**Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery and proposed amendment.**

**Note: These are the notes taken from a rapid-fire presentation by Michele Grant. The attachment takes priority if there are differences. If you have any questions at all, contact Michele Grant at 919-825-2578 or**[**michele.grant@ncdps.gov**](mailto:michele.grant@ncdps.gov)**.**

Michele Grant spoke on funds available via the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). Her program summary is attached. She gave a status update. The program covers 50 states. In North Carolina the four Tier I counties (Cumberland, Edgecombe, Robeson, and Wayne) are eligible. 80% of the funding comes from HUD, in this case $198 million.

In North Carolina the program has been implemented in the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, with oversight from the Department of Commerce. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two departments and they are working to start the program.

Currently as of September 27, the Tier I counties have award letters for the first 2-year cycle. The program is anticipated to run 5-6 years. Contracts are issued for two years to permit changes. See the attachments for allocations to the four Tier I counties. 80% of the money will be used for housing, both homeowner and multi-family housing.

The program goal is to get families back into housing and expand the amount of affordable housing. The homeowner program has $46 million allocated for homeowner recovery programs and $14.5 million for multi-family housing (see attachment).

Emergency Management is busy doing oversight. Kevin Landers is the assistant director for the CDBG-DR program. They are currently trying to staff positions including a Community Revitalization Housing Manager and a Community Development Specialist. They are making sure everyone adheres to HUD rules. Emergency Management has Construction Managers at Risk (CMRs) who work with local contractors. They are currently looking for local contractors to keep the grant money in the county. Four counties will serve as the lead county entities. They will make sub-grantee agreements with local county agencies and municipalities.

There are also eleven Tier II counties. State DRA Award Letters were mailed October 18 (under review) to Pitt, Harnett, Duplin, Johnson, Pender, Lenoir, Bladen, Columbus and Sampson counties. They award up to $10 million in housing-related activities. The maximum grant is $1 million. Johnston and Bladen have asked for less. Applications from the remaining counties are due October 20. CDBG-DR applications for 46 counties are due October 20.

There are proposed changes for a “new” program.

* ·         It will provide public housing assistance for all counties (formerly Robeson County only)
* ·         It will lower the threshold for low-income people to help more people

Public meetings will be held by the Department of Commerce on these changes. The amendment will be available for public comment. Submit comments in writing by October 30. The collected comments will be submitted to HUD by November 7. HUD could take up to 90 days to respond; NCEM is hoping it will be 45 days.

There is a state-managed homeowners program which includes:

* ·         Housing rehabilitation or reconstruction on the same footprint
* ·         Rehabilitation or reconstruction of MHUs
* ·         Homeowner reimbursement of flood insurance premiums for two years. The homeowner must maintain the payments.

Local county agencies do intake and verify eligibility. NCEM is currently trying to develop a process. The CDBG grant requires a duplication of benefits assessment. Counties may need grant administration to get the funds. Counties must submit documentation to start the grants.

There are two funding sources for some counties. The state program does not require environmental review. Counties applying for the state program could also use CDBG-DR.

Questions should be sent to Michele Grant, [michele.grant@ncdps.gov](mailto:michele.grant@ncdps.gov), who serves as the Senior Advisor for CDBG-DR in NC Emergency Management.

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