Presented by the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA)
Presenters

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Goals for Today’s Public Hearing

- Gather feedback on the opinions and perceptions of residents regarding what should be high priority items in the USVI CDBG-MIT Action Plan.

- Identify potential project types that will help save lives and reduce future losses to homes, businesses and critical facilities.

- Spread the word about the available online survey to encourage comments.
Public Input Process

There are many ways to provide feedback and **VIHFA wants to hear from you.**

1. After this presentation, oral feedback will be heard. If you would like to provide feedback, please add your first and last name in the Chat feature of **Zoom.** Oral comments are first come, first served and limited to **4 minutes** per person.

2. Questions and comments can also be submitted using the **Zoom** Chat feature. Please include your first and last name to ensure all comments are addressed. Questions will be addressed after oral input concludes, if time allows. All feedback will be recorded and any unaddressed comments will be saved and addressed in written format at a later date.

3. Take the VIHFA CDBG-MIT Survey at [www.vihfa.gov](http://www.vihfa.gov) or [https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf](https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf) – see link in Chat.

4. Email your feedback to VIHFA at [Mitigation@vihfa.gov](mailto:Mitigation@vihfa.gov)
CDBG-MIT Funding

Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 175 for U.S. Virgin Islands published September 10, 2019 subject to the requirements of Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 169 published August 30, 2019

Allocates $774,188,000 to the U.S. Virgin Islands due to Hurricanes Maria and Irma

U.S. Virgin Islands Action Plan for Mitigation funds extended
due date is October 6, 2020*

*Additional extensions available due to COVID-19 until January 6, 2021
**Total USVI CDBG-DR & CDBG-MIT Allocations***

- **CDBG-DR | Tranche 1**: $242,684,000
- **CDBG-DR | Tranche 2**: $779,217,000
- **CDBG-DR | Tranche 2a**: $53,588,884
- **Total CDBG-DR**: $1,075,489,884
- **CDBG-MIT | Tranche 3**: $774,800,000
- **Total CDBG-DR & CDBG-MIT**: $1,850,289,884

* HUD will issue a separate allocation to address electric power systems
HUD Definition of Mitigation

“Those activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters.”

- CDBG-MIT Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 169, August 30, 2019
HUD Goals for CDBG-MIT

- Support data-informed investments with a focus on repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure

- Build capacity to comprehensively analyze disaster risks and update hazard mitigation plans

- Support the adoption of policies that reflect local and regional priorities with a focus on community risk reduction

- Maximize the impact of funds by encouraging leverage, private/public partnerships and coordination with other federal sources
CDBG-MIT Funds Spending Timeline

- 50% of funds expended in 6 years
- 100% of funds expended in 12 years
CDBG-MIT Requirements
CDBG-MIT Activities Requirements

1. Meet the definition of mitigation activities
2. Address the current and future risks identified in a Mitigation Needs Assessment
3. Be CDBG-eligible activities under Title I of the HCDA or eligible pursuant to a waiver or alternative requirement
4. Meet a HUD national objective

The Action Plan will describe how funded activities will satisfy these requirements
Mitigation Needs Assessment

A risk based assessment that will inform the use of CDBG-MIT funds to meet mitigation needs, considering identified current and future disaster risks.

VIHFA process

- Consult with other jurisdictions, the private sector and other government agencies
- Use the most recent risk assessment through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan process to inform the use of CDBG–MIT funds.
- Use the risks identified in the FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as a starting point
Mitigation Needs Assessment

Lifelines are the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function.

Address 7 critical service areas or community lifelines:
CDBG-MIT HUD National Objectives

All CDBG-MIT funded projects must also:

1. Demonstrate the ability to operate for the useful life of the project and include a plan for the long-term operation and maintenance of infrastructure and public facility projects.

2. Be consistent with other mitigation activities that will be carried out.

Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) National Objective:


Urgent Need Mitigation National Objective:

1. Address the current and future risks identified in the Mitigation Needs Assessment.

2. Result in measurable and verifiable reduction in the risk of loss of life and property.
Eligible Mitigation Program Types

- INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC FACILITIES
- HOUSING
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICES
Covered Projects

Infrastructure projects having a total project cost of $50 million or more, with at least $25 million of CDBG funds regardless of source (e.g., CDBG–DR, CDBG–MIT, or CDBG)

Covered projects have additional requirements including the development of a benefit-cost-analysis (BCA)
CDBG-MIT Eligible Activities
Project Development Considerations

1. **LMI**
   - Does the project benefit LMI population?

2. **Mitigation**
   - What hazard(s) will the project mitigate & how will it mitigate?

3. **Lifelines**
   - How will the project support a Community Lifeline during a hazard event?

4. **Benefit Cost**
   - Generally does the benefit outweigh the cost over the life of the project?

5. **Implementation**
   - Does the recipient have the capacity to implement the project?

6. **Sustainability**
   - Will additional funding be required to maintain the project over the full project life?
Identifying Mitigation Projects through Needs Assessment

➢ What is the risk to an asset?

➢ How will the project reduce the impact of a hazard to the asset?

HAZARDS

- Locations
- Severity & Impacts
- Past Occurrences
- Likelihood of Recurring

RISK

COMMUNITY ASSETS

- Population
- Buildings & Infrastructure
- Natural Environment
- Economy
Examples of Eligible Mitigation Projects

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**
- Infrastructure improvements and hardening
- Natural systems protection

**HOUSING**
- Projects to increase the resiliency of housing or housing buyouts

**PLANNING AND PUBLIC SERVICES**
- Local code and planning regulations updates
- Education and awareness programs

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- Hardening commercial areas against future disasters
- Financing critical infrastructure sectors to allow continued commercial operations after a disaster
- Mitigation-related technology and systems development
Examples of **Ineligible** Mitigation Projects

- Funding for buildings used for the general conduct of government
- Emergency response services
- Assistance to *private* utilities
- Electric power grid projects (covered by a future allocation)
Safety & Security

- Evacuation routes
- Force protection and security for staff
- Security assessments at external facilities
- Location of correctional facilities
- Continuity of Services
- Communications
- Capacity of First Responder Staff
- Placement of Critical Infrastructure
Communications

- Infrastructure
- Coordination and Protocols
- Status of telecommunications service
- Reliability of internet service and cellular service
- Requirements for radio/satellite communication capability
- Status of public safety radio communications and emergency alert
- Status of phone infrastructure and emergency line servicing.
Food, Water, Sheltering

- Number of people to evacuate
- Evacuation routes and Evacuation time frame
- Food, water, shelter availability
- Point of Distribution Public and Private
- Impacts to the food supply chain
- Location of water control systems (e.g., dams, levees, storm drains)
- Number and location of open shelters
- Transitional Sheltering Assistance options
- Potential future sheltering requirements
- Status of area agriculture
Transportation

- Inventory of major roads and highways, critical and noncritical bridges
- Status of maintenance and emergency repairs
- Availability of public transit systems including underground rail, buses, and ferry services, railway, airports, ports.
Health & Medical

- Status of acute medical care facilities (e.g., level 1 trauma center), chronic medical care facilities (e.g., long term care centers), primary care and behavioral health facilities.
- Ability to evacuate active patients
- Status of state and local health departments
- Public health advisories
- Availability of mortuary and post-mortuary services
Hazardous Material (Management)

➢ Amount, type, and containment procedures of hazardous materials
   Inventory of Hazardous materials

➢ Status of hazardous material supply chain
Energy (Power & Fuel)

➢ Inventory of electrical power generation and distribution facilities, nuclear within 10 miles, substations.
➢ Number of people and locations without power
➢ Availability of temporary power resources
➢ Status of commercial fuel stations
➢ Responder fuel availability and status of critical fuel facilities
CDBG-MIT Action Plan Timeline

1. Federal Register Notice Published September 10, 2019
2. Stakeholder Outreach Begins
3. Mitigation Needs Assessment Development
4. Public Input Hearings
5. Draft Action Plan Development
6. Translation of Draft Action Plan
7. Action Plan Available for Public Comment for at least 45 days
8. Respond and Incorporate Public Comments
9. Submit Action Plan to HUD by October 6, 2020

Timeline:
- Notice Published: September 10, 2019
- Outreach Begins: September 10, 2019
- Mitigation Needs: September 10, 2019
- Hearings: September 10, 2019
- Draft Action Plan: October 6, 2020
- Public Comment: at least 45 days
VIHFA CDBG-MIT Outreach
Ongoing Stakeholder Input

➢ This is the **3rd public hearing** conducted to receive citizen feedback and comments.

➢ A **45-day comment period** will commence prior to submission of the Action Plan to HUD.
Please submit comments now

1. If you would like to provide feedback via videoconference, please add your first and last name in the Chat feature of Zoom. Oral comments are first come, first served and limited to 4 minutes per person.

2. Questions and comments can also be submitted using the Zoom Chat feature. Please include your first and last name to ensure all comments are addressed. Questions will be addressed after oral input concludes, if time allows. All feedback will be recorded and any unaddressed comments will be saved and addressed in written format at a later date.

3. Take the VIHFA CDBG-MIT Survey at www.vihfa.gov or https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf – link also provided via Chat to provide comments and feedback.

4. Email your comments to VIHFA at Mitigation@vihfa.gov
Today’s Oral and Written Public Input

➢ State your name when recognized
➢ State any affiliation you may have
➢ 4 minute limit on oral comments
➢ Comments will also be accepted via the Zoom Chat function. Questions will be answered if time allows.
➢ Unaddressed comments will be saved and provided in written format at a later date.
Thank you!

VIHFA appreciates your participation today. Please pass this information on to your friends and neighbors.

➢ Further written comments will be accepted via email to Mitigation@vihfa.gov
➢ Comments can also be submitted via the online survey available at www.vihfa.gov or https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf
➢ Please plan to submit comments for consideration