

New York State Homes and Community Renewal
Office of Resilient Homes and Communities

Hurricane Ida Affordable Housing Resiliency Initiative (AHRI)

Notice of Funding Availability



**Homes and
Community Renewal**

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I. OVERVIEW

A. PURPOSE

Resilient Homes and Communities (“RHC”), an office of the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (“HTFC”) and as part of New York State Homes and Community Renewal (“HCR”), invites eligible applicants to apply for funding under the Hurricane Ida Affordable Housing Resiliency Initiative (“AHRI”) Program (the “Program”). This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) describes the purpose for which the available funds are to be used and the methodology for disbursing those funds.

Through this NOFA, RHC expects to make up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in grant funding available to affordable multi-family and/or public housing developments in Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties for site-specific mitigation measures that improve the resilience of the site to future storms or other hazards, as well as some funding for repairs to damage from Hurricane Ida and/or other repetitive losses.

The Program will prioritize sites in Westchester County (which HUD designates as the most impacted and distressed county) and sites that were directly damaged/impacted by Hurricane Ida.

Eligible applicants are invited to submit applications for funding. Applications must be submitted via email to RHC_NOFA_Applications@hcr.ny.gov no later than **3:00 PM (EST) on April 23, 2025**.

B. FUNDING BACKGROUND

Hurricane Ida made landfall in New York on September 1, 2021, causing record-breaking rainfall and widespread flooding throughout New York City, Long Island, and the Mid-Hudson region. HUD determined the State of New York will receive \$68,228,000¹ in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to support long-term recovery efforts following Hurricane Ida (FEMA DR-4615) through RHC. CDBG-DR funding is designed to address needs that remain after all other assistance has been exhausted.

New York State Action Plan for Disaster Recovery (“Action Plan”) outlines New York’s plan for expending CDBG-DR funds allocated by HUD to support long-term recovery efforts following Hurricane Ida. The Action Plan details how funds will be allocated to address remaining unmet need in the disaster-impacted areas of Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, including the AHRI Program.

II. FUNDING

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants shall be owners of regulated multifamily housing, including but not limited to: public housing authorities, local units of government, and condominium (condo) and cooperative (co-

¹ To meet disaster recovery needs, the statutes making CDBG-DR funds available have imposed additional requirements and authorized HUD to modify the rules that apply to the annual CDBG program to enhance flexibility and allow for a quicker recovery. HUD has allocated \$68,228,000 in CDBG-DR funds to the State of New York in response to Hurricane Ida (FEMA DR-4615), through the publication of the Federal Register, Vol. 87, No.100, May 24, 2022, and Federal Register, Vol. 88, No. 11, January 18, 2023. This allocation was made available through the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. 117-43) approved September 30, 2021 (the Appropriations Act) and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. 117– 180) approved September 30, 2022 (the “2023 Appropriations Act”).

op) boards. Applicants must be registered to do business in New York State.

Applicants with limited capacity in managing capital improvement projects may apply with qualified development partners in order to meet the Development Team Experience & Capacity Criteria described in the Application Scoring section of this document.

B. ELIGIBLE PROPERTY TYPES

Eligible residential properties must meet all of the following requirements:

- Located on a single site (which may include one or more residential structures);
- Located in one of the disaster-impacted counties: Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester;
- Has at least five (5) residential units;
- At least 51% of units are occupied by low and moderate-income (LMI) households who earn 80% or less of area median income (“AMI”), according to [HUD’s income limits by county](#)).
- Must be subject to an existing regulatory agreement or other legal requirement limiting occupancy to LMI households at affordable rates (preference given to projects that certify household income annually).

C. ELIGIBLE USES

Applicants may request up to \$3 million in AHRI funding for mitigation upgrades that allow residents to shelter in place in a disaster. Projects may also include some funding for repairs from Hurricane Ida and/or repetitive losses, on a reimbursement bases or included in the project scope.

Mitigation upgrades are activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters (as defined by HUD in 87 FR 31636). Mitigation upgrades could include (but are not limited to) such measures as:

- Flood mitigation measures such as: Floodproofing, resilient elevators, backflow valves, elevated electrical and mechanical systems;
- Energy efficiency and energy backup improvements such as: Envelope efficiency, generator systems, renewable energy generation, distributed heating and cooling and heat pumps that enable residents to shelter in place in the event of a power outage and survive extreme heat and cold events;
- Applicants should refer to [Appendix A](#) for resources related to resilience and mitigation measures for multifamily buildings.

Priority Project Types: Priority will be granted to projects that have completed some or all pre-development activities and are “shovel ready.” In addition, the Program will prioritize projects that meet the following criteria (as described in the Application and Award Process Section):

- Projects that sustained damage from Hurricane Ida,
- Projects located in Westchester County,
- Projects that have greater proportions of LMI occupants,
- Projects that minimize resident relocation/displacement, and
- Projects that serve vulnerable populations (e.g., supportive and senior housing).

D. ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Mitigation and Rehabilitation²:
 - **Required scope elements:** All projects must include mitigation upgrades as described above.
 - **Optional scope elements:**
 - Repairs/rehabilitation of damage from Hurricane Ida and/or repetitive losses; and
 - Repairs needed to achieve decent, safe and sanitary conditions.
- Site preparation and site infrastructure necessary for the proposed capital project.
- Soft costs including legal fees, filing fees, permitting, inspections, construction management, architecture and engineering, and environmental review are eligible uses of funds in conjunction with a capital project.
- A developer fee of up to 12% of the hard costs (excluding reserves, contingencies, and the developer fee itself) may be requested. Developer fees may not be released to borrower until substantial construction completion and is not as of right. Developer fee may be reduced to cover cost increases.
- The Program does not cover administrative or other general organizational operating expenses outside the Project Budget.

Funds will be disbursed on a cost incurred or reimbursement basis. Disbursement schedules will be determined by RHC prior to the execution of a program Grant Agreement.

Projects whose budgets exceed the Program maximum must submit documentation of the funding sources that will supplement the AHRI award.

Note Regarding Maximum Award: RHC may make an exception to the maximum award to allow projects unable to secure gap financing to proceed on a case-by-case basis. This may include providing technical assistance to the project owner with the objective of securing alternate gap financing. Such exceptions shall be granted at the sole discretion of RHC.

III. AFFORDABILITY & RESIDENT INCOME REQUIREMENTS

At the conclusion of the project, at least 51% of units must be occupied by LMI households. LMI households must have monthly rent affordable to them, as defined in the building's pre-existing regulatory agreement/affordability requirements.

Applicants must have or obtain documentation of occupant income. This documentation will be subject to review by RHC and HUD prior to signing a grant agreement.

IV. FINANCING

- AHRI funding will be provided as a grant.
- Pre-development Cost Agreements may be available in certain circumstances where such eligible costs are proposed to be funded by the AHRI award. Funding given through a pre-

² Only activities that meet the definition of mitigation and repair of affordable housing as described in HCDA Section 105(a)(4) are eligible for CDBG-DR funding.

- development costs agreement will be included in the total grant amount.
- Reimbursement for previously completed Hurricane Ida or repetitive loss repairs may be available.

V. APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS

A. HOW TO APPLY

Applications should email the Required Application Materials in a single application package, clearly labeled and organized, to RHC_NOFA_Applications@hcr.ny.gov with the subject “AHRI Application – [Project Address].”

RHC through HTFC will not be held liable for any cost incurred by the applicant for work performed in the preparation, production, or submission of a proposal in response to this NOFA. All proposal materials and information submitted as part of the application shall become the property of HTFC. No materials, curricula, media, or other content will be returned to the applicant.

Required Application Materials:

- [Application Workbook](#) and attachments (listed in Workbook) in PDF form.
- Project Narrative: Provide a 4 page or less narrative in PDF that includes:
 - Building type and target population (e.g., multi-family rental or co-op, seniors, supportive housing, etc.), including description of supportive services if applicable.
 - Description of mitigation/rehabilitation scope of work:
 - Type, frequency, and severity of hazard that the mitigation upgrade responds to;
 - How the mitigation upgrade enables the building to remain safely habitable during the hazard/disaster event; and
 - Level of resilience the project will achieve (for example, flood mitigation measures designed to withstand 100-year flood).
 - Information about known environmental and site contamination conditions (e.g., asbestos, lead-based paint, etc.), if known.
 - Ownership Structure and Development Team:
 - Description of ownership entity and development partnership (if applicable), including role of each party;
 - Highlight relevant substantial/major rehabilitation experience, including with CDBG-DR or other Federal funds, including Applicant’s role in the projects; and
 - Identify gaps in necessary skills and experience, with explanation of how these will be addressed for the proposed project.
 - Financing:
 - Narrative to support sources and uses, including clarification of any items that may appear out of the ordinary in an underwriting review.
 - Status of other funding commitments if project budget exceeds AHRI grant.
 - Timeline:
 - Overview of status of proposed project;
 - Steps completed to date and timeline for startup and completion;
 - Potential obstacles to timely start up and completion, and plan to overcome; and

- Anticipated resident relocation, if applicable (including number of units affected, expected displacement period, plan for addressing).

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

RHC will offer multiple types of assistance for applicants to AHRI:

Information Session: RHC will hold an online information session in January 2025 for all interested applicants (registration link will be posted to the Hurricane Ida Funding Opportunities page). After the session, questions answered will also be posted to this webpage.

Direct Technical Assistance: RHC will offer direct technical assistance to any applicant seeking guidance with their application. This could include (but is not limited to) help with:

- Identifying potential partnerships;
- Understanding eligibility requirements;
- Developing an AHRI-eligible scope and budget;
- Understanding Federal and State requirements that apply to AHRI projects.

Please request technical assistance by March 21, 2025, to [RHC NOFA Applications@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:RHC_NOFA_Applications@hcr.ny.gov).

C. THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

Incomplete applications and those that do not meet eligibility requirements may be rejected as ineligible, though RHC reserves the right to request clarifying information or documents from such applicants to make a threshold eligibility determination. Complete proposals and those that meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed and rated.

- **Completeness**: A complete application is one that includes all required forms and attachments.
- **Threshold Eligibility**: An eligible application meets general eligibility requirements, e.g., eligible applicant, number of units, use of funds, project timeline, ability to comply with regulatory requirements.

D. APPLICATION SCORING

A review committee (“Committee”) will evaluate proposals based on the qualifications of both the Applicant and its development partner (if applicable). Evaluation will be based on the selection criteria in the table below. The Committee may also conduct interviews to clarify or expand on the NOFA response (at the discretion of the Committee).

RHC/HTFC may also perform a due diligence review of the items submitted in the proposal, including but are not limited to, corporate and individual employee references, findings of non-compliance or non-performance by HUD or another federal, state, or local government agency, unresolved investigations or legal issues, audit findings, or other risk factors identified as part of a vendor responsibility review.

The Committee will score proposals based on how well they meet the selection criteria. RHC/HTFC will select proposals with the highest point scores. A minimum threshold score will be established to ensure that high-quality projects are selected. The maximum rating is 100 points.

Selection Criteria	Maximum Points Available
Readiness to Proceed	15
Development Team Experience & Capacity	20
Nexus to Hurricane Ida	15
Affordability and Access Needs	15
Connection to Mitigation	10
Minimize Displacement	10
Price/Cost Reasonableness	15
Total Points Available	100

1. Readiness to Proceed (15 points)

- a. Project timeline and predevelopment work completed to date demonstrate that the project can begin quickly following award and be completed within the two-year term.
- b. Financing has been secured to fund the full project budget (if applicable). If not fully secured, evidence of funding commitments provided.
- c. Applicant demonstrates access to capital needed to start project work prior to the first grant disbursement.

2. Development Team Experience & Capacity (20 points)

- a. Applicant and/or its developer partner have demonstrated capacity to perform similar projects, including handling Federal funds.
- b. Applicant and/or its developer partner have experience managing disaster resilience and/or mitigation projects specifically.

3. Nexus to Hurricane Ida (15 points)

- a. Project responds to unmet needs related to Hurricane Ida and clearly explains how the scope of work addresses these unmet needs.
- b. Projects will be scored higher that demonstrate they received greater impact/damage from Hurricane Ida.

4. Affordability & Access (15 points)

- a. At least 51% of units are occupied by LMI households, and monthly rents for such households are affordable to them (as evidenced by a policy that includes the project's definition of affordability).
- b. Projects will be scored higher that:
 - Have longer affordability periods, as evidence by being operated by a PHA, submission or a regulatory agreement, or other documentation;
 - Are occupied by more LMI households; and/or
 - Prioritize housing vulnerable populations.

5. Connection to Mitigation Needs (15 points)

- a. Proposed project responds to a disaster risk identified as "high risk" in the current Hazard Mitigation Plan for that jurisdiction.
- b. Proposed project enables residents to remain safely habitable in the event of the specific disaster risk, including maintaining existing accommodations and support services for special needs populations, if applicable.

6. Minimize Displacement (5 points)

- a. Project minimizes tenant/occupant relocation and/or displacement in accordance with the objectives of RHC's Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan (RARAP).
- b. Relocation needs are identified and adequately addressed in the proposed budget.

7. Cost Reasonableness (15 points)

- a. Application, narrative, and budget present clear, well-planned use of funds.
- b. Sources of funds and plan for construction and permanent financing are clearly outlined.
- c. Costs are substantiated and application explains how cost estimates were developed and reviewed for reasonableness.

E. APPLICATION STATUS AND NOTIFICATION

Applicants will receive one of the notifications below in response to their application:

- **Incomplete:** Application presents potentially eligible project but provides insufficient information. Applicant may be provided an opportunity to submit additional documentation.
- **Non-Award Notification:** Application presents an incomplete, non-competitive, not viable project and will not receive an award under this NOFA.
- **Preliminary Award Notification:** Application presents a complete, eligible, competitive, and feasible project. The project has been recommended to and approved by HTFC Board of Directors for funding.

F. AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS AND BOARD APPROVAL

Awards are recommended based on available funding, proposal quality and project feasibility as determined by the review and rating of an application. The evaluation and selection criteria are detailed in the NOFA. Recommendations are advanced to the HTFC Board for consideration and the award must be approved by that Board prior to the execution of a grant agreement.

G. FUNDING COMMITMENT LETTER

Awardees may be asked to revise parts of their proposal prior to entering into a program grant agreement with HTFC. After any required revisions are submitted and approved, a final program grant agreement and other documents as may be required will be executed. The program grant agreement will require that Awardees expend all funds and meet all program goals within a two-year (2) term. Extensions will be available only at the discretion of HTFC staff.

Applicant should not apply if the project will not begin within a reasonable time after receiving an executed grant agreement or will not be able to complete the project within a two-year term. Funds remaining at the end of the term are subject to de-obligation and reallocation.

H. GENERAL APPLICATION AND AWARD PROVISIONS

RHC/HTFC reserves the right to:

- Award all, a portion of, or none of the program funds based upon funding availability, competitiveness of applications received, feasibility of achieving project goals and objectives and completing proposed activities; and geographic needs;
- Change or disallow aspects of the applications and may make such changes conditions of its

- commitment to provide funding;
- Recommend funding in an amount less than requested;
- Not issue an award or grant agreement to any applicant if it has been determined that the applicant is not in compliance with existing state contracts and has not taken satisfactory steps to remedy such non-compliance;
- Waive any requirement contained in this NOFA;
- Revise this NOFA from time to time;
- Extend the submission due date; and/or
- Issue subsequent NOFAs.

I. APPLICATION AND AWARD TIMELINE

RHC/HTFC reserves the right to modify this schedule, at its discretion. Notification of changes in connection with this NOFA will be posted and made available to all interested parties via <https://hcr.ny.gov/funding-opportunities> and <https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/doing-business-with-gosr/NOFAs>.

NOFA Issued	Tuesday, November 26, 2024
Information Session	Friday, January 10, 2025
Deadline for Technical Assistance Requests email RHC_NOFA_Applications@hcr.ny.gov	Friday, March 21, 2025
Deadline for Proposal Submission	Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 3:00 PM
Applicant Interviews (at RHC discretion)	Monday May 5 – Friday May 16, 2025
Anticipated Preliminary Award Selection <i>Award(s) will be contingent on HTFC Board approval, which may occur after this date</i>	Friday, May 30, 2025

VI. REGULATIONS, GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION OBLIGATIONS

Applicants are advised that, if awarded, they must comply with the requirements in this section, in addition to the certifications contained in the Application Workbook.

A. FAIR HOUSING

Affirmative Fair Marketing requirements and HUD’s affirmatively furthering fair housing requirements, including but not limited to providing a marketing plan and report on compliance in accordance with the forms on HCR’s website at <http://www.nyshcr.org/Forms/FairHousing/> and applicable Fair Housing laws.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH ALL FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Federal requirements included in this NOFA are not necessarily comprehensive, and it is the successful applicant’s responsibility to remain knowledgeable of, and compliant with, any new or

revised rules that are adopted during the life of the agreement. Where there are contradictions between this NOFA and Federal Law, Federal Law will prevail and control.

Such requirements include:

- Procurement regulations at 2 CFR 200.
- Lead-based paint regulations.
- Uniform Relocation Act requirements regarding relocation and/or displacement.
- Accessibility requirements under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Floodplain management requirements: Substantially damaged or improved residential buildings located in the 100-year floodplain must be elevated according to as described in [44 CFR Part 9](#).
- HUD-required Green and Resilient Building Standards as described in the CDBG-DR Consolidated Notice Waivers and Alternative Requirements (as amended), [II.B.2.a-b](#):
 - For rehabilitation activities of substantially damaged residential buildings, construction meets an industry-recognized standard that has achieved certification under a comprehensive green building standard acceptable to HUD and an energy efficiency standard acceptable to HUD.
 - For rehabilitation of non-substantially damaged residential buildings, projects must follow the [HUD CPD Green Building Retrofit Checklist](#).
- Broadband infrastructure in housing as described in the CDBG-DR Consolidated Notice Waivers and Alternative Requirements (as amended) [II.B.2.d](#): Any substantial rehabilitation, as defined by 24 CFR 5.100, must include installation of broadband infrastructure, or must document that the project meets an exception provided for in the Federal Register Notices governing this CDBG-DR allocation.
- HUD Section 3 labor requirements.
- Davis-Bacon prevailing wage compliance and recordkeeping requirements (for properties of 8 units or more).

RHC will establish Resilience Performance Metrics for the Program before carrying out activities to construct, reconstruct, or rehabilitate residential or non-residential structures.

APPENDIX A: RESOURCES FOR MULTIFAMILY BUILDING RESILIENCE

Applicants are encouraged to review the following resources to help identify resilience measures that respond to an identified disaster risk.

- Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs): An HMP includes a risk assessment to identify the main disaster risks to an area and presents a hazard-mitigation strategy for the area. Applicants may refer to their local HMP to help document the identified disaster risk that their project responds to.
 - [Dutchess County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [Nassau Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [Rockland County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
 - [Westchester County Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- Mitigation and Resilience Project Ideas and Resources:
 - [Climate Safe Housing | Strategies for Multifamily Building Resilience - Enterprise Community Partners](#)
 - [Build for the Future - HUD Exchange](#)
 - [Invest in Sustainable Solutions - HUD Exchange](#)
 - [Building Energy Exchange Multifamily Resource Library](#)
 - [Planning for Resilience in Multifamily Housing: A Portfolio-Wide Approach | Better Buildings Initiative \(energy.gov\)](#)
 - [NFIP Flood Mitigation Measures for Multi-Family Buildings](#)