



The Town of Cicero Larry Dominick – Town President Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Background & Purpose

The Town of Cicero is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. The Town of Cicero will receive an allocation of **\$96,004,000** to help us recover from the torrential rainfall from July 2023.

What is CDBG-DR?

CDBG-DR dollars are a flexible set of funds to carry out a wide range of activities related to torrential rainfall disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation of risk.

What are CDBG-DR projects?

CDBG-DR projects are activities related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas. They are intended to primarily benefit low-income residents of the Town of Cicero.

What specific activities can the CDBG-DR funds be used for in this disaster?

Eligible Activities of CDBG-DR include:

- **Housing:** new construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family housing, homeownership assistance, etc.
- **Infrastructure:** Public Facility improvements, including roadways, water systems, and utilities.
- **Economic revitalization:** Attraction, retention, and return of businesses and jobs to a disaster-impacted area.
- **Public services** (limited to 15%): housing counseling, job training, etc.

How is the funding amount determined?

The amount of funding is based on damage estimates and unmet disaster recovery needs. While CDBG-DR funding is flexible, each funded activity must:

- 1) Address a direct or indirect impact from the disaster in a most impacted and distressed area;
- 2) Be a CDBG-eligible activity (primarily serve low- moderate-income persons or geographies); and
- 3) Meet a national objective of the CDBG program (benefit low- to moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention/elimination of slums and blight, or meet an urgent need).

Additionally, all CDBG-DR activities (unless funded with the mitigation set aside) must be tied to the disaster covered by the allocation (the torrential rainfall of July 2023).

What is the process for receiving funding?

To obtain the funds, the Town of Cicero is required to conduct an unmet and mitigation needs assessment, which includes data analysis and community engagement.

Based on the results of the needs assessment, an Action Plan will be developed detailing the proposed use of funds, criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address disaster relief within the Town of Cicero. Once developed, the draft Action Plan will be available for review and comments, and it will later be submitted to HUD for approval.

In addition to the Action Plan, the Town of Cicero will also develop an implementation plan that will specify how each proposed project will be administered in order to comply with federal regulations.

What is the timeframe for the CDBG-DR process?

Overall, the planning process for CDBG-DR funds is expected to take approximately 5-7 months to complete. Once HUD approves the Action Plan, the Town of Cicero will begin the execution of the funding agreements. The Town of Cicero will have **6 years** from the Agreement execution date **to spend the funds** (administer our own programs and/or work with other entities to distribute funds).

CDBG-DR Timeline (estimated)

Phase 1

- **July 2023:** Torrential rainfall hit the Town of Cicero resulting in extensive damages and a Federally Declared Disaster.
- **January 7, 2025:** HUD announced that the Town will receive \$96,004,000 in CDBG-DR funds.
- **January 21, 2025:** Cicero's Applicability date.
- **February - March 2025:** Planning Process, consultation, outreach, and draft Action Plan.
- **March, 2025:** Publish Action Plan.
- **April 2025:** Public Hearing on Action Plan.
- **April 2025:** Action Plan deadline – submit to HUD.
- **May, 2025:** Upon approval of the Action Plan by HUD, CDBG-DR program will enter Phase 2.

Phase 2

- **June 2025:** Financial Certification deadline.

Phase 3

- **January 2026*:** Housing Policies and Procedure deadline.
- **July 2026*:** All other Policies and Procedures deadline.

**These are statutory deadlines, the Town plans on having their policies and procedures much sooner than these dates.*

What is the community engagement process?

In developing its CDBG-DR Action Plan, the Town of Cicero will solicit input from local jurisdictions, public housing authorities, and community partners, as well as citizens, to determine the remaining long-term resiliency needs and the most critical disaster mitigation needs associated with the torrential rainfall.

How can I get involved and/or provide input?

As part of the community engagement process, the Town will make a needs survey available on its CDBG-DR website and on social media. Additionally, the Town will publish the survey announcement in the Lawndale News, and have postings at all Town Government properties.

Can I apply for CDBG-DR funds?

At this time, the Town of Cicero is NOT accepting any applications for funding but will be assessing the need for programs where there may be an opportunity to apply for assistance. The public will be notified when applications are being accepted, and information will be posted on our website

<https://thetownofcicero.com/departments/CDBGDR/>

Where can I find more information?

Updates and additional information can be found on the Town of Cicero's CDBG-DR website at <https://thetownofcicero.com/departments/CDBGDR/>