



DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING



PUERTO RICO

Community Development Block Grant –
Disaster Recovery for Hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017)

DRAFT ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT 14 (SUBSTANTIAL)

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

START: November 7, 2023

END: December 7, 2023



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14TH AMENDMENT TO THE CDBG-DR ACTION PLAN (SUBSTANTIAL): DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

This document constitutes a DRAFT of the CDBG-DR Action Plan Amendment 14th (Substantial) for a 30-day public comment period starting from November 7, 2023 to December 7, 2023. This draft is subject to change.

Each substantial amendment to the CDBG-DR action plan must be published on the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (**PRDOH**) website for a public comment period of no less than thirty (30)¹ calendar days to ensure adequate citizen participation, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

PRDOH will consider comments on the draft substantial amendment before submitting the document to HUD for the federal agency's 45-day review period. The approved amendment will be posted on PRDOH's website and incorporated into the entire Action Plan. This will allow the public and HUD access to PRDOH's entire Action Plan for viewing as a single document, rather than having to view and cross-reference changes among multiple amendments.²

The most current version of the CDBG-DR Action Plan, including all approved amendments, is available in English and Spanish at PRDOH's website at <https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/> (English) <https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/plan-de-accion/> (Spanish).

All citizens are encouraged to present their public comments to PRDOH through any of the following methods:

- Via telephone: 1-833-234-CDBG or 1-833-234-2324 (TTY: 787-522-5950)
- Via email: infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov
- Online: <https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/action-plan/>
- In writing at:
 - Puerto Rico CDBG-DR Program
 - P.O. Box 21365
 - San Juan, PR 00928-1365

Public comments related to this substantial amendment will be posted on the CDBG-DR website with the responses provided by PRDOH as Appendix A.1 and A.2.

¹ In the Federal Register Notice Vol. 84, No. 157 (August 14, 2018), 84 FR 40314, 40318, HUD extend the minimum amount to publish the substantial amendment for public comment from 14 calendar days to at least 30 calendar days.

² See Federal Register Notice Vol. 83, No. 28 (February 9, 2018), 83 FR 5844, 5852.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The 14TH Amendment to the CDBG-DR Action Plan (Substantial) includes programmatic changes for planning, housing, and economic recovery sectors. A summary of the changes is provided in the table below:

SECTION	SUBSECTION	PROPOSED CHANGE
PLANNING SECTOR		
New Program: Vacant Properties Recovery (VPR) Program	N/A	The proposed Vacant Properties Recovery (VPR) Program intends to implement planning and code enforcement activities to address the issue of vacant and abandoned properties to convert them into resilience opportunities for Puerto Rico’s communities. The program will offer capacity building and support to municipalities to reach a resolution in terms of code enforcement. A total of \$3,000,000 is being proposed to fund the new VPR Program, which would be reallocated from the Program Planning (Internal) and included under Program Funds.
Whole Community Resilience Planning (WCRP) Program	Administering Entity	PRDOH has been included as the administering entity alongside Foundation for Puerto Rico since both entities have a specific role in administering the program.
	Method of Distribution	Language adjustments have been included under the WCRP Program Method of Distribution section to clarify that the Subrecipient, Foundation for Puerto Rico (FRP), role within the program is to provide education and technical assistance to eligible applicants.
HOUSING SECTOR		
Home Repair, Reconstruction or Relocation (R3) Program	Maximum award, Permanent relocation, and Program caps	The maximum award for relocation was increased from \$185K to \$200K to cover the increasing costs of the current housing market in Puerto Rico. Additionally, the maximum award for reconstruction was also increased from \$185K to \$215K to be able to finance the increasing construction costs.
	Permanent relocation	Language referencing the option to postpone receiving a relocation award under the R3 Program to participate under the Single-Family Mitigation (SFM) Program was removed since R3 Program already provides benefit alternatives such as elevation, when feasible.

SECTION	SUBSECTION	PROPOSED CHANGE
Title Clearance (TC) Program	Eligibility, Program Objective and Description	The eligibility criteria under the TC Program were modified to provide assistance to individuals with properties located in a floodplain or floodway or high-risk area, which will help applicants to receive other state or Federal disaster recovery assistance.
ECONOMIC RECOVERY SECTOR		
Small Business Incubators and Accelerators (SBIA) Program	Program Accomplishments	The Program Accomplishments section under the SBIA Program was modified to clarify that the program focuses on providing services that will help with the expansion of small businesses. This is being achieved by providing access to mentoring services, professional networking, idea-exchange, and hands-on management training, among other services.
Workforce Training (WFT) Program	Maximum award	The maximum award under the WFT Program was increased to continue funding workforce trainings programs provided by eligible entities with the capacity and expertise in areas of need for skilled resource recruitment such as the construction sector, and other sectors with the purpose furthering developing Puerto Rico’s labor force.
	Program Accomplishments	The Program Accomplishments under the WFT Program were updated to clarify that the Program provides educational services that help develop the skill sets needed to acquire employment.
	Workforce Training Programs	The Workforce Training Programs section under WFT Program was adjusted for PRDOH to be able to directly select subrecipients to carry out workforce training programs focused on developing skills in the construction sector for the recovery of the Island.
UPDATED APPENDICES		
Financial Projections and Actual Expenditures by Program	Appendix F	The financial projections appendices were updated to reflect the proposed budget changes, as well as the new grant expenditure deadline. ³
Financial Projections and Actual Expenditures by Sector	Appendix F.1	
CDBG-DR Projections of Outcomes	Appendix F.2	

³ On October 30, 2023, HUD provided PRDOH with the CDBG-DR grant agreement amendments to extend the expenditure deadlines for the following grants: B-17-DM-72-0001, B-18-DP-72-0001, and B-19-DP-72-0001. The new grant expenditure deadline is December 31, 2029.

BUDGET REALLOCATION TABLE

The following table illustrates where funds are coming from and where they are moving to in this amendment.⁴

Program	Previous Budget	Change	Revised Budget
Planning Total	\$161,050,508		\$161,050,508
Whole Community Resilience Planning Program	\$55,000,000		\$55,000,000
Puerto Rico Geospatial Framework (Geoframe)	\$50,000,000		\$50,000,000
Municipal Recovery Planning Program	\$56,050,508		\$56,050,508
Housing Total	\$5,565,780,619		\$5,565,780,619
Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation Program	\$2,922,780,619		\$2,922,780,619
Title Clearance Program	\$40,000,000		\$40,000,000
Rental Assistance Program	\$20,000,000		\$20,000,000
Social Interest Housing Program	\$50,000,000		\$50,000,000
Housing Counseling Program	\$20,000,000		\$20,000,000
CDBG-DR Gap to Low Income Housing Tax Credits Program (LIHTC)	\$1,423,000,000		\$1,423,000,000
Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Program	\$395,000,000		\$395,000,000
Homebuyer Assistance Program	\$695,000,000		\$695,000,000
Economy Total	\$1,496,546,019		\$1,496,546,019
Small Business Financing Program	\$325,000,000		\$325,000,000
Small Business Incubators and Accelerators Program	\$85,000,000		\$85,000,000
Workforce Training Program	\$90,000,000		\$90,000,000
RE-Grow PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program	\$172,500,000		\$172,500,000
Tourism & Business Marketing Program	\$24,046,019		\$24,046,019
Economic Development Investment Portfolio for Growth Program	\$800,000,000		\$800,000,000
Infrastructure Total	\$868,453,981		\$868,453,981
Non-Federal Match Program	\$868,453,981		\$868,453,981
Multi-Sector Total	\$1,298,000,000		\$1,298,000,000
City Revitalization Program	\$1,298,000,000		\$1,298,000,000
Program Administration	\$500,290,761		\$500,290,761

⁴ See 83 FR 5844, 5852.

Planning Programs (External)	\$161,050,508		\$161,050,508
Program Planning (Internal)*	\$115,693,342	(\$3,000,000)	\$112,693,342
Program Funds**	\$9,228,780,619	\$3,000,000	\$9,231,780,619
Total	\$10,005,815,230	\$	\$10,005,815,230

*** Blue Roof Survey Program's budget is included in Program Planning (Internal).**

****The Vacant Property Recovery Program's budget is included in Program Funds for the implementation of the Code Enforcement activity.**



PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT CHANGES

The following changes are proposed for the CDBG-DR Action Plan Amendment 14 (Substantial). This draft is subject to change.

PROGRAM BUDGET

TOTAL ALLOCATION		LMI GOAL	First Allocation	Second Allocation	Third Allocation	Total Allocation
			\$1,507,179,000	\$8,220,783,000	\$277,853,230	\$10,005,815,230
Housing	Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation Program	95%	\$835,570,050	\$2,087,210,569		\$2,922,780,619
	Title Clearance Program	100%	\$25,000,000	\$15,000,000		\$40,000,000
	Rental Assistance Program	100%	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000		\$20,000,000
	Social Interest Housing Program	100%	\$12,500,000	\$37,500,000		\$50,000,000
	Housing Counseling Program	100%	\$7,500,000	\$12,500,000		\$20,000,000
	CDBG-DR Gap to Low Income Housing Tax Credits Program (LIHTC)	100%	\$113,000,000	\$1,310,000,000		\$1,423,000,000
	Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Program	100%	\$0	\$395,000,000		\$395,000,000
	Homebuyer Assistance Program	70%	\$0	\$695,000,000		\$695,000,000
	Blue Roof Survey Program ⁵	N/A	\$0	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000 ⁶
	HOUSING BUDGET TOTAL			\$1,003,570,050	\$4,562,210,569	
Economy	Small Business Financing Program	30%	\$75,000,000	\$250,000,000		\$325,000,000
	Small Business Incubators and Accelerators Program	30%	\$27,500,000	\$57,500,000		\$85,000,000
	Workforce Training Program	60%	\$47,500,000	\$42,500,000		\$90,000,000
	RE-GROW PR Urban-Rural Agriculture Program	50%	\$0	\$172,500,000		\$172,500,000
	Tourism & Business Marketing Program	0%	\$14,572,553	\$9,473,466		\$24,046,019
	Economic Development Investment Portfolio for Growth Program	15%	\$0	\$800,000,000		\$800,000,000
	ECONOMIC RECOVERY BUDGET TOTAL			\$164,572,553	\$1,331,973,466	
Internal Use	Non-Federal Match Program	70%	\$100,427,447	\$504,065,965	\$263,960,569	\$868,453,981

⁵ The Blue Roof Survey Program budget of \$5,000,000 is reflected in the Program Planning (Internal) portion of the budget.

⁶ Id.

	INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET TOTAL		\$100,427,447	\$504,065,965	\$263,960,569	\$868,453,981
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Multi-Sector	City Revitalization Program	70%	\$23,000,000	\$1,275,000,000		\$1,298,000,000
	MULTI-SECTOR BUDGET TOTAL		\$23,000,000	\$1,275,000,000		\$1,298,000,000

Planning	Whole Community Resilience Planning Program	N/A	\$37,500,000	\$17,500,000	\$-	\$55,000,000
	Puerto Rico Geospatial Framework (Geoframe)	N/A	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$-	\$50,000,000
	Municipal Recovery Planning Program ⁷	N/A	\$56,050,508	\$0	\$0	\$56,050,508
	The Vacant Property Recovery Program ⁸	95%	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$-	\$3,000,000 ⁹
	PLANNING PROGRAMS BUDGET TOTAL		\$118,550,508	\$42,500,000	\$-	\$161,050,508

	Program Administration		\$75,358,950	\$411,039,150	\$13,892,661	\$500,290,761
	Planning Programs (External)		\$118,550,508	\$42,500,000	\$0	\$161,050,508
	Program Planning (Internal)		\$18,699,492 \$21,699,492	\$93,993,850	\$0	\$112,693,342 \$115,693,342
	Program Funds		\$1,294,570,050 \$1,291,570,050	\$7,673,250,000	\$263,960,569	\$9,231,780,619 \$9,228,780,619
	Program Funds Pending Allocation in Subsequent Amendment		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total		\$1,507,179,000	\$8,220,783,000	\$277,853,230	\$10,005,815,230

⁷ Municipal Recovery Planning Program has been added in this Planning section to provide additional clarity over the funding cap of planning costs.

⁸ The Vacant Property Recovery Program budget of \$3,000,000 is reflected in the Program Funds portion of the budget.

⁹ Id.

VACANT PROPERTY RECOVERY		
PROGRAM TOTAL \$3,000,000	ADMINISTERING ENTITY PRDOH	NATIONAL OBJECTIVE LMI, SB 95% LMI GOAL
MAX AWARD \$3,000,000	START- END DATE DURATION OF THE GRANT	ELIGIBLE AREA PUERTO RICO

HURRICANE IMPACT

While vacant and abandoned properties have been a pre-existing issue in Puerto Rico before the impact of Hurricanes Irma and María, this situation worsened significantly due to damages caused by the hurricanes to housing, infrastructure, and economic sectors.

The fragility of the housing market was exposed by the hurricanes that caused extensive damage to inadequate structures and unoccupied and unmaintained homes, as mentioned under the Housing Impact section of this Action Plan. Furthermore, recent studies¹⁰, suggest that hurricanes accelerate the property abandonment process, particularly in highly vulnerable areas. Throughout the Municipal Recovery Planning (MRP) Program¹¹ implementation process under CDBG-DR, municipalities have analyzed and highlighted the correlation between the recent disaster events (including hurricanes Irma and María) and the exacerbation of the vacant property problem in their jurisdictions. However, most of the Municipalities have not been able to resolve this situation given the high number of vacant or abandoned properties, and the technical processes that are required to address these properties adequately. To establish an effective recovery effort, provision of capacity and expert resources is required to ensure that the communities in Puerto Rico are provided with a proper solution.

RECOVERY PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Vacant Property Recovery Program aligns with the following courses of action from the Puerto Rico Recovery Plan: HOU 10, PBD 2, MUN 3, and ECN 13.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

¹⁰ Tracking Neighborhood Change in Geographies of Opportunity for Post-Disaster Legacy Cities, A Case Study of San Juan, Puerto Rico (2022), <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/working-papers/tracking-neighborhood-change-in-geographies-opportunity-post-disaster> and The Public Health Implications of Abandoned Spaces in Post-Maria Puerto Rico (2022), <https://hazards.colorado.edu/public-health-disaster-research/the-public-health-implications-of-abandoned-spaces-in-post-maria-puerto-rico#:~:text=A%20recent%20study%20of%20the,al.%2C%202022%2C%20p.>

¹¹ To see published and approved MRP Plans, including the Plan assessments and descriptions of Hurricane Impacts on the housing sector, access the CDBG-DR webpage at: <https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/municipal-recovery/>.

- Section 105 (a)(3) – Code Enforcement in deteriorated or deteriorating areas in which such enforcement, together with public or private improvements or services to be provided, may be expected to arrest the decline of the area
- Section 105 (a)(12) – Planning and Capacity Building

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens affected by the negative effects of vacant and abandoned properties.
- Encourage owners and tenants to maintain their properties' conditions and appearance by using the appropriate notification, engagement, and declaration processes.
- Revitalize vacant properties, reduce slum and blight conditions, stimulate economic development in the community, and expand the housing stock that may also be available for relocation efforts.
- Support and train Municipality officials, including those having recovery plans with initiatives related to addressing the issue of the recovery of vacant and abandoned properties.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants include non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, and local governments.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Direct and Subrecipient Distribution Model.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION

The issue of vacant and abandoned properties was exacerbated¹² with the passing of hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the need of identifying and addressing this problem while increasing resilience is of great importance to achieve full community recovery. PRDOH currently has a Vacant Properties Assessment (VPA) initiative, which will provide municipalities with a database containing information on vacant properties within their jurisdictions, and planning reports, among other activities. This Planning initiative under the CDBG-DR Program is carried out by *Centro para la Reconstrucción del Hábitat* under a Subrecipient Agreement. The initiative was launched in March 2023, and has produced more than 11,500 property inventories across Puerto Rico with the goal of identifying a minimum of 50,000 properties across the 78 municipalities once the planning activities are completed. The geospatial information gathered through the VPA efforts will allow PRDOH to analyze and consider the areas with high concentrations of vacancy, abandonment, and/or blight.

The information obtained through the VPA will help PRDOH identify potential nuisance properties or vacant properties that may be repurposed for affordable housing in the future, thus accordingly, the **Vacant Properties Recovery (VPR) Program** represents the next phase to achieving this objective. The Program will provide support to the Municipalities to ensure the abandoned property problem goes beyond its characterization and inventory, and is addressed and converted into resilience opportunities

¹² Tracking Neighborhood Change in Geographies of Opportunity for Post-Disaster Legacy Cities, A Case Study of San Juan, Puerto Rico (2022), <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/working-papers/tracking-neighborhood-change-in-geographies-opportunity-post-disaster> and The Public Health Implications of Abandoned Spaces in Post-Maria Puerto Rico (2022), <https://hazards.colorado.edu/public-health-disaster-research/the-public-health-implications-of-abandoned-spaces-in-post-maria-puerto-rico#:~:text=A%20recent%20study%20of%20the,al.%2C%202022%2C%20p.>

for Puerto Rico's communities through the implementation of code enforcement activities, including the identification, notification, and declaration of public nuisances, in accordance with applicable codes and regulations. This enforcement is expected to trigger activities to be carried out with other public or private funds to arrest the decline of deteriorated areas. The Code Enforcement activities are non-planning activities under Section 105(a)(3) of the HCDA. As per federal guidance, PRDOH may use existing definitions of deteriorated or deteriorating areas as per federal codes¹³ or determine other state/local law definitions, as per prevailing policies and regulations.¹⁴ PRDOH expects the VPR Program to help reduce blight and abandonment conditions in the deteriorated areas, while also mitigating future deterioration and decline through the combination of code enforcement and planning and capacity building activities.

The VPR Program may provide support in the form of:

- Assistance and building capacity in revising or creating new local ordinances, regulations, processes, and other policies to effectively deal with vacant properties.
- Support executing public awareness campaigns that can help educate property owners and the general public about the program benefits and other available resources.
- Assistance in developing and implementing community engagement strategies that bring together multiple stakeholders to address vacant property issues.
- Assistance and building capacity to municipal staff to execute code compliance activities including notifications, declarations, inspections, documentation of all activities, case management, and remediations.

¹³ Criteria found at 24 C.F.R. §570.208(b)(1) and 24 C.F.R. §570.483(c)(1) indicates one or more conditions that, if at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the properties within a specific area meet, PRDOH could use to consider an area as deteriorated or deteriorating.

¹⁴ Use of local regulations definitions may include use of "Areas of improvements" zoning, local ordinances, or updated definitions identified through local or state policies.

WHOLE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING PROGRAM		
PROGRAM TOTAL \$55,000,000	ADMINISTERING ENTITY PRDOH AND FOUNDATION FOR PUERTO RICO	NATIONAL OBJECTIVE N/A
MAX AWARD \$500,000	START- END DATE DURATION OF GRANT	ELIGIBLE AREA PUERTO RICO

HURRICANE IMPACT

Communities across Puerto Rico were severely impacted by the hurricanes and require long-term resilience planning to ensure recovery solutions are developed to protect life and property from future hazards. Additionally, there is a significant need for outcome-oriented community planning around Puerto Rico’s designated Special Communities as discussed in the unmet needs section.

RECOVERY PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Whole Community Resilience Planning Program aligns with the following courses of action from Puerto Rico’s Recovery Plan: CIT 16, CPCB 3, CPCB 4, CPCB 6, CPCB 9, HSS 22, and MUN 7.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Section 105 (a) (12) – Planning and Capacity Building
- Section 105 (a) (14) – Activities Carried Out through Nonprofit Development Organizations

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

High-risk communities, which are defined as communities situated in floodways or floodplain, landslide risk areas: and/or areas of concentrated damage.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Whole Community Resilience Planning Program will result in comprehensive community recovery plans, the benefit of which will allow communities to develop policy, planning, and management capacity so that they may more rationally and effectively determine their needs, set long-term goals and short-term objectives, devise programs and activities to meet goals and objectives, evaluate the progress of such programs in accomplishing these goals and objectives, and carry out management, coordination, and monitoring of activities necessary for effective planning implementation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants include non-governmental or non-profit organizations, local governments, and governmental entities.



METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Subrecipient Distribution Model

This program will utilize a Subrecipient Distribution model with the Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) as the program subrecipient responsible for **specific administering duties for** the program. However, the Foundation is not the awardee of the total value of the program budget, but the **manager administering entity** of the program **in partnership with PRDOH**. PRDOH will **continue providing oversight and provide** additional management functions and overall programmatic monitoring and compliance oversight.

Subrecipients may include non-governmental or non-profit organizations, local governments, or governmental entities who will be part of the community-driven planning to integrate the needs, desires, and resources of the residents in the reconstruction or relocation solutions.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION

The Whole Community Resilience Planning Initiative will craft recovery solutions for all communities, including high-risk areas, to increase individual and collective preparedness for future events and ensure greater resiliency at both the community and national levels. A whole community approach ensures shared understanding of community needs and capabilities, greater empowerment, and integration of resources from across the community, and a stronger social infrastructure. High-risk areas may include communities located in full or in part in the floodplain, in landslide risk areas, or other areas with environmental or hazard risk. Further, in addition to these hazard risks, a deeper and more multi-dimensional understanding of community risk and vulnerability (community resilience profile) will be developed.

The Program published a NOFA for identification of eligible Applicants who are willing to engage directly with interested communities in Puerto Rico. The Program Manager will monitor selected Applicants throughout the duration of their contract.

Awarded applicant-subrecipients will work directly with communities to identify community concerns and needs and develop community resilience plans to increase resilience and mitigate risks. Throughout this process, communities will be asked to consider future stressors, environmental integrity, economic diversity and viability, hazard mitigation opportunities, historic preservation, equity and vulnerability, and infrastructure redevelopment or augmentation, as well as other issues they deem important. This process will conclude in a public document which lays out a community profile, community findings, outreach activities/methodology, needs related to disaster mitigation and resilience, best practices, and implementation scenarios for short-, medium-, and long-term projects that the community supports and has prioritized to address its needs in conjunction with other existing planning initiatives.

All information and data collected during the Program will be made available to the public to increase knowledge and resilience on the Island.

Communities, like Caño Martín Peña, are encouraged to submit holistic plans for recovery that include items such as land-use, relocation, acquisition, and resilience measures. Communities may submit plans through an NGO, with assistance from professional planning firms and developers. NGOs may be established or developed to work jointly with communities in developing their approach. Plans should include a cost-benefit analysis to ensure the feasibility of proposed actions and should be as comprehensive as possible to set the stage for next steps. Planning may include a range of items, such as

housing innovation, and effective land-use. Regional planning and coordination are highly encouraged, and municipalities are encouraged to examine the needs of special communities. Plans should include consideration of hazard risk as part of their assessment.

PRDOH and the FPR will work collaboratively with relevant governmental entities such as The Puerto Rico Planning Board and key community-based non-profits in the development of program guidelines to ensure consistency and a coordinated approach. FPR is a 501(c)(3) local non-profit organization whose mission is to transform Puerto Rico through social and economic sustainable development. PRDOH recognizes the importance of collaboration and inclusion of the third sector within this program, wherein working with community groups, NGOs, and other non-profits will be instrumental in ensuring the success and outcomes of the Whole Community Resilience Planning Program.



HOME REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR RELOCATION PROGRAM		
PROGRAM TOTAL \$2,922,780,619	ADMINISTERING ENTITY PRDOH	NATIONAL OBJECTIVE LMI, LMHI, SB 95% LMI GOAL
MAX AWARD \$185K REBUILD OR RELOCATION \$215K REBUILD \$200K RELOCATION \$60K REPAIR	START- END DATE DURATION OF GRANT	ELIGIBLE AREA PUERTO RICO

HURRICANE IMPACT

Tens of thousands of homes suffered hurricane damage and are still in need of repair. Residents may have applied for FEMA and were ineligible or received insufficient assistance to address repair needs. There may also be residents that suffered damage and did not apply to FEMA. As outlined in the Unmet Needs section, there is an estimated unmet need of over \$30 billion in housing, and a significant need for assistance to the elderly. Priority for the elderly does not preclude assistance to other eligible applicants.

RECOVERY PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Home Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation Program (R3) aligns with the following courses of action from Puerto Rico’s Recovery Plan: HOU 1, HOU 3, HOU 10.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Section 105 (a) (1) – Acquisition of Real Property
- Section 105 (a) (4) –Clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements
- Section 105 (a) (7) – Disposition (through sale, lease, donation, or otherwise) of any real property or its retention for public purposes
- Section 105 (a) (15) – Assistance to Eligible Entities for Neighborhood Revitalization, Community Economic Development, and Energy Conservation
- Section 105 (a) (24) – Homeownership Assistance
- Section 105 (a) (26) - Lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Prioritize elderly applicants: Elderly applicants are those aged sixty-five (65) years or older at the time of application. The elderly applicant must be a head of household or co-head of household, as in the case of a married couple, to qualify for prioritization.
- Prioritize disabled applicants: Disabled applicants are those who have at least one household member who is disabled. The disabled household member need not be a head of household or co-head of household to qualify for prioritization.
- Prioritize applicants with significant property damage: At the time of application, if the applicant's home remains significantly damaged, with a blue-roof or destroyed, the applicant may qualify for prioritization.¹⁵

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Return displaced homeowners
- Reconstruct housing to higher resilience standard
- Revitalize weak and aging housing stock
- Moving households out of unsafe conditions

ELIGIBILITY

- Confirmed damage to property
- Ownership of property structure (alternative methods)
- Must qualify as low or moderate income (below 80% Area Median Family Income)
- Must be an eligible single-family structure
- Must have occupied the property as a primary residence at the time of the hurricane
- To be eligible for reconstruction in place, the property must not be located in a floodway or areas with engineering or extraordinary site conditions which make reconstruction in place not feasible. Applicants located in high-risk areas may be eligible for relocation or rehabilitation.
 - Construction projects in the floodplain which qualify as substantial improvements, as defined in 24 C.F.R. § 55.2, will not be rehabilitated. Eligible applicants with homes in the floodplain which qualify for substantial improvement rehabilitation will be offered elevated reconstruction when reasonable or relocation when elevated reconstruction is not reasonable. Reasonableness will be based on the criteria defined in the Program Guidelines.
- Note: Homeowners who receive assistance through other programs in the CDBG-DR portfolio are not precluded from assistance through the R3 Program. Homeowners meeting eligibility requirements for multiple programs may receive assistance through multiple avenues, deducting assistance for any duplication of benefit.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Direct Distribution Model

¹⁵ Note: These priorities may be operational for certain time periods as designated in the program guidelines.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION

R3 provides assistance to homeowners to repair or rebuild their damaged homes. Reconstruction activity returns otherwise displaced families to their homes in the same community. Homes become eligible for reconstruction when the property estimated cost of repair exceeds \$60,000 as confirmed through program inspection, the property is determined to be substantially damaged by an authority having jurisdiction, or a feasibility inspection determines that reconstruction is required. Homes meeting this damage threshold will be reconstructed to include resilient measures in structural materials. Homes that may not be rebuilt in place due to legal, engineering, or environmental constraints (permitting, extraordinary site conditions, etc.) will not be reconstructed and the homeowner will be provided relocation options. Homes in the floodplain that meet the \$60,000 damage threshold for reconstruction, substantial damage, or substantial improvement (repairs exceeding 50% of the current market value of the structure) as defined in 24 C.F.R. § 55.2 may be reconstructed only when elevation is reasonable based on the criteria defined in Program Guidelines. These eligible homeowners may also be offered relocation options. The Elevation cost is estimated to be \$75,000.

For reconstruction and relocation activities, the homeowner must agree to own the home and use it as their primary residence for a period of 5 years after reconstruction or successful relocation, as secured through a Sworn Grant Agreement in compliance with Rule 35.4 of the Puerto Rico Civil Procedure Rules, 32 LPRA Ap. V, R.35.4 (Entry of Judgement by Confession). Additionally, for relocation activities, the homeowner and PRDOH will execute a Direct Mortgage Deed with the Imposition of Restrictive Covenants, which shall be recorded in the Puerto Rico Property Registry. The latter is a unit of the Puerto Rico Department of Justice. If a homeowner moves, sells, leases, transfers, exchanges, donates, vacates, abandons, or otherwise alienates the property during the affordability period, the amount of benefit that must be repaid will be determined by the straight-line, linear amortization schedule as established by the Program in the Applicant's Grant Agreement.

For repair activities **only**, the ownership and occupancy compliance period will be three (3) years as secured through a Grant Agreement. If a homeowner moves, sells, leases, transfers, exchanges, donates, vacates, abandons, or otherwise alienates the property within the first three (3) years, the entire (100%) amount of the benefit received must be repaid in full to PRDOH. Further information about program award requirements, occupancy and residency periods, ongoing monitoring during compliance periods, and/or applicant responsibilities related to acceptance of an R3 Program award can be found in the R3 Program Guidelines, available at <https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/en/>.

Ownership & Primary Residency

Applicants must prove not only ownership of property, but primary residency at the time of the hurricane. Secondary or vacation homes are not eligible for assistance through this program. PRDOH will work to reasonably accommodate households with non-traditional documentation validating both ownership and residency. Documentation used to verify a primary residence may include a variety of documentation including, but not limited to, tax returns, homestead exemptions, driver's licenses, and utility bills when used in conjunction with other documents. Applicants may be required to prove primary residency by providing documentation validating occupancy for consecutive weeks and/or months leading up the time of the hurricane. To the extent possible, PRDOH will validate ownership and/or primary residency through electronic verification utilizing locally or federally maintained registries. After conducting a due-diligence process, the R3 Program may also allow alternative methods for documenting ownership, including an

affidavit process. As needed, the Program will refer applicants to the Title Clearance Program for support in obtaining a clear title.

Duplication of Benefit

In accordance with the Stafford Act, as amended, Puerto Rico will implement policies and procedures to ensure no individual receives duplication of benefit for the same purpose and/or effect to recover from the hurricanes. Federal law prohibits any person, business concern, or other entity from receiving federal funds for any part of such loss as to which he has received financial assistance under any other program, from private insurance, charitable assistance, or any other source.

If eligible and awarded, housing assistance award calculations are based on the following factors: damage/scope of project work needed; a review of funding from all sources to ensure no Duplication of Benefits (DOB); and availability of DOB funds, if any, for use in the project. Housing assistance awards will be determined after factoring in the inputs listed above, subtracting any unaccounted-for DOB, and then factoring in the pre-determined program caps that apply to the housing assistance activities to be used.

Applicant awardees must subrogate any additional funds received for damage caused by hurricanes Irma or María back to the housing program. CDBG-DR funds must be funding of last resort, and if additional funds are paid to applicant awardees for the same purpose as the housing assistance award, they receive through PRDOH assistance (i.e., repair or replacement of the damaged structure) after PRDOH has completed the repair/rehabilitation project, those funds must be returned to PRDOH.

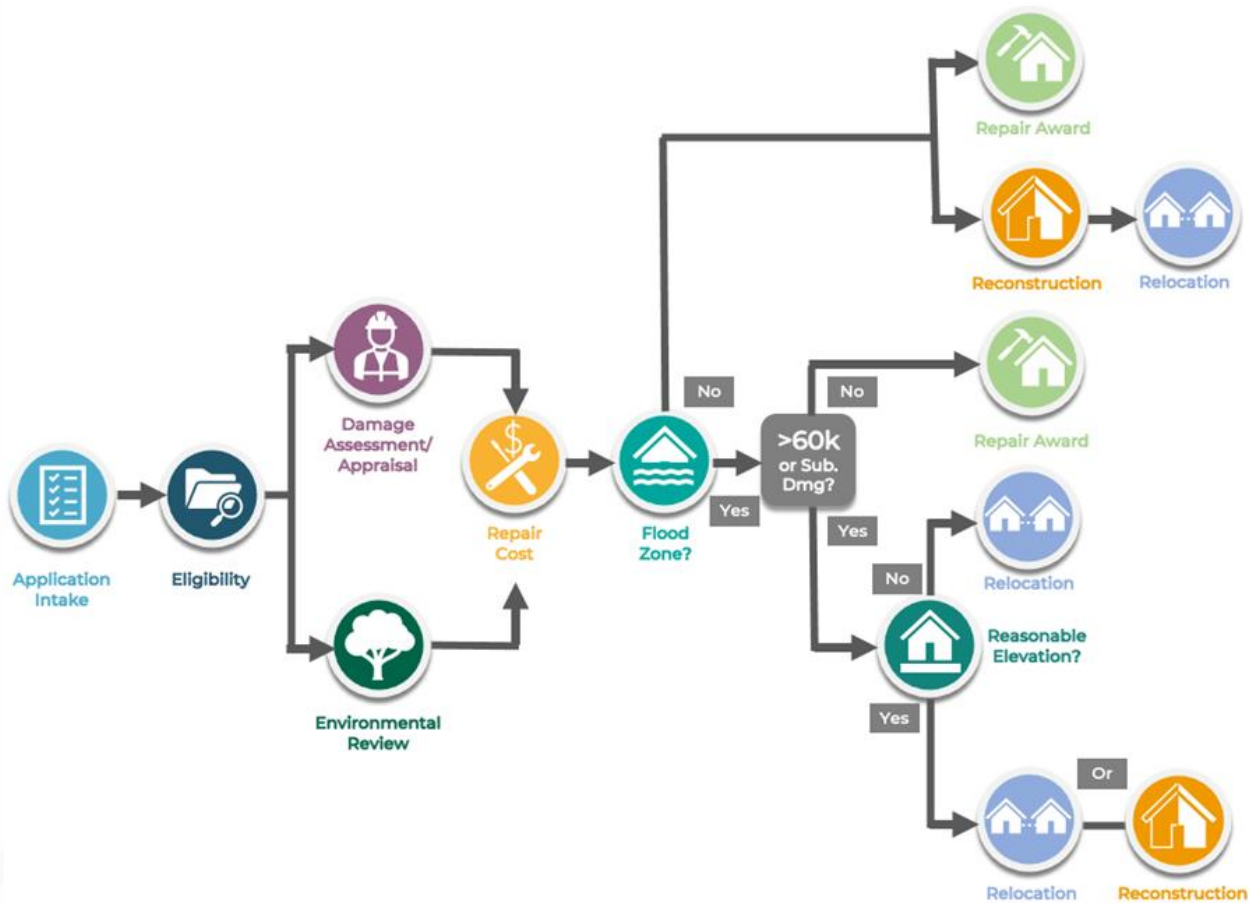


Figure 1: High-Level Overview of Repair, Reconstruction, Relocation Process

Permanent Relocation

R3 provides homeowners with substantially damaged homes located in high-risk areas an opportunity to relocate to a safer location when elevated reconstruction is not reasonable. When it is determined that a homeowner is eligible for relocation, the R3 Program will provide housing counseling services to assist the applicant in making an informed decision regarding housing options available under the relocation program. Additionally, the R3 Program provides homeowners whose homes suffered more than \$60,000 in damages the opportunity to relocate by forgoing a reconstruction award and accepting a relocation voucher.

Relocation allows for the following two options:

- Option 1: A housing voucher allows the applicant to select an existing or under-construction home outside a high-risk area. Existing Replacement homes must be located in Puerto Rico and must pass applicable environmental clearance and permit requirements before an applicant awardee may move in. The purchase price will be capped at \$185,000 or a regional cap more appropriate to market availability that does not limit housing choice and must be market reasonable. Purchase of replacement homes is the preferred relocation method and must be explored prior to exercising Option 2. Assistance received under the program is for the purchase of the newly acquired property.
- Option 2: Construction of a program-designed home on a new lot. New lots must be located outside of a high-risk area, including floodplains, and must comply with all applicable environmental regulations. This option may be exercised if no suitable options are available under Option 1. Homeowners who are relocated by the program must agree to occupy the new home as a primary residence for not less than five (5) years, as secured through a Sworn Grant Agreement in compliance with Rule 35.4 of the Puerto Rico Civil Procedure Rules, *supra*, and a Direct Mortgage Deed with Imposition of Restrictive Covenants, which shall be recorded in the Puerto Rico Property Registry.

In cases where the ownership of the hurricane-damaged property cannot be transferred to PRDOH, the Program may consider other alternatives to satisfy the eligible activities. The Program will make a relocation, acquisition, and/or disposition determination on a case-by-case basis as it may not be feasible for the Program to acquire the property from the R3 Program applicant in some scenarios. The R3 Program may, at its discretion, choose to select other eligible end uses for the hurricane-damaged property. More information about eligible activities for relocation and end uses will be available in the Program Guidelines.

~~Participants who are awarded relocation, but do not wish to relocate immediately, may defer accepting the R3 Program award to allow for the participative development of a housing mitigation program under the CDBG-MIT Program. Applicants who opt to defer acceptance of a relocation award from the CDBG-DR R3 Program to participate in a forthcoming housing mitigation program will remain on hold in the CDBG-DR R3 Program until the CDBG-MIT Single Family Housing Mitigation Program starts operating.~~

HUD-certified housing counselors are available to support R3 Program applicants during the relocation process. If the eligible applicant is unable to identify a suitable existing home to purchase with a voucher, the applicant will be allowed to identify available vacant lots for purchase outside the floodplain, on which a new home would be built by the program. To provide relocation applicants the best opportunity to find and purchase their replacement home successfully, PRDOH may provide additional types of assistance throughout the relocation process to assist in searching, selecting, and securing a replacement home. Limited legal services for applicants participating in the relocation program may be provided on a case-by-case basis.

Program Caps

~~*Note — in Substantial Amendment 1, approved by HUD on February 28, 2019, the maximum award caps increased to reflect the increase in costs of construction with respect to labor and materials on the Island.~~ The maximum award for housing rehabilitation in place is \$60,000 in construction and/or hard costs per unit. ~~The maximum award for relocation is \$200,000.~~ The maximum award for ~~relocation or~~ reconstruction is ~~\$215,000 \$185,000~~ in construction and/or hard costs per unit. In elevation cases, the maximum award is ~~\$215,000 \$185,000~~ for reconstruction plus the elevation cost (which is estimated to \$75,000). However, additional costs in excess of the caps are permissible and may account for demolition and environmental abatement, unique site-specific costs such as plots of land whose size obligate the construction of a two-story unit or construction of accessways (driveways or walkways) with lengths in excess of minimum setbacks established by regulations, or utility connection costs. Temporary relocation assistance may be available for applicants while program sponsored construction is underway, or on a case-by-case basis as determined by the R3 Program.

Exceptions to the caps may be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with policies and procedures. Exceptions to the caps may also consider necessary accessibility features or historic preservation. PRDOH will work with the Permit Management Office (OGPe, for its Spanish acronym) to establish a streamlined permitting process for the Disaster Recovery Program. If an applicant with a relocation voucher selects a housing unit in a PRDOH housing development, the voucher cap will be waived.¹⁶

Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Alignment: all reconstruction, rehabilitation, and relocation projects, when feasible, will be eligible to participate in this program as well. Those additional costs will be reflected and accounted for via the Community Energy and Water Resilience Installations Program and will not be reflected under the award caps mentioned above.

¹⁶ During the Public Comment period for the CDBG-DR Action Plan Amendment 9 (Substantial), citizens brought to PRDOH's attention the need to increase the housing stock available for the LMI population. In consideration of the current situation of limited housing availability, PRDOH revised this language to maximize the opportunity for relocation applicants to find a suitable replacement home.

TITLE CLEARANCE PROGRAM		
PROGRAM TOTAL \$40,000,000	ADMINISTERING ENTITY PRDOH	NATIONAL OBJECTIVE LMI 100% LMI GOAL
MAX AWARD N/A – PUBLIC SERVICE	START-END DATE DURATION OF GRANT	ELIGIBLE AREA PUERTO RICO

HURRICANE IMPACT

Tens of thousands of homes suffered hurricane damage and are still in need of repair. Residents may have applied for FEMA or other recovery assistance and faced challenges due to lack of clear title. FEMA estimates that nearly 60% of the 1.1 million applicants for financial support were found ineligible. Although many factors contributed, one of the main reasons was the applicants’ inability to prove ownership of the properties for which they were claiming damages. This overwhelming denial rate has left many without much-needed critical assistance, resulting in a large unmet housing need.

RECOVERY PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Title Clearance Program aligns with the following course of action from Puerto Rico’s Recovery Plan: HOU 12.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Section 105(a)(8) – Public Service

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Prioritize homeowners who have experienced challenges receiving federal assistance due to a lack of clear title.
- Resolve incidence of title issues as identified in the Puerto Rico Geospatial Framework Program.
- Citizens living in properties from PRDOH’s portfolio or other governmental agencies to be transferred to PRDOH
- Citizens sixty-five (65) years old or older at the time of application.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Return displaced homeowners who have not been able to repair their homes due to lack of clear title affecting their ability to receive federal assistance.
- Promote long-term self-sustainability

- Establish a consistent process to certify that a homeowner owns and controls a property (land or structure)
- Assist homeowners that lack a clean title of their properties or that are unable to register, under their name, their properties in government records

ELIGIBILITY

- LMI homeowners throughout the declared area are eligible for assistance. Low- or moderate-income households at or below 80% of Area Median Family Income according to HUD Modified Income limits for CDBG-DR Puerto Rico.
- Applicants who are otherwise eligible for assistance for housing reconstruction and relocation or were FEMA ineligible due to lack of documented ownership will be prioritized.
- The property must be the applicant's primary residence.
- The Applicant must have a valid ownership claim over the property.
- Title services may be provided for applicant properties located in the floodplain or floodway; or an area considered high-risk due to engineering, soil, or slope conditions as verified by engineering inspections. This service will allow the applicant to receive benefits from other programs within the CDBG-DR housing portfolio or other state and federal disaster recovery assistance.
- ~~At this time, title services will not be provided for applicant properties located in the floodplain or floodway; or an area considered high-risk due to engineering, soil, or slope conditions as verified by engineering inspections. Exceptions will be made if title clearance is necessary for the applicant to receive benefits from other programs within the PRDOH CDBG-DR Housing Portfolio or if the applicant was granted 'right of use' or 'right of enjoyment' over the property by any local laws or regulations.~~
- Applicants on properties in the PRDOH land portfolio will be prioritized.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Direct Distribution Model

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION

Limited Legal Services

The goal of the Title Clearance Program is to provide clear title to tens of thousands of homeowners throughout the hurricane-impacted area, resulting in long-term sustainability and security for residents. Applicants who are otherwise eligible for rehabilitation or reconstruction assistance under the housing program and who need remedial and curative title/ownership actions, may be prioritized for limited legal services assistance. During the Intake process, citizens will complete the application by providing all the information and documentation required for this stage. Then, a thorough application and document review will be made to ensure the applicant is eligible for the program. If the applicant is eligible, they will be notified of the next steps and referred for title clearance assistance. Limited legal services to resolve title issues may be performed by one or more attorneys duly licensed and authorized to practice law within the Government of Puerto Rico under rates subject to program approval. Homeowners unable to resolve title issues with the assistance of legal service providers may be recommended for longer-term assistance, separate from the services provided under this program.

The Title Clearance Program will be assisted by qualified external services providers integrated by attorneys, paralegals, case managers, land surveyors, and appraisers responsible for rendering services for the participant to obtain a clean property title. Property damage will not be a requirement for eligibility.

Services to be provided may include, but are not limited to:

- Title investigation
- Land surveys and plans
- Appraisals
- Structural assessments
- Recording fees
- Property Registry Certifications
- Preparation and filing of legal documentation
- Serving summons and notifications
- Presentation of documents in the Property Registry and other governmental agencies
- Filing and handling cases in court

~~At this time, title services may will not be provided for applicant properties located in the floodplain, floodway, or landslide risk area unless it is necessary for the applicant to receive benefits from other Programs within the PRDOH CDBG-DR Housing Portfolio or other state and federal disaster recovery assistance. The outcomes of the Whole Community Resilience Planning Program, as adopted into community recovery plans at a later date, will inform the next phases of title clearance assistance for homeowners in those areas.~~

The title clearance assistance provided under this program is a quantifiable increase in the level of service provided by Puerto Rico during the 12 months prior to submission of the Action Plan and is directly impacted by Hurricanes Irma and María.

SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS PROGRAM		
PROGRAM TOTAL \$85,000,000	ADMINISTERING ENTITY PRDOH	NATIONAL OBJECTIVE LMI, UN, SB 30% LMI GOAL
MAX AWARD \$2,500,000	START-END DATE DURATION OF GRANT	ELIGIBLE AREA PUERTO RICO

HURRICANE IMPACT

Due to the tightening of the financial market, and as a direct impact of the hurricanes, small, new, and start-up businesses need support to participate in the economic rebirth of the Island.

RECOVERY PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Small Business Incubators and Accelerators Program (SBIA) aligns with the following course of action from Puerto Rico’s Recovery Plan: ECN 13.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Section 105 (a) (15) – Assistance to eligible Entities for Neighborhood Revitalization, Community Economic Development, and Energy Conservation;
- Section 105 (a) (17) – Economic Development Assistance to Private, For-Profit Entities Economic Development Assistance to For-Profit Business;
- Section 105 (a) (22) – Microenterprise Assistance

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The development of small and/or new businesses; and/or
- Expansion of existing small businesses
- ~~Job creation through the growth of small and/or new businesses.~~

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible entities include:

- Non-profit units of local government, private, governmental, and for-profit organizations to repair existing Small Business Incubators or build new ones.

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Subrecipient Distribution Model

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION

Puerto Rico recognizes that a blend of ideas, talent, capital, and a culture of openness and collaboration are all vital to nurturing an innovation ecosystem involving complex interactions among entrepreneurs, investors, suppliers, universities, government entities, large existing businesses, and a host of supporting actors and organizations.¹⁷ Business incubator and accelerator programs support the growth and success of small and/or new businesses in the early stages of operation by providing initial resources that significantly minimize the risk of small and/or new business failure and speeding up the time it takes to get to market. Business incubators and accelerators will be encouraged to incorporate resilience measures in businesses plans to allow for continuity of business operations in the event of power outages, natural disasters, or other disruptive events. This will provide the added benefit of creating business shelters during future events.

PRDOH will oversee this program and will fund incubator and accelerator activities with units of local government, non-profit organizations, or governmental agencies with proven experience in the implementation of business incubators and accelerators. Through SBIA, small and/or new businesses will gain access to shared office space and supportive operational resources such as office equipment, telecommunication services, technical assistance, and conference space. Daily work in a shared, collaborative office environment provides for ongoing access to mentoring services, professional networking, idea-exchange, and hands-on management training. This will help support small and/or new companies in the early stage of operation.

The grant maximum is \$2,500,000; however, it is possible that not all incubators and accelerators will receive the maximum amount. Funding will be based on incubator/accelerator capacity as proposed in the submittal. Projects proposed in the floodplain will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for risk and cost reasonableness and will comply with all applicable requirements. Organizations simply offering shared workspaces for lease or purchase as a private-sector business model, without providing supportive services, are not eligible applicants. Application criteria and program guidelines are published on the CDBG-DR website.

¹⁷ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/accelerating-growth-startup-accelerator-programs-in-the-united-states/>

WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM		
PROGRAM TOTAL \$90,000,000	ADMINISTERING ENTITY PRDOH	NATIONAL OBJECTIVE LMI, UN 60% LMI GOAL
MAX AWARD \$7,000,000 \$5,000,000	START-END DATE DURATION OF GRANT	ELIGIBLE AREA PUERTO RICO

HURRICANE IMPACT

Puerto Rico needs a skilled and agile workforce to meet the challenges and opportunities of:

- hurricane recovery;
- investments in hazard mitigation and resilience and;
- repositioning the economy for sustainable prosperity.

The influx of federal, state, and private investments presents a need and an opportunity to invest in Puerto Rico citizens to build skills and succeed in the revitalized Puerto Rico economy. Investment in workforce training is needed to serve Puerto Rico’s citizens who currently reside on the Island and those who moved off the Island but want to return home.

For a successful and sustainable recovery, workforce training must serve the entire Island economy. However, Puerto Rico is experiencing a distinct shortage of skilled labor within the construction and hospitality industries due to hurricane damage and the outmigration of families before and after the hurricanes.

RECOVERY PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Workforce Training Program (WFT) aligns with the following course of action from Puerto Rico’s Recovery Plan: ECN 2, ECN 23, ECN 26, CPCB 4, CPCB 12, and MUN 2.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Sections 105 (a) (8) - Provision of public services
- Section 105 (a) (14) - Assistance to public or private nonprofit entities
- Section 105 (a) (15) - Assistance to neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations, local development corporations, and nonprofit organization to Neighborhood Revitalization, Community Economic Development and Energy Conservation

- Section 105 (a) (17) - Economic Development Assistance to Private, For-Profit Entities Economic development assistance that creates or retains jobs
- Section 105 (a) (21) - Assistance to institutions of higher education

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Training and employment of Puerto Rico citizens, especially those who earn low and moderate incomes, including youth 18 years or older, unemployed adults, dislocated workers or underemployed.
- Training and employment of Puerto Rico citizens who meet the criteria of a Section 3 Worker or Targeted Section 3 Worker as per 24 C.F.R. § Part 75.
- Cultivate and supply homegrown labor force to meet the Island's recovery, resilience and economic expansion needs and opportunities.

PRDOH will work to ensure the compliance of with federally mandated statutes such as 2 C.F.R. § Part 200, Section 3, MWBE, EEO, and the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 to establish clear pathways for the employment of apprentices.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Create economic opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed through training and certifications that may help the beneficiaries find a job in Puerto Rico.
- Provide incentives for Incentivize Puerto Rico citizens to return or stay on the Island, to receive training and secure that helps them find employment.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible entities include:

- NGO (501(c)(3)) or Not for Profit Entities
- Professional Associations and Trade Associations
- Community Based Development Organizations
- Municipal Governments
- Public Institution of Higher Learning (University)
- Administrative Agency or Department of Government of Puerto Rico (State Agencies)
- For Profit Entities as authorized under 24 C.F.R. § 570.201(o)

The selection criteria were included in the program guidelines and Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

Subrecipient Distribution Model

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION

This program will help unemployed and underemployed residents find employment by providing job training in skill areas related to recovery efforts. The WFT Program will work with other local governments and other non-profit entities that may be able to provide training. The training curriculum offered will depend on the industries and areas with the greatest opportunity for growth and greatest need for trained individuals.

WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

Units of local government, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies will be invited to propose workforce training programs under program guidelines as approved by PRDOH. To continue fostering Puerto Rico's construction workforce and depending on funds availability, PRDOH may directly select eligible entities to carry out workforce training programs focused on the construction sector.

PRDOH or its designee will evaluate proposed training programs based on the potential entities' entity's capacity to administer training, the relationship of training material to job-readiness of participants and cost reasonableness. Entities interested in Selected entities administering training programs are encouraged to develop and administer programs in partnership could partner with institutions of higher education, workforce investment boards, business groups or trade organizations, labor or community-based organizations and learning facilities. It is suggested that the training curriculum be has been developed in collaboration with subject matter experts in the area.

Workforce training programs will be developed in those industry sectors identified in the Puerto Rico Recovery Plan and may support recovery activities offered in the following categorical areas:

- Construction:
 - Inspections and enforcement services for hurricane damage and health and safety codes
 - Construction building trades (site preparation, masonry, framing and carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, painting, and finish work, etc.)
 - Green building and energy efficiency
 - Renewable energy and Water Purification systems
 - Lead and related hazard control and abatement
 - Weatherization/ Sustainable Retrofitting
 - Green Infrastructure, Hazard Mitigation, and resilience
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Healthcare
- Technology training that supports new generation of digital workforce
- Manufacturing
- Other identified unmet workforce training needs to support Puerto Rico's long-term recovery goals

This program will also consider learning opportunities for other areas of immediate need to enable the current labor force to gain skills and participate in the growing economy. Program design for these initiatives will include sponsors who can facilitate on the job learning or LMI candidates who complete an application to participate in the developed curriculum. The WFT Program may also identify new opportunities to partner with established entities providing meaningful skillset training, that facilitate new job opportunities.

