



**Testimony on
New Jersey's application for federal
HUD grants for flood relief project funding**

**Senate Legislative Oversight Committee
Feb. 11, 2016**

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written remarks as an attempt to provide a broader context for what we believe New Jersey's long-term priorities should be for investments of federal funds in post-Sandy resilience.

Consistently since the first round of CDBG-DR funds was made available, we have emphasized the need for:

- Requiring the use of forward-looking scientific data to evaluate vulnerability to coastal flooding under various sea-level-rise and severe-weather scenarios, and to inform appropriate prioritization of resiliency projects;
- Detailed cost-benefit analyses of proposed infrastructure projects, to ensure maximum return on allocated funds;
- Sufficient funds to be allocated to local municipalities to support effective long-term resiliency planning;
- Emphasis on regional planning coordination where appropriate, to allow for unified attention to regional issues, in particular regarding large-scale infrastructure;
- Sufficient funds to be allocated to, and coordinated plans to be developed for, strategic buyouts of property that has suffered repeated damage from flooding or severe weather;
- Robust outreach and public-engagement strategies to ensure all affected stakeholders are heard;
- Significant and explicit protections for vulnerable populations, including non-English speakers, those with limited mobility, and those with cognitive or mental-health challenges.

With regard to the state's plans for CDBG-DR funds, you may see our full comments here:

- [Comments on initial plan, March 19, 2013](#)
- [Statement on initial plan, Feb. 3, 2013](#)
- [Comments on second allocation, March 5, 2014](#)

You may find all of our statements, recommendations and comments regarding the allocation of CDBG-DR funds at the bottom of [this page](#).

With particular regard to the state's National Disaster Resilience Competition application, we submitted the following documents with recommendations:

- [Comments on the third allocation of CDBG-DR funds, Jan. 15, 2015](#)
- [Comments on the draft application, March 6, 2015](#)
- [Comments on Phase 2 of the application, Oct. 15, 2015](#)

While we are disappointed in the size of the National Disaster Resiliency Competition award, we are pleased that the \$15 million that New Jersey did receive is specifically designated for regional planning and coordination efforts. We look forward to working with all relevant departments to ensure that these funds truly change the planning orientation in the communities to which they're allocated, and that New Jersey can be a national model for how best to protect our communities from future disasters.