



# CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Public Hearing

July 9, 2020

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Presented by the Virgin  
Islands Housing  
Finance Authority  
(VIHFA)



# Presenters

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Ms. Keva Muller, **VIHFA**, Communications Manager

Mr. David Martin, **VIHFA**, Chief Disaster Recovery Officer

Mr. Neal Rackleff, **Tetra Tech**, Senior Vice President



# Goals for Today's Public Hearing

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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

# Public Input Process

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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> – see link in Chat.
4. Email your feedback to VIHFA at [Mitigation@vihfa.gov](mailto:Mitigation@vihfa.gov)

# CDBG-MIT Funding

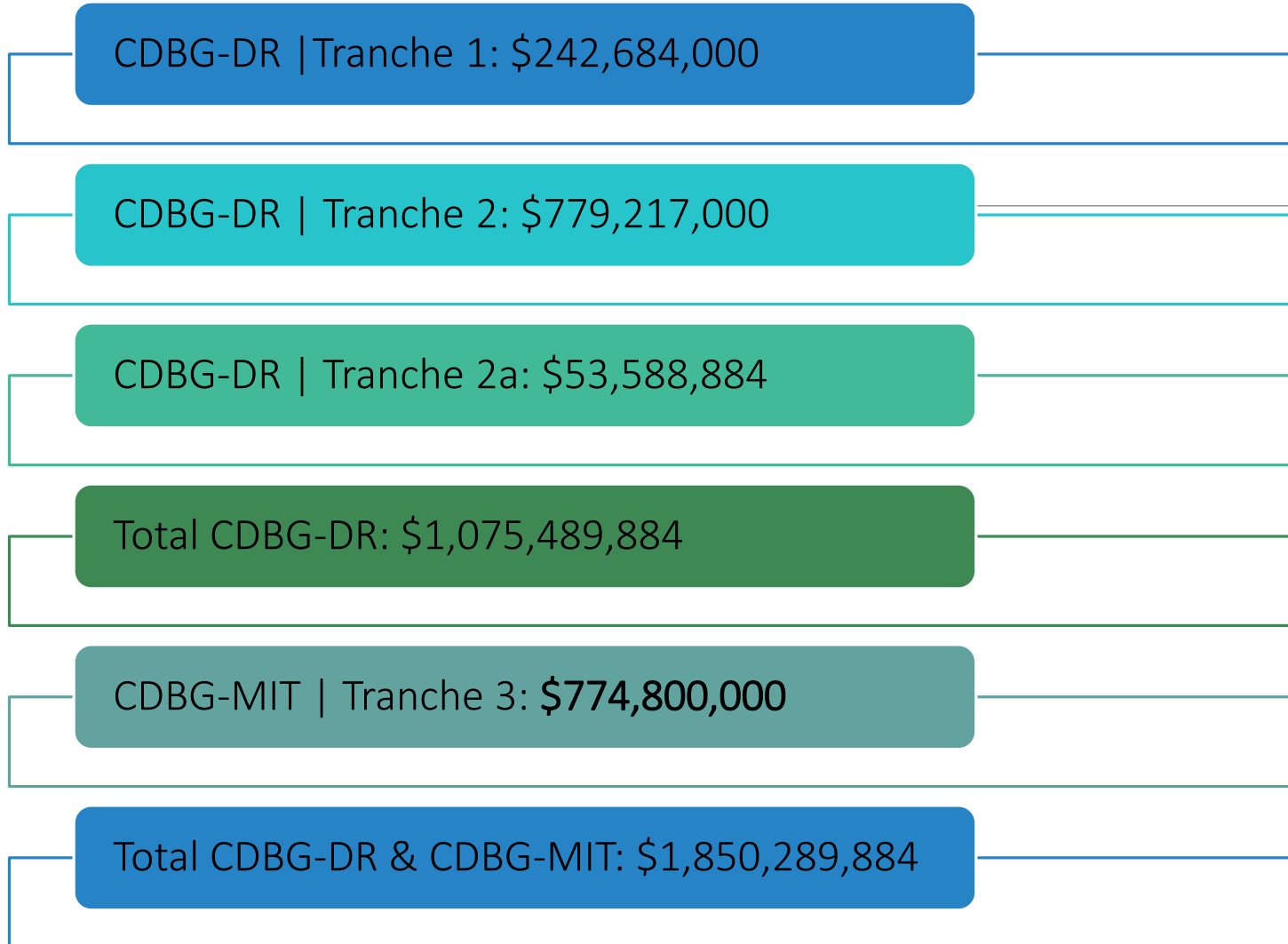
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Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 175 for U.S. Virgin Islands published September 10, 2019 subject to the requirements of Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 169 published August 30, 2019

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\*

\* HUD will issue a separate allocation to address electric power systems

# HUD Definition of Mitigation

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*“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

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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

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50% of funds expended in 6 years



100% of funds expended in 12 years



# CDBG-MIT Requirements

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# CDBG-MIT Activities Requirements

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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

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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

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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

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## 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:

1. Benefiting vulnerable lower-income people and communities. Must benefit 50% low-and-moderate income persons.

## 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

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**INFRASTRUCTURE &  
PUBLIC FACILITIES**



**HOUSING**



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**



**PLANNING &  
PUBLIC SERVICES**

# Covered Projects

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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)



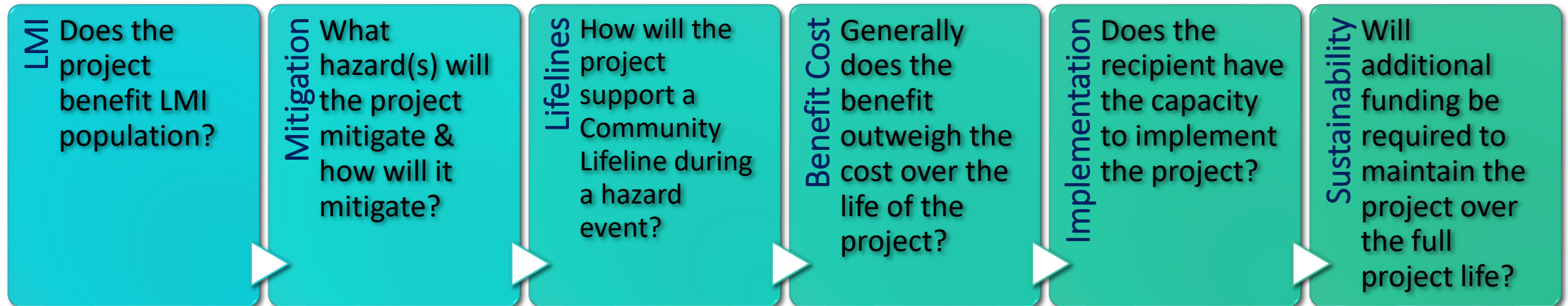


# CDBG-MIT Eligible Activities

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# Project Development Considerations

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# Identifying Mitigation Projects through Needs Assessment

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- What is the risk to an asset?
- How will the project reduce the impact of a hazard to the asset?



# Examples of Eligible Mitigation Projects

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## INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Infrastructure improvements and hardening
- Natural systems protection

## PLANNING AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- Local code and planning regulations updates
- Education and awareness programs

## HOUSING

- Projects to increase the resiliency of housing or housing buyouts

## 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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)

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- Amount, type, and containment procedures of hazardous materials  
Inventory of Hazardous materials
- Status of hazardous material supply chain



# Energy (Power & Fuel)

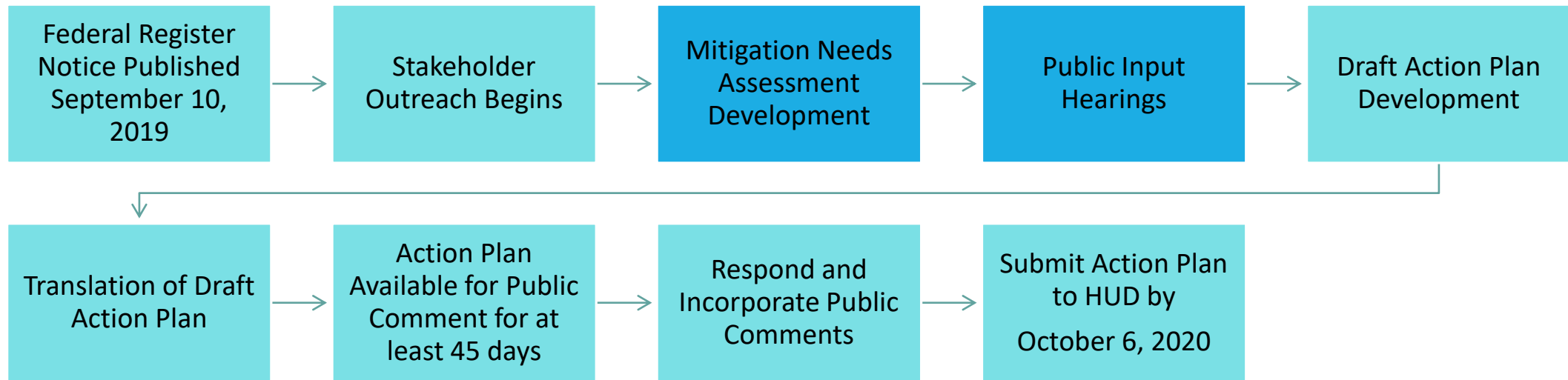
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- Inventory of electrical power generation and distribution facilities, nuclear within 10 miles, substations.
- Number of people and locations without power
- Availability of temporary power resources
- Status of commercial fuel stations
- Responder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



# CDBG-MIT Action Plan Timeline

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# VIHFA CDBG-MIT Outreach

# Ongoing Stakeholder Input

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- **3 public hearings** like this one are being conducted to receive citizen feedback.
- A **45-day comment period** will commence prior to submission of the Action Plan to HUD.



# Please submit comments now

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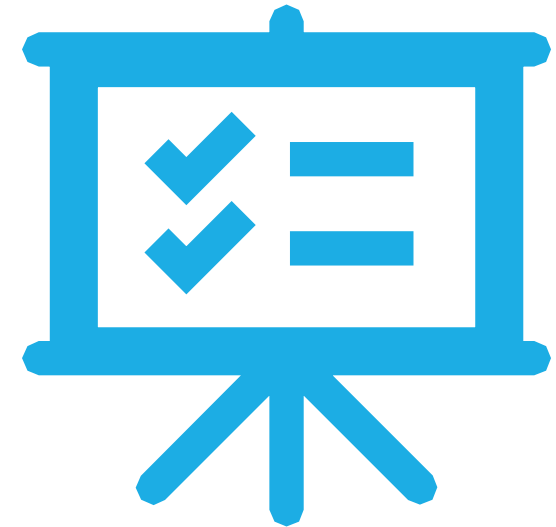
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4. Email your comments to VIHFA at [Mitigation@vihfa.gov](mailto:Mitigation@vihfa.gov)



# Today's Oral and Written Public Input

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- 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!

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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](mailto:Mitigation@vihfa.gov)
- Comments can also be submitted via the online survey available at [www.vihfa.gov](http://www.vihfa.gov) or <https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf>
- Please plan to submit comments for consideration

