

Orange County
Citizen Participation Plan

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery

May 23, 2012

A. Background

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. In order to receive these funds, the County must prepare an Action Plan and submit the Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval. The content of the Action Plan and eligible activities are described in the Federal Register dated April 16, 2012. A requirement of this program is the adoption of a Citizen Participation Plan. The Federal Register contains a list of waivers which permits changes from the County's Community Development Program Citizen Participation Plan. The following section describes the citizen participation process in conformance with the regulations.

B. Public Hearing

Unlike the Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program, there is no requirement for a public hearing relative to the CDBG-DR Action Plan.

C. Public Notice and Comment Period

In accordance with CDBG-DR requirements, the County will post the Action Plan on the County website to afford an opportunity for comment. A seven day period shall be provided for citizens, affected local governments, and other interested parties an opportunity to comment. At the end of the comment period, all comments shall be reviewed and a response provided. When appropriate, revisions shall be made to the Action Plan prior to adoption by the County legislature. A summary of comments and responses shall be submitted to HUD with the Action Plan.

D. Needs Assessment

In addition to the public notice and comment process outlined above all municipalities participating in the Urban County Consortium shall receive forms requesting an assessment of storm damage. The assessment shall include three categories of need: housing, public facilities, and economic development. County departments will be contacted to assess needs related to County properties and facilities.

E. Final Action Plan

Following adoption of the Action Plan by the Legislature and authorization for the County Executive to submit the Action Plan to HUD, it shall be posted on the website.

F. Amendments

In the case of amendments, the County will follow two alternative citizen participation processes. In the cases of a substantial amendment, the same procedures followed for preparation and adoption of the Action Plan shall be followed. A substantial amendment shall be defined as: a change in program benefit or eligibility criteria, the allocation or re-allocation of more than \$1 million, or the addition or deletion of an activity. For amendments considered to be non-substantial, the County shall notify HUD, but public comment is not required. Every amendment substantial or not shall be numbered sequentially and posted on the website.

G. Response to Citizen Complaints

The County shall provide a written response to every complaint relative to the CDBG-DR grant within fifteen working days of receipt if practicable.

H. Performance Review

The requirements for submission of a Performance Evaluation Report (PER) are waived for the CDBG-DR program. As an alternative, the County's Action Plan must be entered into HUD's DRGR system. The County must submit a performance report in a form to be prescribed by HUD no later than thirty days following the end of each quarter, beginning after the first full calendar quarter after grants award and continuing until all funds have been expended. The quarterly reports shall use the DRGR system and be posted on the County website within three days of submission.

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