

**Note:** Submitting your application in advance of the deadline may afford the opportunity for the Public Service Public Facilities Team to review, evaluate, and reach out in the case of erroneous or missing information.

- Why was the nonprofit allocation dropped from \$27M to \$7M?  
There was never a specific “nonprofit” allocation. If you are referring to the original Action Plan allocation, that was \$37,500,000 for Public Facilities and Public Services. The Action Plan and earlier amendments identified a number of projects and applicants for those funds. After a period of almost three years, some of the projects never moved to application and others were determined not to be eligible for the funding. Due to the length of time remaining on the grant, the revised allocation proposed under Substantial Amendment #3 will be \$14,500,000; \$4,000,000 for public services and \$10,500,000 for public facilities. As of now, only one of the original projects has been approved for funding. \$7,395,000 is being put out in this NOFA. HFA anticipates at least one additional NOFA will be published early in 2023.
- Can you use the same application for services and facilities, or should you submit them separately?  
The NOFA specifies that a separate application should be completed for each project seeking funding. The same application form is to be used to apply for either services or facilities; please specify in the application.
- Is this funding open to new projects or do projects have to have a tie to the storm?  
It is mandatory that all potential subrecipients have a tie to the disaster for funding for this NOFA. To further clarify, a project that seeks to mitigate the impacts of the storm may also be eligible for funding. This is particularly true for public services that seek to address storm impacts. While repairs to damaged facilities are eligible, a new facility would only be eligible if it was a reconstruction of a facility substantially damaged or destroyed in the storm.
- What does tie to the storm mean? Can you give examples?  
Tie to the storms encompasses any service or building that was being operated or rendered at the time of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Services would have been affected/disrupted at the time of the storm. Also, if the building being leased/owned during operation was affected/damaged during storm. Services that are provided to address the impacts of the storm would also be eligible. An example might be an afterschool program to provide tutorial services to children who lost classroom hours due to damage to school facilities.
- If there were plans to start a program but the storms prevented that, can I still apply for funding to address that loss?  
A plan does not constitute a tie to the disaster. Funding is not available under this current NOFA.
- Is there a cap on the amount of funds you can request within your budget on your application?  
There is no cap so long as it does not exceed the cap of the entire grant amount. Please make sure that your application addresses whether your project can be done with an amount lesser than your request. For instance, a construction project needs to be completed 100% with CDBG-DR funding for which you are applying.
- How much money is allocated for public services and how much allocated to public facilities?

We did not specify an amount for each category, giving the flexibility to select the strongest applications, and those with the ability to move forward quickly to implement their projects/programs.

- How are projects moved to Mitigation from Disaster Recovery take the money with them?  
Some of the projects that were originally identified for public facilities funding may be more suitable to mitigation funding, but there is no guarantee. It is an entirely different funding source with distinct set of requirements. HFA intends to continuously monitor the progress of all projects currently funded. If a project cannot be completed with the current grant period ending September 2026 the funding for that project will be reallocated. It is HFA's goal to spend all of the CDBG-DR funding within that timeframe.
- Do you have a timeline on when the Mitigation funding will be available?  
It is anticipated this year..
- How are the applications going to be accepted and decided on?  
All applications that are received by the deadline will be evaluated based on the following factors:
  - Prior history of managing federal grant funds
  - Staffing
  - Experience with the particular program or activity
  - Assessment of financial management and reporting systems
  - History of contractor oversight if contractors are to be involved in the project
- Are there different priorities in deciding what is funded?  
Responsive applications that demonstrate project readiness to proceed will be given priority
- Within the \$7 Million, what is dedicated to facilities and services? Is it two separate pots?  
We did not specify an amount for each category, giving the flexibility to select the strongest applications, and those with the ability to move forward quickly to implement their projects/programs.
- Facilities, improvements, and constructions should have a life cycle. Is funding for services going to end when this funding is expended?  
Facilities repair or reconstruction projects should demonstrate that they have access to at least two years of operating support. Projects that provide at least a two-year operating pro forma, with documentation of sources and uses of funds will be given priority. Depending on the nature of the clientele to be served, supportive services commitments for at least two years should be included in the application as well.
- Is storm affected facility considered a tie to the storm?  
Yes. To further clarify, a project that seeks to mitigate the impacts of the storm may also be eligible for funding. This is particularly true for public services that seek to address storm impacts. While repairs to damaged facilities are eligible, a new facility would only be eligible if it were a reconstruction of a facility substantially damaged or destroyed in the storm.
- If your business was not up and running prior to the storm is not eligible, but with Mitigation, would it be eligible?

- For profit businesses are not eligible for this funding. The policies and procedures for the various programs to be funded with CDBG-Mitigation funding are still under development, so we are unable to provide an answer at this time.
- If the application is submitted electronically, how can we sign and submit the application?
  - You can e-sign, or print, sign, and scan.
- When will the NOFA for the MIT Funding be available?
  - HFA will provide notification to the public when MIT funding is available. It is anticipated this year.
- Is HUD's definition of tie to the storm liberal enough to include facility or services that is necessary to address conditions created by Hurricanes Irma and Maria?
  - Potentially yes, but decisions will be made on a project-by-project basis based on the information submitted in the application. Tie to the storms encompasses any service or building that was being operated or rendered at the time of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.. Also, if the building owned during operation was affected/damaged during storm, it can be eligible. In these instances, evidence of site control must be included with the application submission. Services that are provided to address the impacts of the storm would also be eligible. An example might be an afterschool program to provide tutorial services to children who lost classroom hours due to damage to school facilities.
- When does the first come, first serve process begin?
  - The staff will review applications for completeness that is submitted prior to the deadline for submission. Depending on volume, it may not be possible to review every application before the deadline. The only review that will occur prior to the deadline is a preliminary review for submission completeness. To further clarify, no decisions on awards will be made prior to a review of all applications received by the submission deadline.
- Are agencies eligible to apply for more than one pot of funds?
  - There is no cap so long as it does not exceed the cap of the entire grant amount. Please make sure that your application addresses whether your project can be done with an amount lesser than your request. The sources and uses budget must reflect all funding available to carry out the project, including sources other than CDBG-DR, if available.
- If agencies apply for funding for facilities, can they still apply for funding for services?
  - Yes, you can apply for both facilities and services under this NOFA. The same application form is to be used to apply either services or facilities; please specify in the application. Please provide a separate application for each project/service proposed.
- What qualified Sister Emma Cottage for funding prior to this NOFA?
  - Sister Emma Cottages was a project, identified by the Governor of the Virgin Islands in the Action Plan, which was determined to be eligible for CDBG-DR funding. Is there a cap on the amount of funds you can request in your budget in the
  - NOFA application?
    - . There is no cap so long as it does not exceed the cap of the entire grant amount. Please make sure that your application addresses whether your project can be done with an amount lesser than your request. For instance, a construction project needs to be completed 100% with CDBG-DR funding for which you are applying.

- If this is a new or expanded service to address homeless – the project could be eligible for funding under public services.
- If this project is for repair of an existing facility or a facility that was operating at the time of the storm for homelessness that needs repairs – the project could be eligible under public facilities
- If this project involves acquisition, repair or renovation of a facility that was not operating at the time of the storm – then the repairs would not be eligible for this funding.

“Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, government agencies and NGOs that service vulnerable populations in the Virgin Islands. The goal is to fund those entities that may have been affected by the hurricanes or that were born from a need that was realized after the hurricanes.”