Amendment to FY-2012 CDBG Supplemental Disaster Action Plan

The State of Missouri received a Supplemental Disaster Appropriation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), via Public Law 112-55, in 2012. These funds were to be used for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared in 2011 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974.

Once an action plan for CDBG or Disaster funding is adopted, it may be necessary to amend such plan. The action plan for FY-12 CDBG Disaster funds did not specify what constitutes a substantial amendment to the plan. One purpose of this proposed amendment is to specify the criteria under which a substantial amendment is required, and the process to do so.

1. Criteria for a Substantial Amendment

A “substantial amendment” to the FY12 Disaster Action Plan will be required if/when:

- A funding category is added or removed,
- Funds in excess of $1 million are moved between funding categories.

In the event that a substantial amendment is required, the proposed amendment will be posted on the Department of Economic Development website for a period not less than seven (7) days, with public notice being made of the availability of the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment will include the deadline for public comment and the contact information for public comment.

The movement of $1 million or less between funding categories will not require a substantial amendment. The Department of Economic Development (DED) reserves the right to move up to $1 million between categories depending on need.

2. Funding Category Adjustment

DED has made a number of changes to the original budget of the FY12 CDBG Disaster appropriation. These changes were based entirely on need stated in the applications received. This amendment will finalize the changes as listed below:

a. Initially DED budgeted up to $4,141,553 for Economic Revitalization/Development. This was 50% of the available appropriation. Since all funding decisions were to be made on the basis of need justified in an application process, we were not able to specify the amounts for each broad funding category as applications had not yet been solicited or submitted. The Department initially planned to use a portion of the appropriation for economic revitalization projects in eligible disaster affected areas. However, all potential economic revitalization projects were funding using other resources, and no FY12 CDBG Disaster funds were used for this purpose. DED is, therefore, removing this funding category. Only one project was awarded using FY12 CDBG Disaster funds, and it was deobligated when the project did not proceed. This was the only Economic Revitalization/Development application received for this allocation of funds. With the exception of the funds designated for Planning below, all funds originally budgeted for
Economic Revitalization/Development are transferred to the Housing/Infrastructure funding category.

b. DED listed Planning as an eligible activity; however, Planning was not listed as an eligible funding category in the initial Action Plan. Disaster Recovery planning was identified as a need, but the FY12 Disaster appropriation was not a funding source for Planning activities. However, after significant consultation with local partners including the State’s regional planning commissions and councils of local government, DED did determine to use FY12 CDBG Disaster funds to fund a portion of a larger, statewide, planning project in partnership with the State Emergency Management Agency. DED, therefore, adds Planning as an eligible funding category for FY12 CDBG Disaster funding, with an allocation of $674,895. This amount reflects planning costs eligible for FY12 CDBG Disaster funds, and awarded by DED to the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG), plus one additional planning grant awarded to Poplar Bluff for a planning study on a creek that floods repeatedly.

The Planning category, as approved by DED, provided funds to the State’s regional planning commissions and councils of local government, via the Missouri Association of Councils of Government, for eligible long term disaster recovery planning activities. The individual commissions/councils were given the flexibility to determine the priority long term disaster recovery planning needs of their local governments, and were awarded funds within a pre-arranged maximum amount for each commission/council. All planning projects addressed long-term land-use and other disaster impacts caused by weather related disaster events of 2016 as required for the use of FY12 CDBG Disaster Recovery funds. All awarded planning projects were in Presidentially-declared disaster areas and were eligible for FY12 CDBG Disaster Recovery funds.

The additional planning grant to Poplar Bluff was not part of the MACOG planning project, but was a planning component requested in an application for other flood-recovery activities from that city.

For the FY12 CDBG Disaster allocation, states were allowed to use the Entitlement methodology for meeting national objective on “planning only” projects. The Entitlement regulations state that, for “planning only” projects, the national objective is “presumed” to have been met.

Public Comment

This amendment is posted on the Department of Economic Development website (CDBG Disaster Recovery page) for a seven day period beginning on September 14, 2018, and ending at 5:00 pm on September 21, 2018.

The state will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and LEP persons. To request an accommodation or to request a copy of this document in Spanish, please contact DED at (573) 751-3600 or marcy.oerly@ded.mo.gov.