

December 4, 2019 and December 12, 2019 CDBG-MIT Webinars- FAQs

1. What is the funding match?

There is no funding match requirement. DCA is leaving it up to the individual communities to decide what skin they are putting into the game. *Noted CDBG Competitive Round is 75%-25%.*

2. What role with GEMA play in the project decision process?

Pre-application submissions will be taken into consideration by DCA and will be used to guide the action plan submitted to HUD. Pre-applications will be considered, and certain communities will be asked to submit a full application. GEMA will help establish criteria for what receives points during the process. (Playing a role in point determination). DCA will be consulting with GEMA throughout the entire process.

3. How is low/moderate income classified? Countywide, income, census tract income, zip code income, or other?

Grant- HUD Exchange has an excellent series of guides and forms and information about how to establish a low or moderate income benefit. In this case- referring to low-moderate area benefit. You can use Census data or ACS data.

DCA will prioritize applications that demonstrate area benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons. DCA must spend 50% of the CDBG-MIT funds to benefit Low and Moderate Income individuals.

Link: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=5e0040048e-LMISD-Video-Announcement_12%2F6%2F19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-5e0040048e-18481853

4. Can separate Water and Sewer Boards submit an application separately from the local municipal government or do they need to be combined?

The application must come from a unit of general local government (city or county). DCA wants to see collaboration.

5. Will we get a copy of these slides?

Yes- the slides and recorded webinars will be posted to the CDBG-MIT website (in the Gallery tab) (<https://www.dca.ga.gov/community-economic-development/funding-programs/community-development-block-grant-disaster-3>) and sent to all registered attendees.

6. Are joint applications counted as separate from single government applications?

Each local government may submit up to three pre-applications. If a city and a county wish to submit a joint application, it will count as one of the three submissions for BOTH the city and the county (i.e. city= two applications, county=- two applications, one joint application for a total of five in this scenario). The MIDS will be allowed three applications AND one joint application (total of four).

7. Can applicants submit for both DR and MIT funds?

\$64,904,000 grant for both unmet needs and mitigation. HUD split it in to two allocations: unmet needs= \$37,943 and mitigation= \$26,961,000. DCA determined there is more need for unmet needs than there is money available, so all of those funds will be spent in the MID zip

codes 31705, 31548, and 31520. Pre-applications are only for mitigation projects and not unmet needs.

8. Are engineering planning costs eligible?

Yes. Follow-up question was if the participant is talking about a specific activity.

Grant- engineering planning costs are an eligible expense but in the context of what. As a standalone planning activity, if you were to hire an engineer to update your local building codes, it would be one type of use that is an eligible expense. If it is part of the budget to work towards a large infrastructure project, it is also an eligible activity, but it would be part of a larger project application.

9. Would land banks be able to implement eligible housing programs?

It is an eligible activity. Put the information into your pre-application as the potential recipient.

Grant- a land bank would depend on if it was a non-profit or a quasi-government agency. In either case, they are eligible to be Subrecipients.

Tommy- in the past, DCA has traditionally worked through general local governments. Working through cities and counties is the preferred method.

10. We are considering requesting fixed generators for our fire stations- can we bundle this request into one or will each generator be its own project?

Important to consider fixed generators- portable generators will not be eligible. If the project is separate, each fixed generator should be listed as a separate project.

Grant suggested it is important to consider how the local government plans to purchase and install the fixed generators and the way in which the national objective will be met. If the project was over a large geography, the national objective could vary from station to station.

-Bulk purchases can be important to save money.

-Eligible activity

-Focus on the long-term benefit, what is the strategic advantage of doing it one way vs. another way

-If you can make a strong application for it to all be one application, make your case.

New Mitigation Urgent Need national objective, but 50% of the funds must address a low-moderate income benefit and low-moderate income national objective.

11. Will a determination about the eligibility of communication (radio) infrastructure and equipment be made prior to the pre-app deadline?

DCA has submitted this question to HUD, but we do not expect to have an answer by the time the pre-application is due. For reference, please see the Federal Regulations on eligible and ineligible equipment expenses in 570.207 (b)(1) at <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/24/570/207>.

12. Should we submit a communication pre-app in the hopes that HUD will deem it eligible?

DCA will not make determinations on what is submitted. If you believe your top priority is in one of these areas, you should submit what you think is eligible based on what you read in the FRN.

If you make a strong case, DCA will support you and make the case with you. If you think it is ineligible, it probably will be deemed ineligible by HUD.

13. Who can submit a pre-application?

Units of local government.

14. When is the deadline for submitting pre-applications?

5:00 PM on January 15, 2020.

15. Type of proposed activity states “include all structures in the activity area”. If a project is replacing culverts in a neighborhood, do we select residential property and roadways and identify the number of homes in the neighborhood and the number of culverts to replace?

Yes- you would need to do that. DCA is not looking for all of the details you will put in a full submission in the pre-application, but this would demonstrate your benefit to any low and moderate income populations. You should collect the data if you have it. The goal is to reduce any damage to life or property.

16. FEMA Community Lifelines says imminent hazard mitigation includes flood control. If we are replacing culverts, should we select transportation, highway, roads?

DCA will leave the decision up to the local government as far as how they wish to classify the lifeline. Please note, some activities may address more than one Community Lifeline.