

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM  
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT 2012-01  
ORANGE COUNTY CDBG-DR 2012 ACTION PLAN  
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ANNOUNCEMENT**

Orange County is the recipient of a CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant (CDBG-DR) in accordance with Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. These funds are being made available to assist disaster recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The County has been allocated \$11,422,029. These funds are allocated to the County as a direct recipient due to the fact that the Orange County CDBG Urban Consortium area has more than \$10 million in unmet severe needs. In order to receive the aforementioned funds, the County prepared and submitted an Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on July 20, 2012. The Action Plan was approved by HUD on August 10, 2012.

At this time, Orange County is submitting a substantial amendment to the approved Action Plan to address the following program changes:

\*Amend the area to conduct activities as described in the Action Plan from the Urban County Consortium to all municipalities located in Orange County.

\*Amend the Action Plan Budget/Project allocations to include additional Projects and Activities.

\*Amend the current grant completion date from March 31, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

The 7-day comment period will begin on Thursday, March 5, 2015 and extend through close of business on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Beginning on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 the Substantial Amendment to the Orange County CDBG-DR Action Plan may be viewed on and downloaded from the Orange County website at [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com). In addition, copies can be requested by e-mail [CommDev@orangecountygov.com](mailto:CommDev@orangecountygov.com) or by calling the Office of Community Development at 845-615-3820.

Comments should be written and mailed to:

The Office of Community Development  
Attention: Joanne Fazzino, Assistant Director  
18 Seward Avenue  
Middletown, New York 10940

Comments may also be e-mailed to [CommDev@orangecountygov.com](mailto:CommDev@orangecountygov.com)

All comments must be received by closed of business on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM  
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT 2012-01  
ORANGE COUNTY CDBG-DR 2012 ACTION PLAN**

**1. Amend the area to conduct activities as described in the Action Plan from the Urban County Consortium to all municipalities located in Orange County.**

On September 16, 2013, Orange County sent a request for clarification to HUD on whether distribution of CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds could be provided not only to municipalities in the Urban County Consortium, but also to municipalities located within Orange County borders, but not a part of the Urban County Consortium.

HUD confirmed to Orange County on April 18, 2014, that CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds can be expended within the Orange County jurisdiction regardless as to whether the municipality is a member of the Urban County Consortium.

This amendment will reflect that in addition to the 37 municipalities part of the Urban County Consortium, the remaining 5 municipalities (Cities of Middletown, Newburgh and Port Jervis, and the Villages of Highland Falls and Kiryas Joel) could also participate in the program.

**2. Amend the Action Plan Budget/Project allocations to include additional Projects and Activities.**

**The Action Plan submitted to HUD on July 20, 2012 contained the following proposed projects and allocations:**

CDBG-DR1201-General Administration:	\$ 571,101
CDBG-DR1202-Planning:	\$ 75,000
CDBG-DR1203-Contingencies:	\$ 775,928
CDBG-DR1204-Housing:	\$ 4,500,000
CDBG-DR1205-Public Facilities/Infrastructure:	\$ 5,000,000
CDBG-DR1206-Economic Development:	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
TOTAL CDBG-DR ALLOCATION:	\$ 11,422,029

**This Amendment contains the following allocation revisions and additional proposed projects:**

CDBG-DR1201-General Administration:	\$ 571,101
CDBG-DR1202-Planning:	\$ 187,500
CDBG-DR1203-Contingencies:	\$ 0
CDBG-DR1204-Housing:	\$ 1,234,308
CDBG-DR1205-Public Facilities/Infrastructure:	\$ 8,667,624
CDBG-DR1206-Economic Development:	\$ 0
CDBG-DR1207-Public Services/Equipment:	\$ 230,000
CDBG-DR1208-Code Enforcement:	\$ 50,000
CDBG-DR1209-Acquisition/Infrastructure:	<u>\$ 481,496</u>
TOTAL CDBG-DR ALLOCATION:	\$ 11,422,029

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM  
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT 2012-01  
ORANGE COUNTY CDBG-DR 2012 ACTION PLAN**

**3. Amend the current grant completion date from March 31, 2015 to September 30, 2016.**

The current approved Action Plan estimated a 36 month timeline, with the completion date of March 31, 2015. Orange County is requesting that an 18 month time extension be approved by HUD. This will bring the completion date to September 30, 2016. Several factors have occurred that have brought about this request.

HUD's clarification that municipalities outside of the Urban County Consortium can apply to Orange County for CDBG-DR funds prompted the Cities of Middletown and Newburgh to submit applications for CDBG-DR funding that are currently under review. We also anticipate funding request applications from the City of Port Jervis. The County needs additional time to review and prepare environmental reviews for these new activities.

Additionally, the Office of Community Development is required to utilize the services of the local government unit's Law Department. The Law Department has undertaken the daunting task of revising all contracts for all County departments, in addition to the on-going process of reviewing approximately 1,800 contracts that go through the Law Department each year. County Law Department has been working on producing legal agreements for use in the CDBG-DR Municipal program, Single-Family Rehab and Buy-Out Program. However, after undergoing several revisions, all legal instruments for this program are still not finalized. When this impediment is factored into the overall timeline for the program, no infrastructure or public facility work will be able to be carried out until, at the earliest, late spring of 2015.

Another factor that has significantly impacted the single family owner occupied residential rehabilitation program is obtaining the required FEMA documents necessary to carry out the duplication of benefits calculation. We have had discussions with New York State Rising counterparts regarding this impediment and based on our discussions, have been told that they may be of assistance to us in gathering documentation from FEMA.

Lastly, in May of 2014, HUD issued the 2010 census data and new exception low/moderate percentage (based on the 2010 census data) that is to be used in the calculation of low/moderate percentage in area wide benefit. The County is in the process of re-evaluating all activities that had been previously classified as meeting the low/moderate income area wide benefit based on the exception criteria established under the 2000 census data. This re-evaluation is important as it relates to the HUD requirement of utilizing the CDBG-DR funds in a ratio of 50% low/income benefit to 50% urgent need.