



STATE OF NEBRASKA DR-4420 CDBG-DR Housing Resilience Planning Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Last Updated: July 17, 2024, Version 1

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document remains effective until it is amended, superseded, or rescinded.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, 245 FALLBROOK BLVD, STE. 002, LINCOLN, NE 68512, opportunity.nebraska.gov

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PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

This document is intended to provide an overview of the **Housing Resilience Planning (HRP)** program to potential applicants and awarded projects, including details regarding program eligibility and applicable cross-cutting federal requirements. Its publication follows informal and formal informational sessions, including the **Housing Resilience Planning Application Overview** session, an informational webinar held on July 9, 2024.

This resource document may be updated as the program is finalized and implemented. A record of changes is also incorporated.

In early 2019, the State of Nebraska suffered record-breaking damage due to severe winter weather (Winter Storm Ulmer), straight-line winds, and flooding, all of which contributed to a major disaster declaration (DR-4420) under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act). On behalf of the State, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) is administering a \$108,938,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program to support long-term recovery efforts. A portion of these funds will be used to implement the **Housing Resilience Planning (HRP) program**.

For updates and additional program information, see DED's CDBG-DR website, <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cdbq-dr/>.

If you have specific questions about the information presented within this document, please contact DED. The principal contact for Housing Resilience Planning is the Director of Community Development and Disaster Recovery.



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RECORD OF CHANGES

The following table summarizes changes to these FAQs.

Date Approved	Version Number	Description of Changes
07/17/2024	1	Initial Publication



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WHAT IS HOUSING RESILIENCE PLANNING (HRP)?

HRP focuses on providing support to Subrecipients to develop plans related to housing recovery, housing resilience, and affordable housing that reduce flood vulnerability. The overarching goal of the program is to promote comprehensive community resilience. HRP intends to provide for the development of housing plans to address flood vulnerabilities in counties declared under associated allocation(s). Implementation of the program will be conducted in three (3) phases:

- 1. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):** On June 20, 2024, DED issued a [NOFO](#) to the public. As described in the NOFO, an overview webinar was held on July 9, 2024.
- 2. Applicant Selection:** DED reviews all applications, prioritizing those demonstrating:
 - a) The project service area has a population that is greater than 51% Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) persons.
 - b) The project area experienced flooding in the HUD-defined Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) area.
- 3. Plan Development:** Selected applicants will become Subrecipients, and they will conduct the planning process and develop a housing plan. DED monitors all Subrecipients for compliance with applicable laws and regulations, retaining documentation and reporting to HUD as required.

In accordance with DED's CDBG-DR Action Plan for DR-4420 and consistent with the data HUD used in determining Nebraska's allocation amount and the findings of the Unmet Needs Assessment (UNA) (Section 2 of the [Action Plan](#)), DED is investing in long-term planning related to resilient housing across the State of Nebraska. To distribute these funds, HRP makes available assistance to develop a plan incorporating one **or** more of the following:

- Housing Recovery Planning;
- Housing Resiliency Planning; and/or
- Affordable Housing Planning.

The plans will support communities in identifying and leveraging both CDBG-DR and other resources and strategies for housing recovery, resilience, and affordability.

The overarching goal of the program is to promote comprehensive community resilience by addressing flood vulnerabilities in counties that were declared under DR-4420, including those designated as the HUD-identified MID and state-identified MID.



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WHAT ARE THE AWARD LIMITS?

In accordance with the Action Plan, the following limits apply.

Housing Resilience Planning Funding Limits	
Total Program Allocation	\$2,000,000
Minimum Anticipated Award Amount	\$100,000
Maximum Award Amount	\$250,000 for single jurisdiction \$500,000 for multi-jurisdictions

Note: Match funds are **NOT** required for HRP awards.

WHAT TYPES OF ENTITIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN HRP AWARD?

All applicants must be located within or among the HUD-or State-defined MID areas, including:

- Dodge County,
- Douglas County,
- Sarpy County, and
- Other Nebraska counties with a Federal Declaration (DR-4420)

Applicants must fall under one of the following eligibility categories:

- Counties;
- Municipalities;
- Education Institutions; or
- Economic Development Districts

WHAT ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY HRP?

Awards will support the development of plans (the Plans), that (1) focuses on reducing flood vulnerability in the community. and (2) must have one **or** more of the following areas of focus:

- **Housing recovery**, which supports communities in gathering data about existing housing stock and damages and implementing programs that help communities recover by using available funds.
- **Housing resilience**, which allows communities to determine their existing risks and vulnerabilities and develop actions that increase resilience against future disasters. Communities can use funding to further assess their long-term recovery needs.
- **Affordable housing**, which helps communities develop programs that preserve existing affordable housing and encourage the development of new affordable housing.



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The Plans will support communities in identifying and leveraging both CDBG-DR and other resources and strategies for housing recovery, resilience, and affordability. Examples of eligible plans include but are not limited to:













- A consolidated or comprehensive housing plan;
- A functional plan that includes land use and urban environmental design, energy use and conservation, or open space and recreation;
- Studies for a small area or neighborhood plan; or

Strategies and action program to implement plans, including the development of codes, ordinances, and regulations. For additional information on activity examples, please refer to the [Milestones, Objectives, and Example Tasks](#) document.

CROSS-CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

CDBG-DR is a federal funding program designed to help communities navigate disaster recovery and as such, there are multiple compliance requirements to consider. Importantly, these requirements are reduced for planning activities because, due to their nature, planning activities do not involve construction or rehabilitation.

The graphic below includes icons that capture CDBG-DR cross-cutting requirements. Blue icons indicate requirements that Subrecipients must meet under HRP. Gray icons indicate requirements that do not apply to HRP but apply to other programs.

 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing	 Davis-Bacon	 Monitoring and Compliance	 Environmental Review
 One-for-One Replacement Housing, Relocation and Real Property Acquisition	 Financial Management	 Anti-Waste, Fraud, and Abuse	 Section 3
 Duplication of Benefits	 Green Building Standards	 Recordkeeping and Data Management	 Minority-and-Women-Owned Business Enterprises



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Note there are monitoring and compliance requirements that are cross-cutting for other CDBG-DR funds but are **not** applicable to awards involving Planning or Capacity Building activities, including:

- Labor standards and hiring requirements, including: creation of opportunities for Section 3 workers; regular reviews of Force Account Labor, Materials, and Equipment; and submission of Certified Payroll Reports (CPRs), as detailed in DED's CDBG-DR Program Manual [Chapter 14: Davis-Bacon](#) and [Chapter 13: Section 3](#).
- Certain Environmental review processes, as detailed in [Chapter 8: National Environmental Policy Act](#).
 - Subrecipients are, however, responsible for submitting certain environmental materials and forms to DED for processing. The Environmental Review Record for HRP Subrecipients, based on the nature of the planning activities, will be exempt under 24 CFR § 58.34(a)(1). DED will record the Exempt Activity ERR in HEROS.
- Building requirements regulating construction and green building standards such as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Green Building Standards and the State of Nebraska's Safe and Resilient Buildings Standards Requirements, as detailed in [Chapter 10: Green Building Standards Guide](#).
- Requirements related to managing relocation in compliance with federal requirements, as detailed in [Chapter 12: One-for-One Replacement Housing, Relocation, and Real Property Acquisition](#).

While these standards are **not** applicable to HRP Awards, Subrecipients seeking construction-related funding for housing and infrastructure programs shall be required to follow these policies. For further reference, see the HUD overview of cross-cutting requirements available [here](#).



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DED compiled the following questions and responses following program informational sessions including the Question & Answer (Q&A) portion of the **Housing Resilience Planning (HRP) Application Overview** session, an informational webinar held on July 9, 2024. Questions and answers are lightly edited for clarity. If you have specific questions, please contact DED.

Q1: Will a subrecipient need to follow regular CDBG procurement procedures when procuring professional planning services?

A1: Yes, subrecipients must follow the procurement requirements outlined in DED’s CDBG-DR Program Manual [Chapter 05: Procurement](#).

Q2: Does HRP have local match requirements?

A2: No, the HRP does not have a local match requirement, however, it is encouraged.

Q3: When selecting a vendor, are there any geographic or certification requirements?

A3: The program does not have any geographic or certification requirements. All vendors are required to be registered on Sam.gov and be registered with the State of Nebraska.

HOUSING RESILIENCY PLANNING TIMELINE

The following milestones and dates are subject to change.

Housing Resilience Planning Program (HRPP) Timeline			
Date	Event/ Action	Location	Responsible Party/ies
Tuesday, July 09, 2024	Application Information Session at 11:00AM CST/10:00AM MST	Microsoft Teams	DED
Wednesday, July 10, 2024	Application Portal opens at 8:00AM CST/7:00AM MST	Application can be found at: https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/cdbq-dr	DED
Wednesday, July 24, 2024	Office Hour at 9:30AM CST/8:30AM MSTs	Available via email notification	DED
Monday, August 12, 2024	Application Closes at 6PM CST/5PM MST	Completed in AmpliFund https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/cdbq-dr	Applicant
Thursday, September 12, 2024	Notification of Intent to Award	Issued via email	DED



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HOUSING RESILIENCY PLANNING POST AWARD TIMELINE

The following milestones and dates are subject to change.

Housing Resilience Planning Program (HRPP) Timeline			
Date	Action	Location	Responsible Party /ies
30 days after NOIA	Execute Subrecipient Agreement (SRA)	DED to issue SRA. DED signs last.	DED/Awardee
45 days after NOIA	Environmental Review	Subrecipient submits materials to DED. DED to enter ERR in HEROS.	Subrecipient/ DED
45 days after NOIA	Award Conditions	Subrecipient shall submit materials to DED as specified in the SRA. Subrecipient must identify Recipient Grant Manager (RGM).	Subrecipient/ DED
18 months after NOIA	Project Implementation	Subrecipient submits reporting, requests for reimbursement, and other information to DED.	Subrecipient
24 months after NOIA	Project Closeout	Subrecipient submits monitoring and closeout materials per DED request for information. Upon acceptance, DED will issue letter of closeout.	Subrecipient/ DED



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HELPFUL CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

In general, the following resources are listed in order from general to specific. This list is not intended to be exhaustive. For specific program or project related questions, please contact DED at ded.cdbqdr@nebraska.gov.

Resource		Link
Name/Title	Author	
HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR)	HUD	https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/
Nebraska DED CDBG-DR Website	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cdbg-dr/
Nebraska CDBG-DR Action Plan, as amended	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/hud-requirements/
Housing Resiliency Planning Program Guide	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/housing-resilience-planning-program-guide-2-0-final-06-20-24/
Housing Resiliency Planning Fact Sheet	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CDBG-DR-Planning-HRP-Factsheet-Updated-20240709.pdf
Housing Resiliency Planning Application Overview Slide Deck	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Housing-Resilience-Planning-Program-Information-Session-20240709.pdf
CDBG-DR Manual and Toolkit	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/hud-requirements/#toolkit
Nebraska CDBG-DR Technical Assistance Website	DED	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cdbg-dr/technical-assistance/