

C.D.R. Digest

NEW OFFICES OF DISASTER RECOVERY ANNOUNCED AT HUD

In March, the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) announced an overhaul of the agency's disaster recovery efforts to better serve communities who faced the direct impacts of weather-related disasters.

Based on the increasing number of disasters and the increasingly important role that HUD is playing in federal government's preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, the Department established the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) in the Office of the Deputy Secretary and the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) within the Office of Community and Planning Development.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- New HUD Disaster Recovery offices
- CDBG-DR Updates
- FAQs
- Flood and flood mitigation spotlight



The establishment of these two new offices within HUD will streamline the agency's disaster recovery and resilience work by increasing coordination, reducing bureaucracy, and increasing capacity to get recovery funding to communities more quickly by facilitating collaborative, transparent disaster recovery planning with communities earlier in the process.

CDBG-DR Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CDBG-DR grants for disasters occurring in 2022 were announced via Press Release [here](#) in March. Then on May 18, 2023, HUD [published](#) the *Federal Register* notice governing the use of those funds. Grantees can find resources and training related to 2022 CDBG-DR grants [here](#).
- Computer Matching Agreements (CMA) [published](#) for Iowa, California, Louisiana, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- New ODR Division Directors Announced:
 - Shantelle Dale, Director, Operations Division
 - Jen Carpenter, Director, Policy Division
 - William Bedford, Director, Grants Management Division



NEW DISASTER RESOURCES SITE ON HUD.GOV!

ODR partnered with HUD's Customer Experience (CX) team to create a new webpage on HUD.gov for disaster survivors (specifically individuals and families). The new website helps facilitate disaster survivors' recovery by directing them to up-to-date resources, actions they can take, and clarifying HUD's role and service offerings.

You can visit the website here at http://www.hud.gov/disaster_resources.

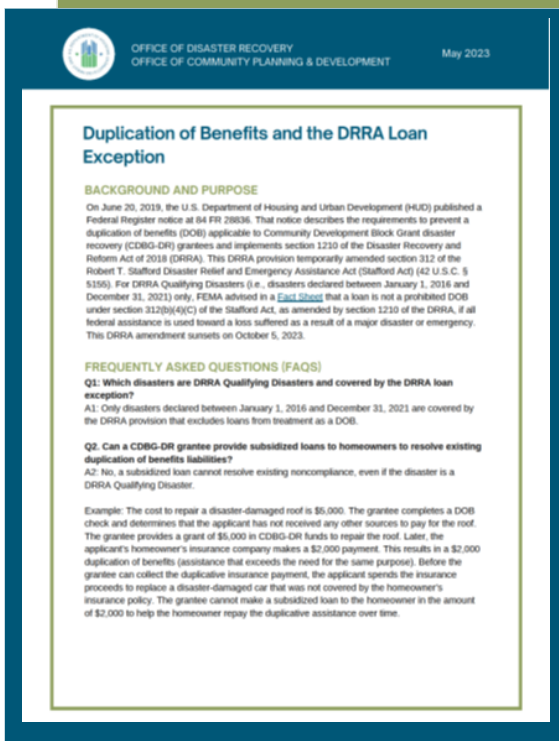
For questions, please email ODR's Policy Division at ODRPolicyDivision@HUD.gov.

CDBG-DR Updates

NEW FAQ PUBLISHED

CDBG-DR FAQs 2023-03 provides clarity for grantees that are implementing section 1210 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) that sunsets on October 5, 2023. For DRRA Qualifying Disasters (i.e., disasters declared between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2021) only, FEMA advised in a Fact Sheet that a loan is not a prohibited Duplication of Benefits (DOB) under section 312(b)(4)(C) of the Stafford Act, as amended by section 1210 of the DRRA, if all Federal assistance is used toward a loss suffered as a result of a major disaster. These FAQs give additional guidance on the DRRA loan exception and how grantees must adapt their policies leading up to the sunset of the amendment.

View other published [FAQs and Policy Bulletins](#) on [HUD.gov](#)!



For questions, please email ODR's Policy Division at ODRPolicyDivision@HUD.gov.

Policy FAQs

1

Q: I am a grantee who received funds under Public Law 113-2. Based on the Law that Congress passed, does that mean those funds no longer have an expenditure deadline?

A: Following two short-term statutory extensions (Pub. L. 116-260 and Pub. L. 117-103), section 420(a) of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. 117-328) provided that CDBG-DR grant obligations made before September 30, 2017 from funds made available under Public Law 113-2 are to remain available until expended.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200, Federal agencies are now required to impose a period of performance for all federally awarded grants. Therefore, HUD intends to establish a period of performance and provide for administrative extensions for good cause for Public Law 113-2 grants, when permissible under other applicable requirements that govern the use of funds under Public Law 113-2, in an upcoming *Federal Register* notice.

2

Q: Now that the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) has been established, does that mean that there will be an annual appropriation for CDBG-DR funds?

A: No. CDBG-DR is funding provided through emergency supplemental appropriations by Congress to states, units of general local government, or Indian tribes to assist with long-term recovery following a Presidentially-declared disaster. Congress would need to vote to authorize the creation of a CDBG-DR program and provide an annual appropriation as part of the HUD budget.



Recovery & Mitigation Best Practices

CDBG-DR SPOTLIGHTS

In response to extraordinary impacts from disasters, Congress can appropriate Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

CDBG-DR funds must be used for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation. These funds can address unmet needs from disasters, including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados.

This edition of the newsletter will focus on disasters related to floods and highlight activities and resources to recover from, and mitigate for future flood events.



Flooding in the U.S. is a pervasive, year-round threat, affecting Americans nationwide. Although some of the most damaging and widespread floods in recent history occurred along our nation's coast during hurricane season, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) Storm Events Data Base shows that where it rains, it can flood.

Flood Facts

- **Ninety percent of all natural disasters involve flooding**
- **Just one inch of water can cause \$27,000 worth of damage to a home or business**
- **Homes located in 100-year floodplain have more than a 1 in 4 chance of flooding**
- **Twenty five percent of all flood losses in the U.S. occur outside of a FEMA designated flood zone**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplains as geographic zones subject to varying levels of flood risk. Each zone reflects the severity or type of potential flooding in the area. The FEMA Map Service Center provides this information in the form of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) or Flood Hazard Boundary Map.

Flood Mitigation Focus

Federal policy recognizes that floodplains have unique and significant public values and calls for protection of floodplains, and reduction of loss of life and property by not supporting projects located in floodplains.

HUD recently took a major step in addressing future flood risk and ensuring the safety of HUD-assisted residents and federal investments in announcing the proposed rule implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). HUD's proposed rule affects projects receiving HUD assistance, financing, or insurance. It expands the floodplain of concern to a defined "FFRMS Floodplain."

HUD's FFRMS proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* (88 FR 17755) and the public comment period closed on May 23, 2023. All interested parties were encouraged to submit comments.

More information about the proposed rule, as well as answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the proposed rules webpage found [here](#).



CDBG-DR & Floods

East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, New York City

The East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) project is a coastal protection initiative, jointly funded by the City of New York and the federal government, aimed at reducing flood risk due to coastal storms and sea level rise on Manhattan's East Side. The ESCR project will protect 110,000 New Yorkers from the impact of climate change by reducing flood risk to communities, properties, businesses, critical infrastructure, and public open spaces. In addition to providing flood protection, the project will strengthen and enhance waterfront spaces by improving accessibility, increasing ecological diversity, and delivering improved recreational amenities to a vibrant and highly diverse community.

The funding includes \$335 million for “Compartment 1” as defined in the winning Rebuild by Design proposal in the area between Montgomery St. and East 25th Street. The area has one of the deepest floodplains in Manhattan and is comprised of the largest concentration of affordable, subsidized, and public housing in Manhattan. In addition to the \$335 million HUD awarded to this program through the Rebuild by Design competition, the City has dedicated an additional \$3 million in CDBG-DR funding to support this project. For more information about this project visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/escr/index.page>.

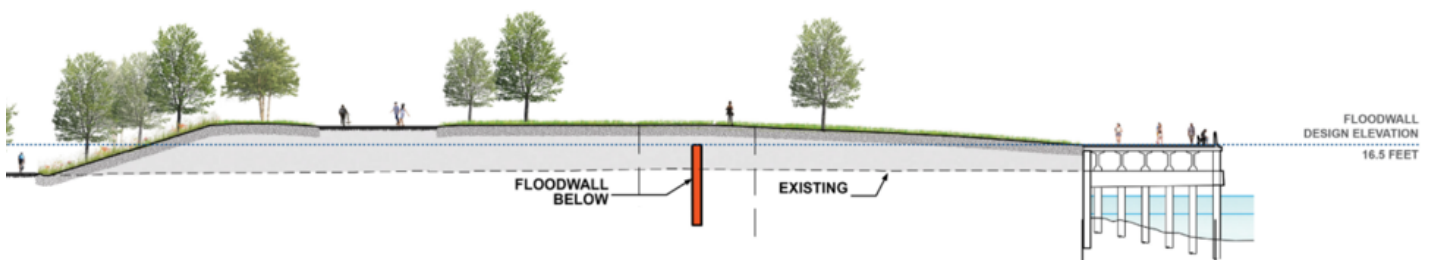


Image Source: New York City Government

CDBG-DR & Floods

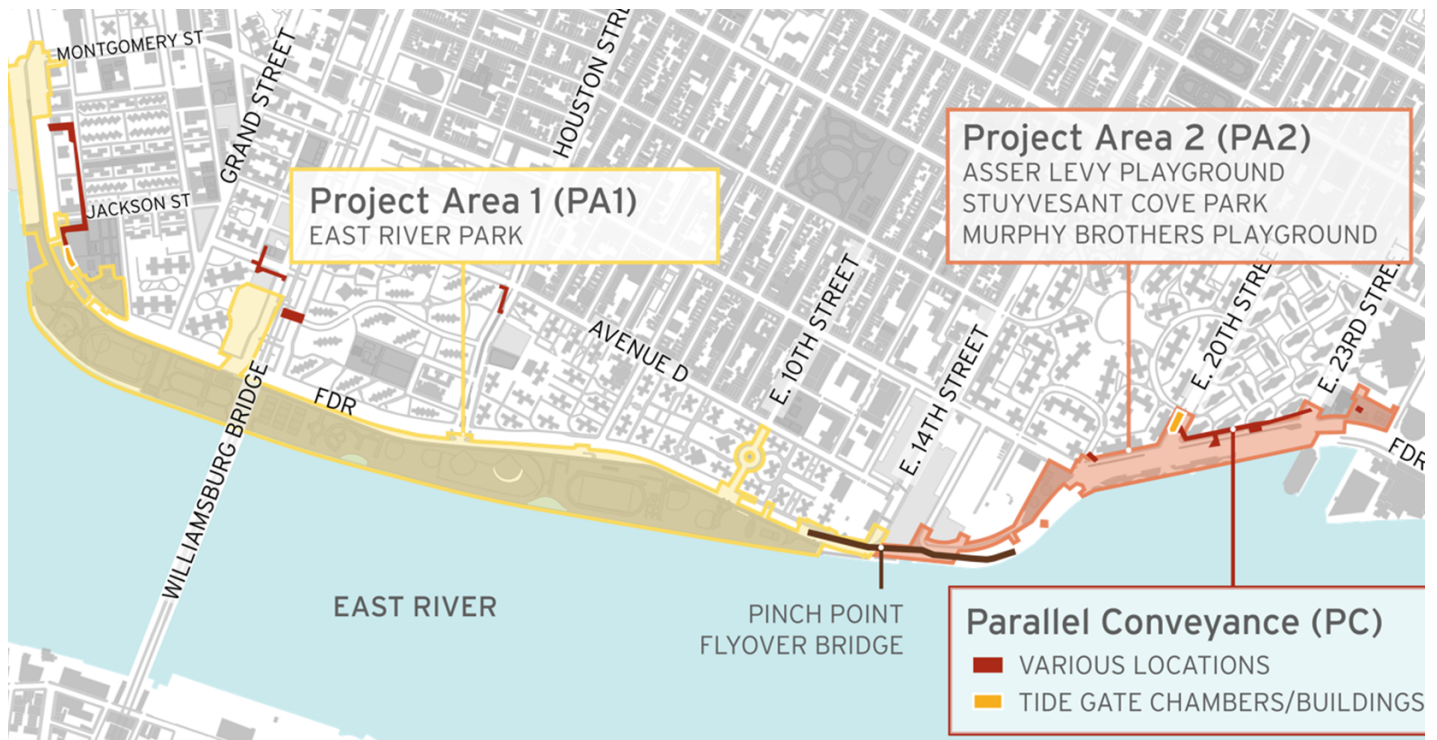


Image Source: New York City Government

Project Area 1 (PA1) is concentrated in Manhattan's Lower East Side (LES) between Montgomery Street and East 15th Street, including the East River Park. As of May 2022, the Delancey Street Bridge demolition is complete. the Corlears Hook temporary pedestrian bridge, and the mobilization for Stone Column Test program is underway. Substantial completion is expected by August 2026.

Project Area 2 (PA2) encompasses work between East 15th Street and East 25th Street including Asser Levy playground, Stuyvesant Cove Park, Murphy Brothers Park, as well as local street around the Con Edison facility. Work in this area began in November 2020 and is 40% complete. 1,449 linear feet of wall complete, Asser Levy Park complete, floodgate 14 & 18 have been installed, and Greenway has opened north of East 20th Street. Substantial completion is expected by September, 2024.

Parallel Conveyance (PC) work is made up of inland drainage infrastructure improvements within the overall ESCR project footprint. This work will occur on local streets between Montgomery Street and East 23rd Street. Construction is ongoing for this portion of the project.