



# Universal Notice Briefing

August 2024

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## The Goals of the Universal Notice

- The Office of Disaster Recovery's Universal Notice aims to:
  - Expedite long-term resilient recovery,
  - Reduce or eliminate barriers for impacted beneficiaries,
  - Ensure equitable community recovery, and
  - Simplify compliance and reduce administrative burden for CDBG-DR grantees.

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## CDBG-DR RFI and Universal Notice Timeline



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## How did ODR get to Universal Notice V10?

- Stakeholders asked HUD to:
  - Establish a presence sooner in the recovery process
  - Announce CDBG-DR allocations sooner
  - Align cross-cutting requirements with other federal agencies
  - Simplify and reduce CDBG-DR requirements
  - Alleviate duplication of benefits requirements for LMI households
  - Define key terms used in the notice
- ODR worked with our internal crosscutting partners (FHEO, OEE, RRED, OGC) throughout the process.

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# High Level Overview of the Universal Notice



## ODR Establishes a New Process to Expedite Access to CDBG-DR funds for Grantees and Disaster Survivors



## New Policy to Improve the Disaster Survivor's Experience



1. Allow Rental Assistance for 24 months
2. Create a new eligible activity for Emergency Assistance and allow for reimbursement for LMI persons only
3. Explicitly allow the payment of insurance premiums as an eligible activity
4. Allow lump sum payments when relocation assistance is needed
5. Align with FEMA requirements when possible (e.g., building standards/codes, procurement); provided a clarifying note on "proof of ownership" and a comprehensive list of possible ways to seek documentation

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## New Policy to Improve the Disaster Survivor's Experience



6. Prohibit involuntary buyouts and encourage community driven buyout programs
7. Exempt certain activities from the Public Service Cap (i.e. interim mortgage assistance, rental assistance, emergency assistance/reimbursement, and payment of insurance premiums)
8. Establish new data collection and equity measures
9. Added new eligible activities that support local disaster preparedness and resilience efforts (e.g., privately owned shelters, buildings that host the general conduct of government)
10. Increased disaster survivors' access to information by requiring grantee to share information through social media and application status on their disaster recovery websites

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## Next Steps

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## Universal Notice Publication Timeline

### **Publishing the Notice:**

- Completes Departmental Clearance
- Routes through an expedited OIRA review
- Publishes in the Federal Register in October 2024

### **Training and Education:**

- ODR will publish supplemental materials on HUD.gov and will host a Universal Notice Webinar Series

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## Thank You!

If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to ODR's Policy Division at [ODRPolicyDivision@hud.gov](mailto:ODRPolicyDivision@hud.gov).