

FAQs: CDBG Resources and Authorities to Help Pacific Northwest Communities Respond to Heat Waves and Extreme Temperature Events

June 29, 2021

Can Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds be used to help communities respond to heat waves? If so, how?

Yes. HUD issued the Community Resilience Toolkit which helps recipients of HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds identify opportunities to use their CPD dollars to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards, including increasing temperatures and extreme heat. States and cities may use CDBG funds to provide public facilities and services to prepare for and respond to extreme heat events. Some eligible CDBG activities can include:

- Public service activities, such as establishment of cooling centers where residents can access air conditioning during heat waves. (Note that there is a limit on the percentage of a CDBG grant that may be used for public services);
- Public facilities and infrastructure improvements, which include installation of air conditioning, evaporative coolers, or fans in buildings; and
- Housing rehabilitation, including installation of air conditioning and use of materials that are more resilient to high temperatures and are more energy efficient.

Recipients of HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds can find additional information on how CPD dollars can be used to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards in the [HUD Community Resilience Toolkit](#).

Communities may be able to use CDBG-CV funds to address heat wave impacts for healthcare facilities and businesses that are working to prevent and respond to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Can Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds be used build resilience to future heat waves and other extreme temperature?

Yes, there are several actions communities can take to be more resilient to increasing temperature and extreme heat. There are several eligible activities communities can implement to plan for and mitigate the risks and impacts extreme heat. These include:

- Planning and coordination with community partners to identify and assist vulnerable populations;
- Rehabilitation and retrofit older buildings and facilities to be more energy efficient;
- New building practices, such as green roofs, to enhance heat tolerance;
- Public education and awareness campaigns to inform the public of the dangers of extreme heat and steps they can take to protect themselves;
- Emergency response plans to quickly mobilize critical services and resources to areas and individuals most at risk.

Recipients of HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds can find additional information on how CPD dollars can be used to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards in the [HUD Community Resilience Toolkit](#).

Does HUD have any waiver authority that could help a grantee expedite reprogramming funds for this purpose?

Yes, HUD can provide a waiver to shorten the amount of time a proposed plan or amendment must be published for public comment. HUD can also expedite processing times for reviewing plans and amendments. Grantees seeking to quickly amend an action plan should contact their field office for advice and support.