice) no less than 50 percent of their grant award for activities which support the recovery of households at or below 80 percent of Area Medium Income (AMI).

Eligible Applicants

For Housing Programs/Projects the following entities are eligible to build Affordable Housing:

- Municipalities
- Tribes
- Non-profit Organizations
- Developers

After the development for Affordable Housing is completed, an application process for potential residents will be conducted targeting low- to moderate –income (LMI) individuals in need of assistance.



Community Wide Impact

The development of Affordable Housing presents the following community wide impacts:

- Economic stability
- Social cohesion
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Improved health and mental health
- Positive educational outcomes



BRAINSTORM

Please describe the types of housing structures in the community.

Please raise your hand to all that apply:

- A. Single Family Home
- B. Apartments/Condominium
- C. Duplex/Townhomes
- D. Mobile Homes

Non-Housing Allocation

Infrastructure 

Repair, replacement, or relocation of damaged public facilities.

Economic Revitalization 

Workforce training program/ Downtown revitalization improvements.

Planning 

Vulnerability analysis, resiliency plan, stormwater management plan.

Mitigation 

Elevating critical infrastructure.



Eligible Applicants

For Non-Housing Programs/Projects the following entities are eligible to apply:

- Local and Municipal Governments (including departments and divisions)
- Free-standing local and municipal government facilities (libraries, parks, Fire and volunteer fire departments, first responder facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, etc.)
- Public Schools, including Districts and Charter schools
- Public Universities and Colleges
- Public Hospital and Health Systems
- Nonprofits determined to be eligible to receive federal funding



Community Wide Benefit

The completion of non-housing related projects has many community wide benefits such as:

- Economic development
- Enhanced public safety
- Environmental sustainability
- Improved community livability
- Social equality

Consider the community's past experiences with natural disasters.

Please raise your hand when you hear the highest priority activity that you feel the community should pursue:

- A. Housing Activities (Buyouts, Construction, Rehabilitation, Refurbishment, Demolition)
- B. Infrastructure Activities (Bridge/Road Repairs, Stormwater Management Improvements, Sewer/Drainage Improvements, Hardening Public Facilities)
- C. Economic Development (Workforce Training Programs, Revitalization Activities)
- D. Planning (Resilience Planning, Vulnerability Analysis)



BRAINSTORM

Ineligible Uses of Funds

Ineligible CDBG-DR uses include, but are not limited to:

- Buildings for general conduct of government (exceptions have been granted).
- Operation and maintenance expenses.
- Political activities.
- Activities restricted in the appropriation laws.
- Activities with no link to identified disaster-related impact (except for mitigation activities).



What is the top recovery activity according to the community's current priorities:

- A. Construction/Rehabilitation of Housing
- B. Land Acquisition/Buyouts
- C. Public Facilities Improvements (including hospitals, libraries, fire, police)
- D. Bridge, Road, and Sewer Improvements
- E. Local Business Recovery



BRAINSTORM

A dark blue background with a faint, light-colored topographic map showing contour lines and a network of roads. The text is centered over the map.

Unmet Needs Assessment and Local Recovery Plan

Unmet Needs Assessment (UNA) Overview

The UNA must:

- Be completed before deciding how to allocate the CDBG-DR funding.
- Identify and prioritize critical unmet needs for long-term recovery.
- Should also consider work already accomplished, community goals, and the County's capacity to plan for, manage, and implement a coordinated long-term recovery process.
- Each municipality, tribe and/or organization's data is critical to obtain the most accurate assessment of the community's needs.
- Will be used to develop the Local Recovery Plan.

All potential projects and partners will be guided by eligible activities and unmet needs. Not all municipalities, tribes, districts are guaranteed to receive CDBG-DR Funding.



Local Recovery Plan (LRP) Overview

- The Plan will utilize the housing, infrastructure and economic data collected during the UNA to develop a comprehensive plan.
- The Plan will expand upon community needs, provide a framework for awarding projects, include budgets per program/project and set the groundwork for implementation of the projects.
- The Plan will set a timeline to spend all CDBG-DR funding prior to May 18, 2028 (closeout starts six months prior to the end date).

Infrastructure



**Economic
Revitalization**



Housing



UNA and LRP Timeline



Your Role in the Completion of the UNA and LRP Process

- What does the community need to recover?
- How did the hurricanes impact residents in your area?
- Do you have damage images that you would like to share?
- What gaps still exist that need to be addressed?



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A topographic map with contour lines and a road network, rendered in a dark blue color scheme. The map is the background for the text.

Next Steps

Next Steps and Program Reminders

Next Steps

- Mobile County Commission will reach out, starting with a questionnaire, to obtain data for the Unmet Needs Assessment (UNA) per your respective municipality, tribe or organization.
- Mobile County Commission will conduct a series of Public Engagement Meetings (both in-person and virtually).
- The Mobile County Commission must submit the Local Recovery Plan (LRP) to ADECA for review within **9 months** of the executed Subrecipient Agreement.
- ADECA will review the LRP within **60 days** after submission.

Reminders

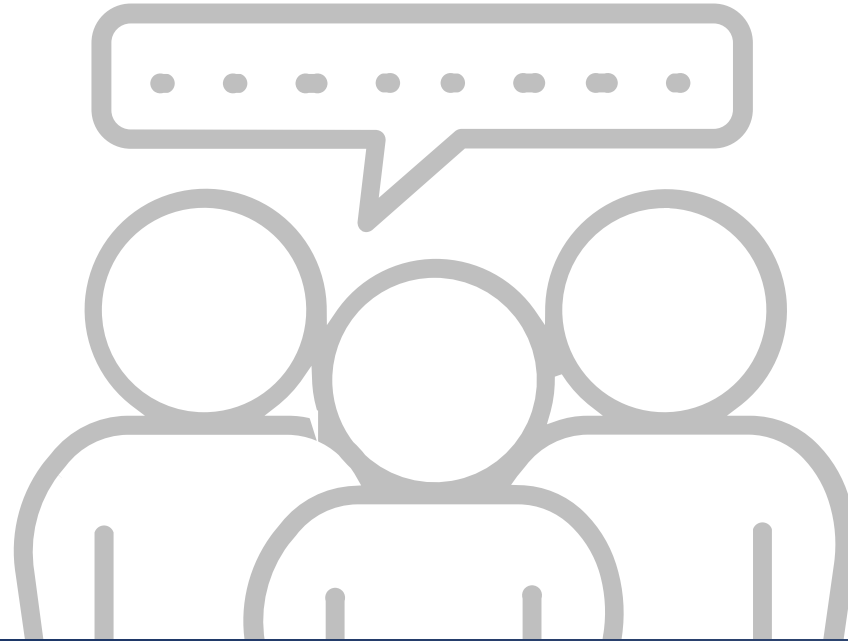
- **ADECA** is responsible for administering the individual homeowner assistance program called **HRAP**.
- Program implementation is dependent upon the **approval of the LRP from ADECA**. All dates provided for activities that happen after the LRPs adoption are subject to change.
- The Mobile County Commission will not start accepting project applications until after ADECA has approved the LRP.



Public Engagement Meeting Schedule

Engagement Title	Meeting Focus	Date	Location
✓ Public Engagement Meeting - One	CDBG-DR Introduction to Municipalities and Tribes	February 19, 2024	Virtually – Zoom
✓ Public Engagement Meeting - Two	CDBG-DR Introduction to the Public	March 11, 2024	City of Prichard
Public Engagement Meeting - Three	Discuss the UNA and LRP in detail and gather community feedback	March 26, 2024, at 2:00pm	City of Bayou La Batre
Public Engagement Meeting - Four	Discuss the final UNA and introduce the LRP	April 29, 2024, at 6:00pm	City of Citronelle
Public Engagement Meeting - Five	Present the draft LRP	May 30, 2024, at TBD	Virtually – Zoom





DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

Thank you for your participation!



More Questions? Comments? We want to hear from you!

Email: comments.cdbg-dr@mobilecountyal.gov

CDBG-DR Website: <https://www.mobilecountyal.gov/cdbg-dr-hurricanes-sally-andzeta-1/>

Questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DXYL7T5>

