



## **NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE COMPETITION**

### **Fact Sheet September 2014**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation (Rockefeller), is providing significant resources and support to communities to help them become more resilient. The National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) is a two-phase process that will competitively award nearly \$1 billion in HUD Disaster Recovery funds to eligible communities.<sup>1</sup> The competition will help communities recover from prior disasters and improve their ability to withstand and recover more quickly from future disasters, hazards, and shocks. To complement these funds, Rockefeller will provide technical assistance and training workshops to every eligible state and local government. This support will help applicants consider future risks and vulnerabilities in planning and decision-making, and assist them in applying for HUD funding. While distinct, these two programs will work together to help communities better understand their risks and identify ways in which they can protect the long-term well-being and safety of their residents.

### **Overview**

Cities and towns face significant economic and social risks from extreme weather events including heat waves, drought, tropical storms, high winds, storm surges, and heavy downpours. In many places, these risks are projected to increase substantially due to climate change, sea level rise, and increased development in coastal areas and other vulnerable locations. Hurricane Sandy, recent droughts, and longer wildfire seasons illustrate the rise in natural disasters and the grave consequences of such events. In spite of advances in disaster preparedness, extreme weather is now affecting the safety, health, and economies of entire regions. American communities cannot effectively reduce their risks and vulnerabilities without considering future extreme events and the effects of climate change in their everyday planning and decision-making. Following a disaster, the recovery phase presents a valuable opportunity for communities to consider how to rebuild more resiliently. The National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) will make nearly \$1 billion available to communities that have been impacted by natural disasters in recent years. The competition will encourage communities to not

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<sup>1</sup> Due to legislative program requirements, applicants will be limited to 67 states and local jurisdictions that were Presidentially-Declared Disaster Areas in 2011, 2012, and 2013 (effectively covering 48 of 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington, DC). See complete list at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=ElgbAppNatReslnceComp.pdf>

only consider how they can recover from a past disaster but also how to avoid future disaster losses. Applicants will need to link or “tie-back” their proposals to the disaster from which they are recovering, as well as demonstrate how they are reducing future risks and advancing broader community development goals within in their target geographic area(s). For example, a community that lost housing during a mudslide may consider constructing homes in a safer area for the survivors. It may also find a financing mechanism for affected downstream businesses to survive the effects of the event and prepare and plan for future hazards.

The competition is structured in two phases: (1) a framing phase and (2) an implementation phase. During Phase 1, applicants will consider their disaster recovery needs, vulnerabilities, stakeholder interests, resilience, community development objectives, and investment alternatives. In Phase 2, applicants will consider and refine approaches to meet their needs and objectives identified in Phase 1. HUD will invite a subset of applicants from Phase 1 to participate in Phase 2. HUD will make funding awards at the conclusion of Phase 2.

### **Eligible Applicants**

All states with counties that experienced a Presidentially Declared Major Disaster in 2011, 2012 or 2013 are eligible to submit applications that address unmet needs as well as vulnerabilities to future extreme events, stresses, threats, hazards, or other shocks in areas that were most impacted and distressed as a result of the effects of the Qualified Disaster. This includes 48 of 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. In addition, 17 local governments that have received funding under PL 113-2 are also eligible. You can find a list of eligible grantees applicants here.

### **Defining Resilience**

A resilient community is able to resist and rapidly recover from disasters or other shocks with minimal outside assistance. Reducing current and future risk is essential to the long-term vitality, economic well-being, and security of all communities. By identifying future risk and vulnerabilities, resilient recovery planning can maximize preparedness, save lives, and bring benefits to a community long after recovery projects are complete.

This competition encourages American communities to consider not only the infrastructure needed to become resilient, but also the social and economic characteristics that allow communities to quickly bounce back after a disruption. For example, applicants need to consider how their projects will promote community development goals, ensure meaningful public engagement and participation, and build collaborations with neighboring jurisdictions and stakeholders who are critical partners in preventing, mitigating, and recovering from disasters.

### **The Role of Philanthropy: Rockefeller Foundation**

[Rebuild by Design](#)<sup>2</sup>, a competition previously funded by HUD, Rockefeller, and other philanthropic partners, demonstrated the value of combining philanthropic, government, and other community resources to increase community capacity and innovation.

The Rockefeller Foundation will support the goals of the NDRC by convening resilience workshops around the country. Teams from every eligible state and local jurisdiction will have the opportunity to gain a wide range of information and expertise on resilience. The workshops will help communities identify and assess their local risks and vulnerabilities, encourage sharing and peer-learning, and teach resilience-enhancing opportunities that will assist them in developing their proposals for the NDRC.

HUD is confident that every state and local government participating in the first phase, or framing process, of the competition will benefit from the effort and emerge with a better understanding of the risks it faces, the resilience issues it should consider when making major public investments, and how it can enhance its ability to withstand extreme events including climate change.

The Rockefeller Foundation’s philanthropic and intellectual investments aim to help poor and vulnerable people by increasing the resilience of all communities. The Rockefeller Foundation — and other philanthropic organizations that may be involved in activities related to this NOFA — is independent and not under HUD’s direction. The Rockefeller Foundation will not represent HUD and cannot give technical answers about how to respond to the NOFA. HUD will provide that information to potential applicants.

## **Objectives of the National Disaster Resilience Competition**

The NDRC will build on the successful model of Rebuild by Design, which emphasized innovative designs and community engagement to develop resilient projects to recover from Hurricane Sandy. The NDRC expands the reach of that approach to a national scale. Through the NDRC, HUD seeks to meet the following six objectives:

1. Fairly and effectively allocate the CDBG Disaster Recovery funds.<sup>3</sup>
2. Create multiple examples of modern disaster recovery that applies science-based and forward-looking risk analysis to address recovery, resilience, and revitalization needs.
3. Leave a legacy of institutionalizing the implementation of thoughtful, sound, and resilient approaches to address future risks in state and local decision making and planning.

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<sup>2</sup> Information about the Rebuild by Design process and innovative design proposals is available at [www.rebuildbydesign.org](http://www.rebuildbydesign.org).

<sup>3</sup> Through Public Law 113-2, Congress appropriated \$16.0B (\$15.2B post-sequester) to HUD for the Community Development Fund for disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization. These funds are limited to Presidentially Declared Disasters from 2011-2013. HUD has until 9/30/17 to obligate all funds and has obligated ~\$2.2 billion to date.

4. Provide resources to help communities plan and implement disaster recovery that makes them more resilient to future threats or hazards, including extreme weather events and climate change, while also improving quality of life for existing residents and making communities more resilient to economic stresses or other shocks.
5. Fully engage and inform community stakeholders about the impacts of climate change and assist in developing pathways to resilience based on sound science.
6. Leverage investments from the philanthropic community to help communities define problems, set policy goals, explore options, and craft solutions for local and regional resilient recovery strategies.

### **Program Format and Timeline: HUD's NDRC and Rockefeller's Resilience Program**

The two-phased NDRC competition is structured iteratively to guide each applicant through broad consideration of its disaster recovery needs, vulnerabilities, stakeholder interests, resilience and other community development objectives, and investment alternatives in Phase 1. Phase 2 calls for the reconsideration of those issues at a more granular level of detail. Phase 1 is considered to be the framing phase and will last 180 days from the announcement of the NDRC. Phase 2 is the implementation phase and will conclude 120 days after the selection of participants identified at the end of Phase 1.

#### **Phase 1: The Framing Phase**

The best applications will demonstrate how the concept (1) helps the community recover from the effects of the covered disaster, (2) advances community development objectives such as economic revitalization, and (3) improves the community's ability to absorb or rapidly recover from the effects of future extreme events, stresses, threats, hazards, or other shocks. The NDRC urges applicants to consider the full range of their community development objectives and foreseeable future conditions, including those related to climate change. They should take into consideration changing threats and hazards, including those due to climate change, and rebuild in a way that meets future needs.

In an effort to be supportive of the NDRC, the Rockefeller Foundation plans to convene resilience workshops around the country during the first 180 days of the NDRC, coinciding with Phase 1. Participation in these workshops will be offered to every eligible state and local government applicant. The Rockefeller led workshops are designed to provide a wide range of information and expertise to help communities understand resilience and identify threats, hazards, economic stresses and other potential shocks, including those resulting from climate change. The resilience workshops will offer tools and concepts that will help applicants identify and assess their situation, engage with their communities, choose resilience building opportunities, and prepare applications.

HUD will offer additional resources to help eligible applicants understand the terms of the competitive award process and support other communities and stakeholders who are interested in better understanding the concept of resilient recovery. Webinars will be offered approximately once per week during the first ten weeks. All resources, webinars, and links to Rockefeller and other training opportunities will be available through the HUD Exchange<sup>4</sup>.

During Phase 1, the applicant must consult with stakeholders to comprehensively frame the recovery needs, identify relevant risks and vulnerabilities, and other community development opportunities in the target geographic area(s). Every fundable application must demonstrate a logical link, or tie-back, to addressing Unmet Recovery Needs stemming from the effects of the community's Presidentially-declared major disaster from 2011, 2012, or 2013, and proposals must primarily benefit the most impacted and distressed areas related to the Qualified Disaster. During the first 45 days after announcement of the NDRC, any potential applicant may submit a written request to HUD with its "most impacted and distressed" and "unmet needs" threshold responses for the target area(s). HUD will respond within 15 working days to confirm or reject whether the information provided for each area meets the thresholds and provide specific reasons for any rejection.

### **Phase 2: The Implementation Phase**

In Phase 2, the highest scoring applicants from Phase 1 will be invited to fully articulate a resilience-enhancing disaster recovery or revitalization project or program that addresses their identified risks, vulnerabilities, and community development opportunities. HUD will only invite an applicant to compete in Phase 2 if it has committed to taking a permanent resilience-enhancing action. For example, a state or county might coordinate or merge local plans or requirements in a way that will clearly enhance community resilience. This may be accomplished by incorporating hazard mitigation assessments into forward-looking comprehensive plans that have been updated to consider climate change impacts.

At the end of Phase 2, HUD anticipates awarding grants to multiple winning applications, with funding levels ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000,000. Phase 1 applicants that are not invited to continue to Phase 2, but have met all the requirements (as detailed in the NOFA) are eligible to receive CDBG-DR funds totaling up to \$2.5 million (for applicants that are not current CDBG-DR grantees under P.L. 113-2) or \$500,000 (for applicants that are current grantees under P.L. 113-2) or the total amount of demonstrated unmet needs, whichever is less. Any such award may include reimbursement of some or all planning and general administration costs associated with completion of the Phase 1 application. HUD will award a total up to \$30 million to such applicants under a separate Notice. Any reserve pool funds not awarded at this stage will be allocated in a similar manner following Phase 2 to any applicants meeting the same criteria.

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<sup>4</sup> The HUD Exchange can be located at <https://hudexchange.info/cdbg-dr/resilientrecovery>

Total estimated funding for NDRC is \$999,108,000. HUD is setting aside \$181,000,000 for applications serving Hurricane Sandy Qualified Disasters in the States of New York and New Jersey and in New York City due to the catastrophic level of damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and the 2011 tropical storms.

The table below outlines the elements and estimated timeframe for HUD’s National Disaster Resilience Competition.

<b>Estimated Dates</b>	<b>Major Activities</b>
September 17 – November 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOFA posted</li> <li>• 45-day window for applicants to submit written requests for threshold review</li> <li>• Posting of resources to HUD Exchange</li> <li>• Webinars delivered roughly 1x/ week by HUD staff to all interested parties</li> </ul>
October - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources and webinars made available through HUD Exchange</li> </ul>
Mid-March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of Phase 1 application phase</li> </ul>
March – June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HUD review phase</li> <li>• Announcement of successful Phase 1 proposals and invitations extended for Phase 2 applications</li> </ul>
June – October 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of Phase 2 applications</li> </ul>
December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcement of Phase 2 winners</li> <li>• Funding levels announced for all successful applicants</li> </ul>
Early 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant agreements signed and sent to successful applicants</li> </ul>



# National Disaster Resilience Competition

## BACKGROUND

This NOFA (FR-5800-N-29) will competitively award approximately \$1 billion (\$999,108,000) in supplemental disaster recovery Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funds for resilient recovery activities across the United States. HUD is setting aside \$181,000,000 for applications serving Hurricane Sandy Qualified Disasters in the states of New York and New Jersey and in New York City due to the catastrophic level of damage caused in those areas from Hurricane Sandy and tropical storms in 2011.

In 2011-2013, the President declared major disaster areas in over 2,100 counties and 48 states. In response to Hurricane Sandy, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-2) included \$15 billion for disaster recovery from major disasters declared in 2011, 2012, and 2013. At this time, HUD has allocated approximately \$14 billion in disaster recovery funds, by formula and to Rebuild by Design projects.

This competition is structured iteratively to guide each applicant through broad consideration in Phase 1 and reconsideration at a more granular level of detail in Phase 2.

Phase 1 is the framing phase, in which the applicant will comprehensively frame the recovery needs, relevant risks and vulnerabilities, and related community development opportunities in its target geographical area. Applicants must demonstrate a logical link or tieback to addressing Unmet Recovery Needs from disasters in 2011, 2012, or 2013.

In Phase 2, the implementation phase, the highest scoring applicants from Phase 1 will be invited to more fully articulate a resilience-enhancing disaster recovery or revitalization project or program and will compete for implementation funding. Awards for Phase 1 and 2 will be made at the conclusion of Phase 2.

For more information, please visit: <https://hudexchange.info/cdbg-dr/resilientrecovery>

## TWO-PHASE COMPETITION PROCESS

### Phase 1

[Framing Unmet Recovery Needs, Vulnerabilities, and Community Development Objectives]

**NOFA PUBLISHED**  
9/17/2014

180 DAYS  
(~6 MONTHS)

**PHASE 1 APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
3/16/2015

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

#### STATES, DISTRICTS, AND TERRITORIES

1. Alaska
2. Alabama
3. Arkansas
4. Arizona
5. California
6. Colorado
7. Connecticut
8. District of Columbia
9. Delaware
10. Florida
11. Georgia
12. Hawaii
13. Iowa
14. Idaho
15. Illinois
16. Indiana
17. Kansas
18. Kentucky
19. Louisiana
20. Massachusetts
21. Maryland
22. Maine
23. Michigan
24. Minnesota
25. Missouri
26. Mississippi
27. Montana
28. North Carolina
29. North Dakota
30. Nebraska
31. New Hampshire
32. New Jersey
33. New Mexico
34. New York

60 DAYS  
(~2 MONTHS)

**PHASE 1 REVIEW PERIOD**

**PHASE 1 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**  
June 2015\*

120 DAYS  
(~4 MONTHS)

Highest-Scoring Phase 1 winners advance to Phase 2

**PHASE 2 APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
October 2015\*

60 DAYS  
(~2 MONTHS)

**PHASE 2 REVIEW PERIOD**

**PHASE 2 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**  
December 2015\*

**FUNDS AWARDED**  
December 2015\*

\*Note: These dates are tentative and subject to change at HUD's discretion

## ELIGIBILITY MAP



### Phase 2

[From Framing to Implementation]

## FUNDING INFORMATION

**Phase 1**  
Phase 1 applicants that are not invited to continue to Phase 2, but which met all the requirements of the NOFA, are eligible to receive CDBG-DR funds totaling up to \$2.5 million (for applicants that are not current CDBG-DR grantees under P.L. 113-2) or \$500,000 (for current grantees under P.L. 113-2). HUD will award up to \$30 million of the total funding availability to such applicants. Any reserve pool funds not awarded at this stage will be allocated in a similar manner following Phase 2 to any applicants meeting the same criteria.

**Phase 2**  
For Phase 2, the minimum award amount is \$1,000,000 and the maximum is \$500,000,000.