



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

November 3, 2023

Mr. Alex Kelly
Secretary
Florida Department of Commerce
107 E. Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. Kelly:

On behalf of Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, thank you for the letter from former Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Secretary Dane Eagle regarding the request for additional Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funding for the State of Florida in response to Hurricane Irma. The State received a total allocation of \$812,235,745 in CDBG-DR funding for Hurricane Irma unmet needs, as well as \$633,485,000 in CDBG mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding to assist in the most impacted and distressed (MID) areas from the 2017 disaster events. The following information is from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development.

The Department is unable to provide an additional allocation of funding for Hurricane Irma recovery, as all funds appropriated by Congress for 2017 disasters have been fully allocated, pursuant to its formula published in the *Federal Register* on February 9, 2018 (83 FR 5844), August 14, 2018 (83 FR 40314) and January 27, 2020, 85 FR 4681.

DEO may consider using CDBG-MIT funding for activities that meet the requirements for that funding, while also addressing unmet needs from Hurricane Irma. HUD is available to provide technical assistance in updating its unmet needs assessment and reallocating funds between activities.

Additionally, the State may review the interchangeability provisions of recent CDBG-DR disaster appropriations and related HUD guidance. On May 18, 2023, HUD published its formula for its allocation of 2022 disaster funding in the *Federal Register* at 88 FR 32046. The Department allocated \$910,624,000 to the State to support long-term recovery for Hurricane Ian as well as mitigation needs. Under the interchangeability provisions for these funds, the State may evaluate the MID areas identified for Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Ian to determine if the interchangeability provisions apply, in accordance with the applicable *Federal Register* notices to support the long-term recovery from a previous disaster event. From 88 FR 32046:

IV.A.3. Interchangeability of disaster funds. The Appropriations Act gives the Secretary authority to authorize grantees that receive an award in this Allocation Announcement

Notice and under prior or future appropriations to use those funds interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities related to unmet recovery needs in the MID areas resulting from a major disaster in the Appropriations Acts or in prior or future appropriation acts, when the MID areas overlap and when the use of the funds will address unmet recovery needs of major disasters in the Appropriations Acts or in any prior or future appropriation acts. Based on this authority, the Secretary authorizes grantees receiving a CDBG– DR grant under the Appropriations Acts and prior or future appropriation acts for activities authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 for a specific qualifying disaster(s) to use these funds interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in MID areas resulting from a major disaster in prior or future appropriation acts, as long as the MID areas overlap and the activities address unmet needs of both disasters.

The Department remains committed to the State's long-term recovery in the Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Ms. Tennille Parker, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery, at (202) 821-8464 or by email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kimberly A. McClain
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Relations