

Universal Notice: Overview

HUD's Office of Disaster Recovery

March 2025





The Universal Notice

- On January 8, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the "Universal Notice" (90 FR 1754).
- Link: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-08/pdf/2024-31621.pdf>

1754

Federal Register / Vol. 90, No. 5 / Wednesday, January 8, 2025 / Notices

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-6489-N-01]

Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice contains a preamble and the *Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Universal Notice: Waivers and Alternative Requirements* (the "Universal Notice"). The Universal Notice describes the processes, procedures, timelines, waivers, and alternative requirements that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) intends to implement with each allocation of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding after a qualifying presidential disaster declaration. Specifically, following the appropriation of CDBG-DR funds for qualifying disasters, HUD will publish an Allocation Announcement Notice in the **Federal Register** that incorporates, via cross-reference, the waivers and alternative requirements provided in the Universal Notice, as appropriate, along with any other new requirements imposed by the specific appropriation. This notice also describes the grant award process, pre-award certification submissions, criteria for Action Plan approval, and eligible disaster recovery activities to streamline post-disaster processes for future grantees. By publishing the Universal Notice, HUD intends to provide grantees and the public with increased transparency, consistency, and more timely access to CDBG-DR funds, helping to minimize program delays and accelerate recovery.

DATES: Applicability Date: January 13, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tennille Parker, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR), HUD, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7282, Washington, DC 20410, telephone number 202-708-3587 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications>

relay-service-tx. Email inquiries may be sent to Disaster_Recovery@hud.gov.

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Preamble

Purpose and Policy Objectives

HUD has developed this preamble and the Universal Notice, to assist States, local governments, Indian Tribes, CDBG-DR subrecipients, and the public in planning for the award of CDBG-DR funds. Because not all the requirements in the Universal Notice are appropriate or applicable to Indian Tribes, HUD will publish an Addendum to the Universal Notice at a later date to establish requirements that will apply when Indian Tribes receive a CDBG-DR grant directly from HUD. This process will allow HUD to ensure that the requirements imposed are fair and consistent with the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program.

In December 2022, HUD published a Request for Information (RFI) for HUD's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Rules,

Waivers, and Alternative Requirements (FR-6336-N-01) seeking public input to strengthen and improve CDBG-DR requirements. Based on the feedback received through the RFI, HUD is establishing a revised process for CDBG-DR grants for qualifying disasters whereby HUD will incorporate applicable provisions of the Universal Notice, to the extent they are consistent with future appropriations acts, in a **Federal Register** notice that announces allocations of the appropriated CDBG-DR funds (the "Allocation Announcement Notice"). The Allocation Announcement Notice (AAN) will impose the waivers and alternative requirements of the Universal Notice for the subject CDBG-DR grants. The AAN will also add or modify requirements of the Universal Notice as necessary to comply with statutory provisions.

The Universal Notice has no legal effect on a CDBG-DR grant until funds are appropriated by Congress and the appropriation authorizes the HUD Secretary to waive or specify alternative requirements for the assistance, and the AAN that incorporates appropriate provisions of the Universal Notice is published by the Department and goes into effect. HUD will make the required findings in support of the waivers and alternative requirements incorporated into and made effective through AANs contemporaneously with the publication of each AAN. Because the Universal Notice has no legal effect on its own but rather requires authority provided by Congress through enacting special disaster appropriations and contemporaneous publication of an AAN by HUD, this is being published as a notice and is not a rulemaking.

The Universal Notice is designed to inform potential CDBG-DR grantees and other stakeholders about each phase of the CDBG-DR grant process, including but not limited to, pre-award grantee submissions; grantee steps and timelines; and Action Plan development, submittal, and implementation.

Through the Universal Notice, HUD seeks to:

- Outline a comprehensive and uniform set of waivers and alternative requirements that HUD intends to apply to govern future allocations of CDBG-DR funds, including all timelines, documentation, and other requirements

View the request for information (FR-6336-N-01) here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-12-20/pdf/2022-27547.pdf>

View a summary of the comments received, and HUD's responses here: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg-dr/universal_notice_grantees

HUD's Office of Disaster Recovery

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Memorandum 2025-02



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

March 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR: All CDBG-DR Grantees Subject to the Universal Notice (Allocations announced in the [January 2025 Notice](#)), Community Planning and Development Field Office Directors, Deputy Directors, Regional Directors, and Program Managers

FROM: Matthew E. Ammon, Performing the Delegable Duties of the Deputy Secretary, SD MATTHEW AMMON
Digitally signed by Matthew E. Ammon
Date: 2025.03.19 16:27:45
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, ou=Office of the Deputy Secretary, email=matthew.ammon@hud.gov

SUBJECT: Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 1754) and Clarifications to the Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice Published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 4759)

APPLICABILITY DATE: March 24, 2025

PURPOSE

This memorandum governs Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds subject to the Universal Notice (90 FR 1754). In January 2025, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$12,070,701,000 in CDBG-DR funds from the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025 (Pub. L. 118-158) ("the 2025 Appropriations Act") for unmet needs including additional mitigation activities for qualifying disasters occurring in 2023 or 2024. On January 15, 2025 an Allocation Announcement Notice (AAN) was put on public display and then published in the *Federal Register* on January 16, 2025 (90 FR 4759) ("January 2025 Notice"). That AAN made the requirements in the Universal Notice applicable to the funds announced in that notice. This memorandum includes revisions to the Universal Notice to align requirements with the President's executive orders.

WAIVER AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY

The 2025 Appropriations Act, approved December 21, 2024, made available \$12,039,000,000 in CDBG-DR funds. The 2025 Appropriations Act also provided that HUD allocate any unobligated no-year balances remaining from Public Laws 108-324, 109-148, 109-

www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

- On March 19, 2025 HUD published **Memorandum 2025-02**: Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice ("Universal Notice") published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 1754) and Clarifications to the Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 4759).
- Link:
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/default/files/CPD/documents/CPDUniversalnotice.pdf>



Memorandum 2025-03



March 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR: All CDBG-DR Grantees Subject to the Universal Notice (Allocations announced in the January 2025 Notice); Community Planning and Development Field Office Directors, Deputy Directors, Regional Directors, and Program Managers

FROM: Matthew E. Ammon, Performing the Delegable Duties of the Deputy Secretary, SD MATTHEW AMMON

SUBJECT: Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 1754).

APPLICABILITY DATE: April 5, 2025

PURPOSE

This memorandum governs Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds subject to the Universal Notice (90 FR 1754). In January 2025, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$12,070,701,000 in CDBG-DR funds from the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025 (Pub. L. 118-158) ("the 2025 Appropriations Act") for unmet needs including additional mitigation activities for qualifying disasters occurring in 2023 or 2024. On January 15, 2025, an Allocation Announcement Notice (AAN) was put on public display and then published in the *Federal Register* on January 16, 2025 (90 FR 4759) ("January 2025 Notice"). That AAN made the requirements in the Universal Notice applicable to the funds announced in that notice.

On March 19, 2025, HUD published Memorandum 25-02 titled, "Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 1754) and Clarifications to the Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice Published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 4759)." That memorandum included revisions to the Universal Notice to align requirements with the President's executive orders and clarified that the funds announced in the January 2025 Notice are subject to the requirements in the Universal Notice, as may be amended, including as amended by Memorandum 25-02. This memorandum includes two additional changes to the Universal

- On March 31, 2025, HUD published **Memorandum 2025-03**: Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice ("Universal Notice") published in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 1754).

- Link: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/default/files/CPD/documents/CPDUniversalnotice.pdf>



The Universal Notice (PDF)

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-6489-N-01]

Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice contains a preamble and the *Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Universal Notice: Waivers and Alternative Requirements* (the "Universal Notice"). The Universal Notice describes the processes, procedures, timelines, waivers, and alternative requirements that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) intends to implement with each allocation of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding after a qualifying presidential disaster declaration. Specifically, following the appropriation of CDBG-DR funds for qualifying disasters, HUD will publish an Allocation Announcement Notice (AAN) in the *Federal Register* that incorporates, via cross-reference, the waivers and alternative requirements provided in the Universal Notice, as appropriate, along with any other new requirements imposed by the specific appropriation. This notice also describes the grant award process, pre-award certification submissions, criteria for Action Plan approval, and eligible disaster recovery activities to streamline post-disaster processes for future grantees. By publishing the Universal Notice, HUD intends to provide grantees and the public with increased transparency, consistency, and more timely access to CDBG-DR funds, helping to minimize program delays and accelerate recovery.

DATES: Applicability Date: [INSERT DATE FIVE DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.]

- This is a clean version of the “Universal Notice” with all of the changes identified in Memorandum 2025-02 implemented.
- Link:
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/default/files/CPD/documents/CDBG-DR/Updated-6489-N-01-CDBG-DR-UN-Compliance-with-Memo-25-02-English-PDF.pdf>



2023 and 2024 Disaster Events

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-6512-N-01]

Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice (UN AAN)

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Allocation Announcement Notice announces \$12,070,701,000 of Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds made available by the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025, for major disasters occurring in 2023 or 2024. This Allocation Announcement Notice identifies grant requirements for these funds, including requirements in HUD's CDBG-DR Universal Notice ("Universal Notice") published in the **Federal Register**. The Universal Notice includes waivers and alternative requirements, relevant regulatory requirements, the grant award process, criteria for action plan approval, and eligible disaster recovery activities.



Federal Register / Vol. 90, No. 10 / Thursday, January 16, 2025 / Notices

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- On January 16, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the "Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG-DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice (UN AAN)" (90 FR 4759).
- Link: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-16/pdf/2025-00943.pdf>



2023-2024 Disaster Event Grantees 60-Day Extension

60-Day Extension FAQ for 2023-2024 Disasters Subject to the Universal Notice

HUD's Office of Disaster Recovery Frequently Asked Questions

Version: 2.0

Published: March 2025



- In addition to significant policy changes and updates, HUD is providing a 60-day extension for key grant milestones (i.e., the submission of the Action Plan, Financial Certifications, Housing Policies and Procedures, and other Programmatic Policies and Procedures).
- This extension gives grantees additional time to ensure their submissions comply with the Universal Notice.
- Link:
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/default/files/CPD/documents/CDBG-DR/60-Day-Extension-FAQ-23-24-Grantees-UN-English-PDF.pdf>



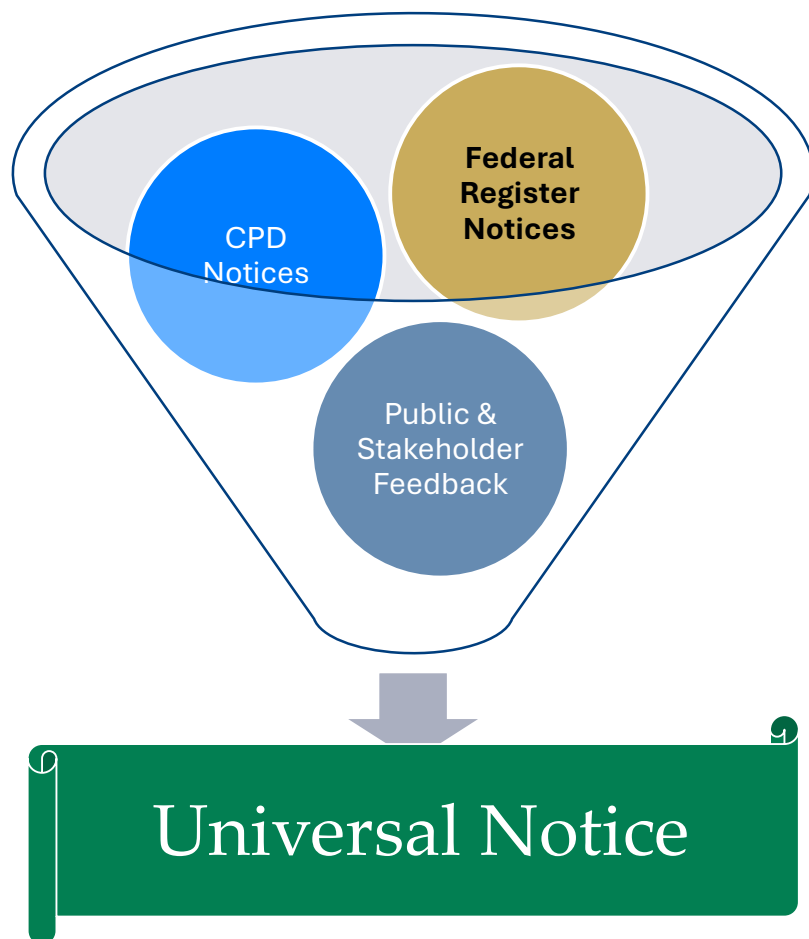
2023-2024 Disaster Event Grantees Key Dates (Including Extension)

1st Class of Universal Notice Covered Grantees (2023-2024 Disasters) Key Dates		
Publication Date		Thursday, January 16, 2025
Applicability Date		Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Phase One	Action Plan Deadline (90 + 60 Days)	Friday, June 20, 2025
Phase Two	Financial Certification Deadline (135 + 60 Days)	Monday, August 4, 2025
Phase Three	Housing policies and procedures (12 months + 60 Days)	Monday, March 23, 2026*
	Policies and procedures for all other programs (e.g., economic revitalization, public service, infrastructure programs, etc.)(18 months + 60 Days)	Monday, September 21, 2026*

*Since the deadlines fall on a Sunday grantee can assume the next business day, Monday.



What is the Universal Notice?



The Universal Notice combines and updates requirements from several different *Federal Register* notices and CPD Notices that have governed Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds in the past.

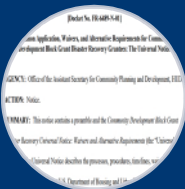
It also integrates feedback from the public, focuses on reducing administrative burden for staff and grantees, and builds a timeline that strives to get the funds to disaster survivors much sooner.



The Federal Register, Allocation Announcement Notices, and the Universal Notice

- Exists to standardize CDBG-DR requirements across AANs. Stands in for program regulations.
- Creates a predictable grantee experience by showing grantees what to expect before AAN is published.
- Fully applicable only once an AAN is published in the FR.

The Universal Notice



- A disaster is Presidentially declared.
- Congress appropriates CDBG-DR funds through appropriations acts (Public Laws).
- Grant HUD broad authority to issue waivers and alternative requirements.

The President & Congress



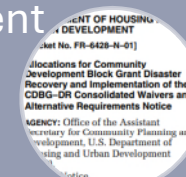
- Calculates grantee allocation awards.
- Publishes Allocation Announcement Notices (AANs) in the *Federal Register*.

HUD's Office of Disaster Recovery



- AANs will direct grantees to the Universal Notice, where they will find CDBG-DR waivers and alternative requirements.
- Establish new requirements or change requirements from a previous appropriations act.

Allocation Announcement Notices





Stakeholders Asked HUD to:



Establish a presence sooner in the recovery process



Announce CDBG-DR allocations sooner



Improve data sharing and develop a centralized database



Simplify and reduce CDBG-DR requirements



Align cross-cutting requirements with other federal agencies

How We Addressed Stakeholder Feedback - The Disaster Survivor

- Increases survivor access to information (e.g., requires the use of social media and updated application status).
- Creates the eligible activity for disaster relief assistance for LMI households and allows for reimbursement of these expenses.
- Allows for rental assistance for 24 months.
- Allows grantees to spend more funds for public services (e.g., rental assistance, interim mortgage assistance).
- Aligns with other federal agencies' requirements (e.g., prohibits involuntary buyouts, adopt another agency's environmental review).
- Creates new eligible activities for local disaster preparedness and resilience (e.g., allowing privately-owned shelters).

How We Addressed Stakeholder Feedback - Easing Grantee Burden

- Admin Action Plan (optional) no longer requires a public comment period.
- Grantees are not required to hold a public hearing if the grant is under \$20 million.
- Grantees with grants under \$100 million no longer need to hire an internal auditor for financial and program oversight and instead can use their existing auditing capacity for their CDBG-DR grant.
- Increases reimbursement timeline of pre-application costs of homeowners, renters, businesses, and other qualifying entities from 1 year to 2 years.
- Permits a grantee to make lump-sum relocation rental assistance payments to displaced residential tenants.



Universal Notice Phases

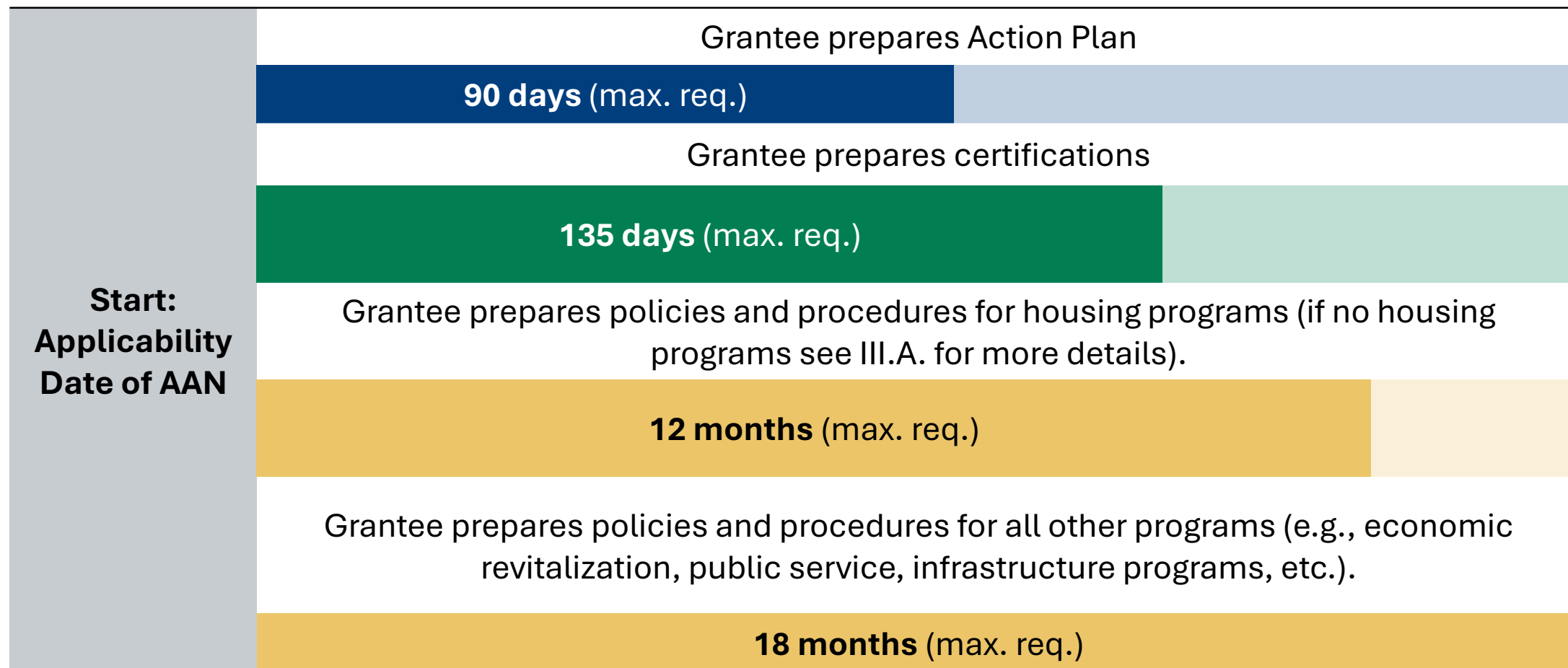
The **Universal Notice** (UN) is organized around **three phases** to support grantees in efficiently planning for the use of CDBG-DR funds.





Universal Notice Timeline

Universal Notice Timeline (Grantee Deliverables)





Action Plan

- The grantee's Action Plan must identify the use of all CDBG-DR funding, including eligibility criteria for accessing the funds and how the proposed uses will address long-term recovery needs and is due within 90 days of the applicability date of AAN.
- Citizen participation requirements are established to make sure the community remains informed of the grantees plans throughout the recovery process. Grantees will need to follow the required consultations during the development of the Action Plan, as well as the public hearing requirements during the required 30-day public comment period.

Phase 1:
The Action Plan



Phase 2:
Evaluation of
Management and
Oversight of Funds

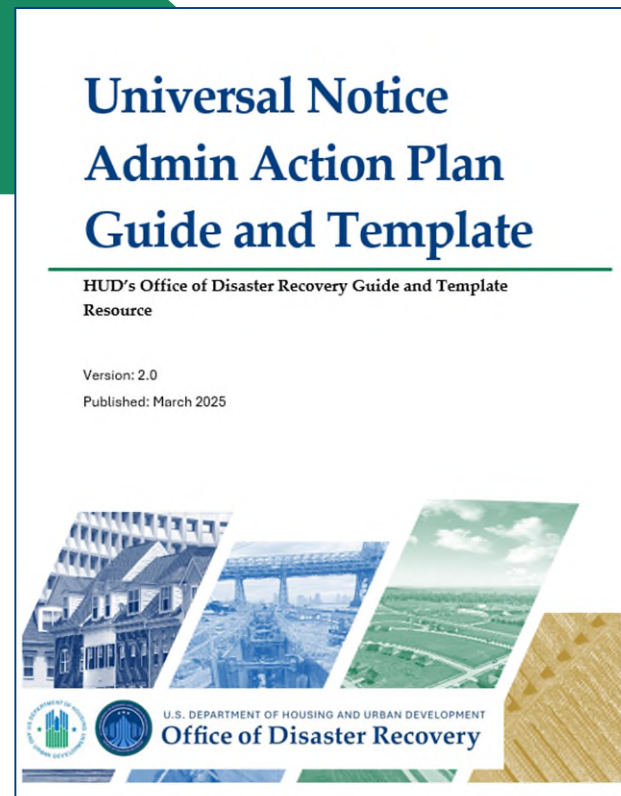


Phase 3:
Implementation of the
Universal Notice



Admin Action Plan (Optional)

- The optional Admin Action Plan must include the criteria for eligibility of administrative activities and the amount to be budgeted for administrative activities.
- No public comment period, but grantees are required to post the Admin Action Plan on their grantee CDBG-DR website when submitted to HUD.



Expert Tip: See [CPD-2023-06](#) for additional information about allocating costs between program administration costs, planning costs, and activity delivery costs.

Phase 1:
The Action Plan



Phase 2:
Evaluation of
Management and
Oversight of Funds

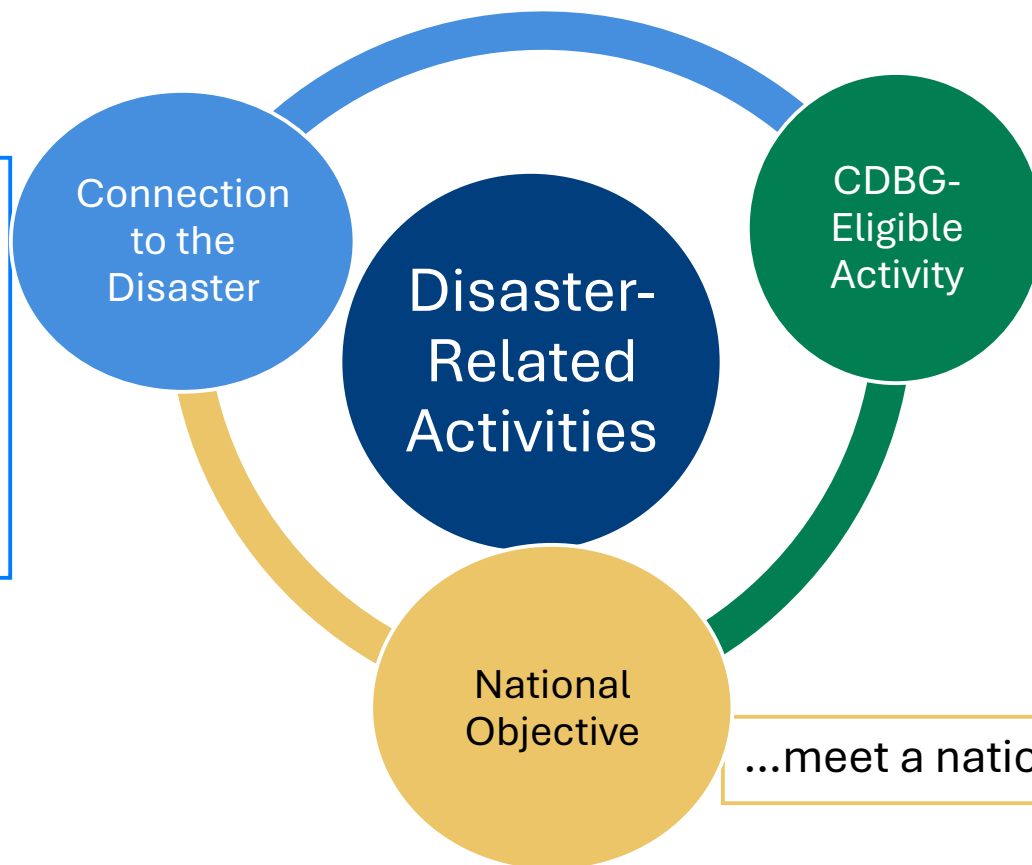


Phase 3:
Implementation of the
Universal Notice



All CDBG-DR Activities Must...

...address a direct or indirect impact from the disaster. Examples of *direct impact* include housing rehab activities. Examples of *indirect impact* include construction of new housing.

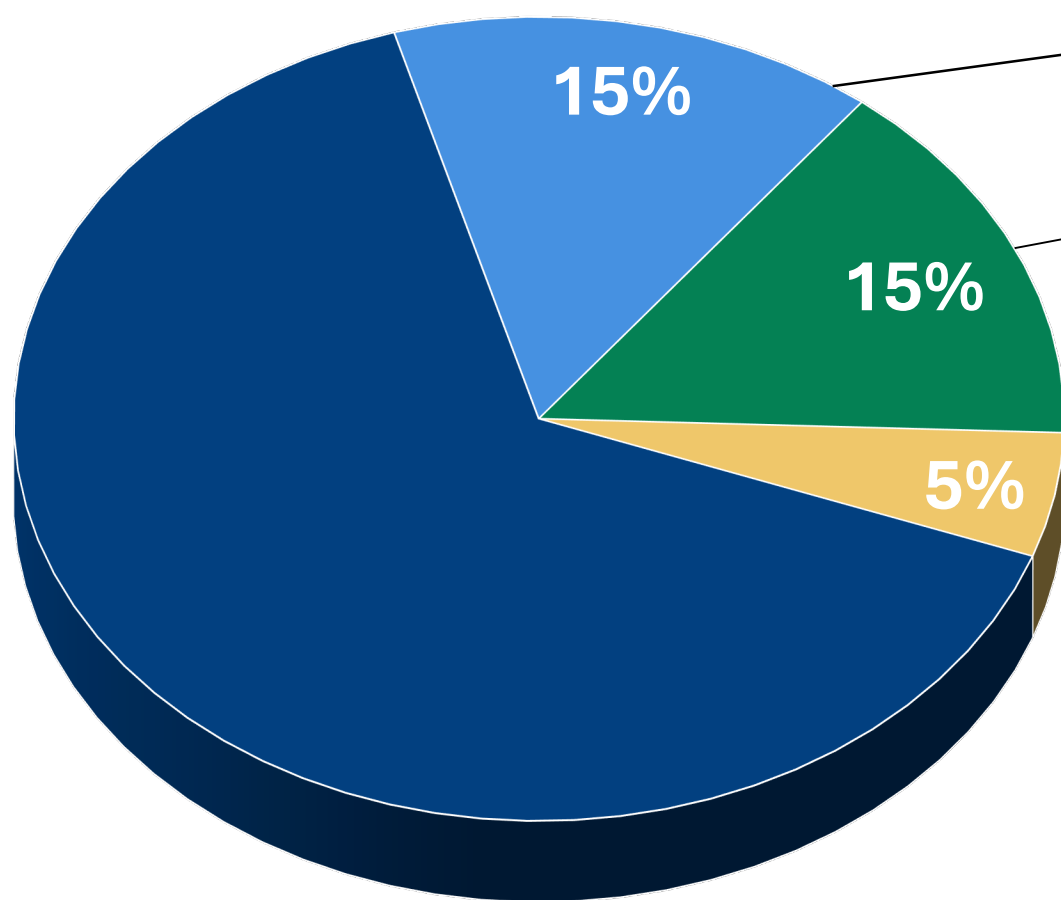


...be a CDBG-eligible activity or be eligible under a waiver or alternative requirement; includes *housing, infrastructure, and economic development* (and administration and planning activities).

...meet a national objective.



Admin, Planning, Public Service Cap



Planning (15% cap)

Public Services (15% cap), except:

- III.D.5.f. (*Interim mortgage assistance*).
- III.D.5.g. (*Rental assistance*).

Program Administration (5% cap
includes 5% of grant amount plus 5% of program income generated)



Expert Tip: See [CPD-2023-06](#) for additional information about allocating costs between program administration costs, planning costs, and activity delivery costs.



Universal Notice Page on HUD.gov

Program Offices / HUD Community Planning And Development / Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grant Funds

UNIVERSAL NOTICE COVERED GRANTEEES

The **Universal Notice** outlines the requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding after a qualified disaster. It explains the steps, timelines, and any exceptions that will guide the use of these funds for disaster recovery.

Once Congress provides CDBG-DR funds for specific disasters, HUD will issue an Allocation Announcement Notice (AAN) in the Federal Register. The AAN will establish the specific funding as established by Congress, along with any new requirements based on the specific funding as established by Congress.

The Universal Notice also explains the grant award process, certification submissions, criteria for Action Plan approval, and eligible disaster recovery activities. The goal is to ensure disaster recovery funding faster and more efficient for future grantees.

By publishing the Universal Notice, HUD hopes to provide more clarity, ensure consistent processes, and speed up access to funds, helping communities recover from disasters more quickly.

- Get Familiar with the Universal Notice and its Requirements +
- Phase One: The Action Plan +
- Phase Two: Evaluation of Management and Oversight of Funds +
- Phase Three: Implementation of the Universal Notice +

Bookmark this page!

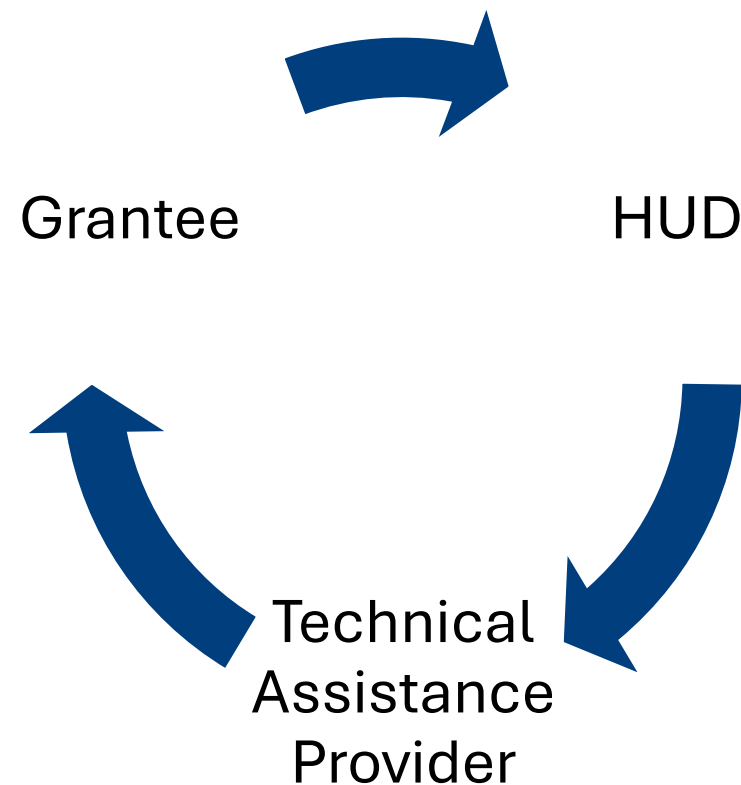
HUD has developed a comprehensive page on HUD.gov to support Universal Notice covered grantees with understanding the new requirements and meeting initial grantee launch milestones!

Link:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg-dr/universal_notice_grantees



Need Support?

- HUD will provide “New Grantee Launch” training to grantees and can also assign additional support with a Technical Assistance Provider.
- For CDBG-DR grantees, HUD can assign a Technical Assistance Provider to help with launch and implementation – just let your HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) staff member know ASAP if you are interested!



Thank You

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to the Policy Division inbox at ODRPolicyDivision@HUD.gov.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Office of Disaster Recovery