

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	
Total Funding Requested:	No amount specified
Housing	
Infrastructure	
Economic Development	

On 3/6/2018, Habitat for Humanity sent an email outlining the organization’s vision for recovery, including a listing of what Habitat for Humanity sees as unique issues for recovery in Puerto Rico. The email encourages regional coordination for risk mitigation and preparedness strategies. Issues cited in the proposal include:

- Informal construction – Habitat for Humanity calls for rebuilding to be done to a higher standard than construction on the island has been held to in the past.
- Building permits – Habitat for Humanity encourages Puerto Rico to expedite the construction permitting process for recovery projects
- Liability of architects and contractors – the proposal calls for policy change to lessen the liability risk for organizations acting in good faith
- Land tenure – the proposal recognizes the issues many families have with proving ownership due to informality and recommends assistance be provided to families to assist in obtaining clear
- Material shortages

Habitat for Humanity recommends using existing studies to supplement recovery efforts and includes examples of such studies in the written comment submitted. Additionally, the proposal outlines recommendations for activities to be funded with CDBG-DR dollars. Activities suggested are focused on providing multiple options for housing and include:

- Perform a thorough unmet needs assessment
- Rehabilitate housing units to be used as rental properties
- Resiliency measures for housing and enhanced building standards for housing
- Incentivize development of mixed use properties
- Acquisition of public nuisance properties

Habitat for Humanity also requests that 70% of CDBG-DR funding be directed to benefit LMI households, relaxed environmental review requirements, and clear definition of directly and indirectly impacted residents.