

CDBG-DR FACT SHEET: COVID-19 EXTENSIONS

August 18, 2020

In the *Federal Register* notice published on August 17, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides waivers and establishes alternative requirements and extensions for Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funds provided pursuant to Public Laws 114-113, 114-223, 114-254, 115-31, 115-56, 115-123, 115-254, and 116-20.

In this Notice, the Department presumes the start of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic to have begun on January 21, 2020, the date the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case in the United States. On March 13, 2020, the President declared the COVID-19 pandemic as a national emergency.

This fact sheet provides information to CDBG-DR grantees of the additional flexibility provided by HUD in the notice.

FAQs

[P.L. 114-113, 114-223, 114-254, 115-31, 115-56, and 115-123 Extensions](#)

Q1: Is HUD providing CDBG-DR grantees a one-year extension for its previously established expenditure deadline?

A: Yes. The Department is automatically providing a one-year extension of the previously established expenditure deadline to all CDBG-DR grantees who have received funds under Public Laws 114-113, 114-223, 114-254, 115-31, 115-56, and 115-123 for a 2015, 2016, or 2017 disaster. Grantees do not have to submit anything to HUD to receive this automatic one-year expenditure extension.

The table below outlines each disaster year, public law, and applicable *Federal Register* notice for clarity.

One Year Extension?	Disaster Year	Public Law	Federal Register Notice Published Date	Federal Register Notice Citation
✓	2015	114-113	June 17, 2016	81 FR 39687
✓	2016	114-223	November 21, 2016	81 FR 83254
✓	2016	114-254	January 18, 2017	82 FR 5591
✓	2015; 2016	115-31	August 7, 2017	82 36812
✓	2017	115-56	February 9, 2018	83 FR 5844
✓	2017	115-123	August 14, 2018	83 FR 40314

NOTE: As a reminder, grantees are required to update its projections of expenditures for each grant based on the status of its current programs or projects and to reflect any new expenditure deadlines.

Q2: Can a CDBG-DR grantee receiving funds under the public laws identified above request an additional extension to its expenditure deadline?

A: Yes. CDBG-DR grantees who have received funds under Public Laws 114-113, 114-223, 114-254, 115-31, 115-56, or 115-123 for a 2015, 2016, or 2017 disaster may request an additional extension beyond the one-year extension provided by HUD. To make this request, eligible grantees should follow the steps outlined below in Question 3.

Q3: Is there a deadline for a CDBG-DR grantee to make a request to HUD for an additional extension to its expenditure deadline?

A: Yes. If a CDBG-DR grantee determines this extension is required, it must submit a written request to HUD by November 22, 2020 (90 days from the applicability date of the notice).

In its written request to the Department, the grantee is required to:

1. Indicate how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting its ability to expend its CDBG-DR funds.
2. Describe the specific CDBG-DR funded programs, activities, or projects that have slowed as a result of COVID-19.
3. Submit an updated “CDBG-DR Grantee Projections of Expenditures and Outcomes.”
4. Indicate if it was identified by HUD as a “slow spender” as of October 2019 or later in the Department’s Monthly CDBG-DR Grant Financial Reports for the grant under consideration.

Grantees are advised to work with its assigned CPD representative in the development of expenditure extension requests.

Q4: Are there additional steps to making an expenditure extension request if the CDBG-DR grantee was identified by HUD as a “slow spender” for the grant under consideration?

A: Yes. If a CDBG-DR grantee was identified by HUD as a “slow spender” as of October 2019 or later in the Department’s Monthly CDBG-DR Grant Financial Reports for the grant under consideration, then the grantee must also provide an explanation of:

- The causes of its slow expenditures prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The actions implemented (to date) to address the causes.
- The concrete steps it will take to ensure its CDBG-DR expenditures will be “on pace” as soon as practicable.

Q5: Is there a maximum extension limit a CDBG-DR grantee can request to extend its expenditure deadline?

A: Yes. A CDBG-DR grantee’s expenditure deadline can be extended for a maximum of two years. If the CDBG-DR grantee determines that an extension beyond the automatic one-year extension provided by HUD is necessary, the grantee should refer to Question 3 above to see an outline of the steps to make a request.



P.L. 115-254 and 116-20 Extensions

Q6: Is HUD providing CDBG-DR grantees under Public Laws 115-254 and 116-20 a one-year extension for its previously established expenditure deadlines?

A: Not at this time. However, the Department recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted normal government operations that are likely to have impeded a grantees’ ability to meet its previously established submission deadlines in the *Federal Register* notice published on January 27, 2020 at 85 FR 4681 and is considering providing additional flexibility on expenditure deadlines at a later date. Instead, the Department is amending the January 27, 2020 notice by providing CDBG-DR grantees with additional flexibility to comply with its submission deadlines.

Q7: Are submission deadlines for CDBG-DR action plans, Implementation Plans and Capacity Assessments, and Financial Management and Grant Compliance Checklists under Public Laws 115-254 and 116-20 extended?

A: Yes. In the *Federal Register* notice published on August 17, 2020, the Department amends the January 27, 2020 notice to establish new submission deadlines.

Given the applicability date of the January 27, 2020 notice, the deadlines for grantees who received CDBG-DR allocations for a 2018 or 2019 disaster to submit its certifications and implementation plan and capacity assessment is July 2, 2020. The deadline for a grantee to submit its initial action plan for disaster recovery is August 31, 2020.

The deadline for grantees who received an allocation for unmet infrastructure needs in response to a 2017 disaster to submit its substantial amendment is August 31, 2020.

Q8: Can a CDBG-DR grantee request an additional submission extension for its initial action plans or substantial action plan amendment under Public Laws 115-254 and 116-20?

A: Yes. Individual grantees can make the request for further submission extensions, as necessary. CDBG-DR grantees are advised to work with their assigned CPD representative in the development of a submission extension request.