

County of Cook, Illinois



DRAFT Substantial Amendment to the Action Plan

CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant (CDBG-DR)

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Cook County Board of Commissioners

Prepared by: The Department of Planning and Development
of the Bureau of Economic Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

This document serves as a Substantial Amendment to the Action Plan (“Substantial Amendment”) that was previously published in March and amended in September of 2014 for the purpose of receiving Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grants in the amount of \$13,900,000 and \$54,900,000 respectively. As the amount of Cook County CDBG-DR funding has now increased by \$14,816,000 to a total of \$83,616,000, this Substantial Amendment is HUD-required. The Substantial Amendment has been developed in accordance with the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2). These grants are being made available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist disaster recovery efforts in response to declared major disasters occurring in Cook County in 2013. These funds may be used only for specific disaster recovery-related purposes. Relevant HUD guidance for this funding was published at <https://www.hudexchange.info/cdbg-dr/cdbg-dr-laws-regulations-and-federal-register-notice/> under the heading: **Hurricane Sandy and Other Disasters Occurring in 2011-2013**.

This Substantial Amendment must be submitted to HUD within 120 days of the effective date of the Federal Register notice published on January 8, 2015 as Docket No. FR – 5696-N-13 (The Notice of Third Installment) with an effective date of January 13, 2015. As such, it is due to HUD by May 13, 2015.

In accordance with HUD requirements, Cook County will use this Substantial Amendment to guide the distribution of the CDBG-DR grant funds toward fulfilling the three core aspects of recovery - housing, infrastructure and economic development - related to the declared disaster. This Substantial Amendment has also been designed to be consistent with the HUD primary objective of providing funds for local projects with activities that meet one of the following national objectives of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended: benefit to low/moderate-income persons; prevention or elimination of slums or blight; urgent need. At least fifty percent (50%) of the CDBG-DR grant award must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Administering Agency

Cook County is governed by the County Board President and the 17-member Board of Commissioners, who are elected to a four-year term. The President and Board approve all HUD-funded programs. The Board has designated the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) within the Bureau of Economic Development (BED) to serve as the lead agency for administration of HUD-funded programs on behalf of suburban Cook County.

The mission of the Bureau is to: “foster economic development and job growth within Cook County to promote sustainable community investment, business growth, attraction, and retention, affordable housing, regional planning, and workforce development”. In addition to the Department of Planning and Development, the Bureau includes the following departments: Building and Zoning and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Bureau is also affiliated with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and the Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA).

The mission of the Department of Planning and Development is to develop sustainable and vibrant urban communities by: “fostering economic opportunities and business development, preserving and expanding the supply of decent, affordable housing, promoting fair housing, and supporting programs that address the problems of homelessness.”

Proposed Activities

This Substantial Amendment identifies the proposed uses of the allocation and how they might address long-term recovery needs. The regulations require that this Substantial Amendment include a single chart or table that illustrates, at the most practical level, how all funds programmed by this Substantial Amendment are budgeted. The following table fulfills this requirement:

CATEGORY	TOTAL Allocation	March 2014 Allocation	September 2014 Allocation	May 2015 Allocation
Strategic Acquisition	\$15,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$0
Rehabilitation/ Remediation	\$12,000,000	\$2,205,000	\$4,395,000	\$5,400,000
Infrastructure	\$28,936,000	\$2,000,000	\$22,260,000	\$4,676,000
Replacement Housing	\$15,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$2,000,000
Tenant Based Rental Program	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$0
Economic Development	\$2,000,000			\$2,000,000
Planning	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$0
Administration	\$4,180,000	\$695,000	\$2,745,000	\$740,000
TOTAL	\$83,616,000	\$13,900,000	\$54,900,000	\$14,816,000

The activities in the above table that will be made available to individual persons and households are the Strategic Acquisition Program, Rehabilitation/Remediation, and the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program. Related materials will be made available in English and Spanish as applicable.

Funding Obligation Strategy

Through the March and September 2014 Action Plans, Cook County requested an initial obligation of \$13,760,000. At the present time, Cook County is not requesting to obligate additional funds. However, as the program proceeds, Cook County will coordinate with HUD in the appropriate manner to request additional funding obligation.

CATEGORY	TOTAL Obligation	March 2014 Obligation	September 2014 Obligation	May 2015 Obligation
Strategic Acquisition Program	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0
Rehabilitation/ Remediation	\$1,320,000	\$100,000	\$1,220,000	\$0
Infrastructure	\$4,852,000	\$500,000	\$4,352,000	\$0
Replacement Housing	\$2,600,000	\$2,000,000	\$600,000	\$0
Tenant Based Rental Program	\$300,000	\$60,000	\$240,000	\$0

Planning	\$1,000,000	\$70,000	\$930,000	\$0
Administration	\$688,000	\$270,000	\$418,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$13,760,000	\$3,000,000	\$10,760,000	\$0

All funds must be expended within two years of obligation. Cook County will be requesting further obligation of funds via additional substantial amendment(s) or other HUD authorized protocols as its needs assessment continues and the disaster recovery efforts progress. The final substantial amendment must be submitted to HUD by June 1, 2017 and all funds must be expended by September 29, 2019 or within two years of HUD's obligation of the final remaining funds, whichever is earlier.

Preliminary Needs Assessment

In order to gain a fuller understanding of the scope and extent of related needs, Cook County DPD consulted with and reviewed research developed by other County departments and local/regional/state/federal agencies working in the disaster management/mitigation arena including the Cook County Departments of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Environmental Control, Transportation and Highways, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the Illinois and Federal Emergency Management Agencies (IEMA and FEMA, respectively), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and municipal and township leaders. The latter municipal consultations included surveys completed by municipal officials and discussions of geographic areas most affected by the 2013 flood disaster and identification of key related projects. These discussions are ongoing and will continue as needed until all funds are obligated.

DPD desires to fund projects that strategically assist with the recovery efforts and support other investments which are occurring. To that end, DPD is continuing to conduct a needs assessment beyond this initial research to gain a more complete understanding of the impacts and unmet need related to this flooding. Based upon our discussions and review of available data to date, the budget included earlier in this Plan proposes that the CDBG-DR funding will support strategic acquisition of properties that experience recurring flooding; rehabilitation and remediation of homes and/or businesses that were severely impacted; infrastructure improvements to mitigate future flooding; a tenant-based rental assistance program to help residents who are/were displaced by the disaster to afford new rental homes, which may have increased rents due to increased demand for housing in the area; the construction of some replacement housing for special needs populations and seniors, where demand is high; economic development projects to assist the economic recovery of impacted areas; and planning efforts to assess flooding risk, support recovery efforts, and potentially reduce the likelihood/impacts of future flooding.

Stakeholder Consultation and Citizen Participation

The stakeholder and general public consultation and citizen participation process for this proposed Substantial Amendment conforms with the County's currently adopted Citizen Participation Plan which was most recently amended in September 2014 with a CDBG-DR specific addendum. This draft Substantial Amendment is being made available for public review and comment for the required 30 day public review/comment period as prescribed by the related regulations. The updates to this Action Plan were discussed with the Cook County Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) on March 25, 2015, and approved by the Cook County Board on April 1, 2015. Both meetings functioned as public hearings. The Citizen Participation Plan is designed to improve HUD compliance

as well as more effectively engage the public in Cook County programs. The Cook County Department of Planning and Development currently solicits public input and comment regarding HUD-funded programs several times a year via informal and formal methods including electronic newsletters, electronic surveys, stakeholder and focus groups, and public hearings. At a minimum, the Department will conduct a public hearing to provide basic information and discuss local needs and priorities as well as present proposed activities, and evaluate performance specifically for this program. Informally, the Department collects input every time it meets with funding recipients, intermediaries, and community representatives as part of the normal course of carrying out its work program. For this particular draft plan, the stakeholder/public consultation process is inclusive of the following: a public notice noting availability of the draft plan for review and comment was published in a local newspaper, posted on the County's website (<http://www.cookcountyil.gov/economicdevelopment/cdbg-dr/>), and transmitted via electronic newsletter to stakeholders including local municipalities, social service providers, developers, and members of the local Continuum of Care.

The draft Plan is being made available to the public for review and comment for thirty days from April 13, 2015 thru May 12, 2015 per HUD requirements via the Cook County website at this link: <http://www.cookcountyil.gov/economicdevelopment/cdbg-dr/> as well as on-site at Cook County offices located at 69 West Washington, Chicago, IL 60602. Written comments will only be accepted during this period and should be directed to Jennifer Miller at the aforementioned address or via email at jennifer.miller@cookcountyil.gov. A summary of any public comments received and related County responses, as available, may be found in the Appendix of this Substantial Amendment upon conclusion of this comment period.

General questions regarding this draft Plan or proposed programming as well as requests for special assistance related to limited English proficiency or disabilities should be directed to Jennifer Miller at 312-603-1072 or jennifer.miller@cookcountyil.gov, or TDD (Hearing Impaired) 312-603-5255.

NARRATIVE

1. Needs Assessment:

The ongoing Needs Assessment evaluates the three core aspects of recovery - housing, infrastructure, and economic development - related to the declared flooding disaster that occurred between April 16th and May 5th, 2013. However, first it is necessary to assess the overall impacts through extensive consultation with and review of the related research of internal and external agencies. To date, this consultation has targeted the Cook County Departments of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Environmental Control, Transportation and Highways, Public Health, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the Illinois and Federal Emergency Management Agencies (IEMA and FEMA, respectively), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), and municipal and township leaders.

This initial needs assessment noted substantial flooding was documented throughout the County during this time period, with a significant amount of related damage occurring along the Des Plaines River watershed that initiates in Wisconsin, flows into Cook County, and includes small tributaries running through the majority of the County. There are several smaller tributaries that flow into the river heading south and into the Illinois River. A few independent studies inclusive of the County focused upon

disaster issues have proven extremely valuable. First, USACE recently conducted a full study of the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed, which is currently in the process of being finalized. MWRD, who is charged with storm water management for all of Cook County, has also completed Detailed Watershed Plans for the six major watersheds in Cook County. Additionally, the County solicited and reviewed extensive FEMA/IEMA data on funding provided to individual affected homeowners as a result of the flooding to gain a stronger understanding of the geographic distribution of existing assistance. In addition, Cook County's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management recently developed a Hazard Mitigation Plan which also outlines specifically the needs for those who have experienced flooding within Cook County boundaries. The County has also reviewed FEMA RiskMAP assessments conducted in over 20 municipalities in suburban Cook. Lastly, a study by CNT, which focused specifically on urban flooding and analyzed individual claims to FEMA/IEMA as well as private insurers, helped to provide a fuller picture of the prevalence and location of the flooding impacts, related needs, and leverage of other resources.

Recognizing that additional community-specific input was needed as part of this needs assessment, the County also developed and transmitted an electronic survey to 200+ stakeholder groups including 130+ local municipalities and 70+ housing providers throughout the County regarding flood impacts in their community and to their properties. A summary of all survey responses to date are in the Appendix (Note: The survey responses were updated for the first Substantial Amendment). The County is continuing to solicit responses and will review/analyze the related results as part of an ongoing assessment of unmet needs.

Additional needs assessment is ongoing and the County may utilize a portion of the CDBG-DR funds for planning to refine its strategy further and conduct neighborhood level demographic analysis.

Below is a more detailed examination of the three core areas of recovery needs: housing, infrastructure, and economic development in the context of this flood disaster.

Housing

FEMA Individual Assistance was examined for DR 4116, the disaster declaration related to the flooding event in April and May 2013. In particular, Housing Assistance (HA) data – one of two types of assistance available under the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) – was assessed to understand which municipalities had significant impact from this disaster. The table below identifies municipalities that met one of three criteria: 5% or more of the municipality's housing units applied for assistance; 400 or more eligible applications were submitted for assistance; or approved damages exceeded \$1,000,000. The 28 municipalities that met this criteria are listed.

Damaged Address City	Applications	HA Eligible Applications	HA Approved Amount
Cook County Total	78,558	43,552	\$101,955,680.01
BELLWOOD	2,070	1,359	\$3,945,337.78
BERKELEY	295	218	\$642,718.57
BROADVIEW	663	439	\$968,458.76
BROOKFIELD	428	327	\$1,045,014.37
CALUMET CITY	2,380	1,274	\$3,191,787.80
CALUMET PARK	617	385	\$1,021,609.21

CHICAGO HEIGHTS	1,231	713	\$1,951,766.33
COUNTRY CLUB HILLS	763	485	\$1,526,254.55
DES PLAINES	737	398	\$1,155,378.38
DOLTON	2,044	1,126	\$2,715,636.48
FORD HEIGHTS	129	56	\$182,162.27
FOREST VIEW	196	172	\$1,955,337.50
GLENWOOD	334	195	\$609,417.00
HARVEY	1,807	846	\$2,024,355.72
HAZEL CREST	795	443	\$1,237,027.41
HILLSIDE	415	274	\$775,995.90
MARKHAM	659	328	\$989,900.17
MAYWOOD	1,748	1,107	\$2,585,148.25
MELROSE PARK	712	465	\$1,476,084.52
PARK RIDGE	743	513	\$1,149,595.00
PHOENIX	151	72	\$175,257.09
RIVERDALE	1,137	599	\$1,354,266.51
ROBBINS	241	106	\$329,674.92
SAUK VILLAGE	408	196	\$572,114.83
SKOKIE	957	613	\$1,428,751.57
SOUTH HOLLAND	1,551	1,000	\$2,765,171.96
STONE PARK	170	91	\$289,884.17
WESTCHESTER	668	393	\$978,522.66

The County is continuing to work with IEMA to analyze the FEMA verified loss data to better understand the remaining unmet need and assist with geographic targeting of the CDBG-DR funding.

While the HA data above provides a sense of the damage experienced across municipalities in Cook County, FEMA Disaster Relief data does not reflect the full picture of impacted municipalities. Private insurance also covers a significant portion of the damages from disaster events, yet may leave unmet need. “The Prevalence and Cost of Urban Flooding” report from the Center of Neighborhood Technology (CNT) describes how in recent years flood impacts have been widespread in Cook County – impacting 96% of ZIP codes – and not necessarily correlated with floodplains. This report including related maps is included in the Appendix. While this report did not examine the flood impacts in 2013, the nature and extent of flooding in the 2013 event is likely similar to the flood events in 2007-2011 covered by the report. The municipal and housing provider surveys mentioned above are providing an additional resource for damage information and unmet need related to last year’s flooding. The County also conducted significant outreach recently related to the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) Phase 1 application process. This outreach has provided additional local knowledge related to flood impacts in the NDRC pilot area in the southern suburbs, as well as more information about disaster-related issues across suburban Cook County. The County also reviewed and analyzed more detailed FEMA and SBA claim information in preparation of its Phase 1 application.

Repetitive loss properties also emerged as a significant area needing attention. IEMA administers an acquisition and buyout program through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and has been evaluating applications from Des Plaines, Glenview, Glenwood, and River Forest. All of these

acquisition/buyout projects require a local match. The USACE report recommends non-structural measures including buyouts, with specific mention of Des Plaines, Park Ridge, River Grove, Riverside, Rosemont, and Wheeling. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) also maintains a list of repetitive loss properties. MWRD has also set aside \$30 million for additional buy-outs. Coordination with all the agencies is underway, and common applications and agreements will be utilized. The needs assessment has revealed that buyouts are typically viewed as one of the higher value activities in terms of the benefit-cost ratio. In addition to buyouts, the USACE report also recommends many areas for flood-proofing.

The County also consulted with two key stakeholder housing groups: local public housing authorities and the Continuum of Care.

Cook County has five public housing authorities which service the entire County (not including the City of Chicago): the Housing Authorities of Cicero, Maywood, Oak Park, Park Forest, and The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC). Cicero, Maywood, and Park Forest each administer housing choice vouchers only. As such, they did not own or manage any properties specifically impacted by the flooding. Conversely, the HACC owns and manages 1,850 public housing units and administers 13,000 housing choice vouchers throughout suburban Cook County, and Oak Park Housing Authority owns 542 units, and manages 492 housing choice vouchers in Oak Park. While no HACC-owned buildings received documented damage specific to the flooding during this period that has not yet been remediated, the flooding exacerbated already deteriorating physical conditions in related properties. Additionally, it is possible that some privately owned properties where voucher holders reside were impacted and are still in need of assistance. However, HACC has not been formally made aware of any such instances to date. It is expected that outreach efforts related to CDBG-DR programming and available assistance will shed light on related needs.

The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County is the local Continuum of Care Agency and they have completed an analysis of 2013 Homes in the Continuum (HIC) – Unmet Need. Within suburban Cook County at the countywide level, the Alliance has projected a need for additional beds of permanent supportive housing (PSH) to serve 434 people, including 46 families with children (141 people) and 293 adults in adult-only households (singles, couples, etc.). Please see the chart below for details:

HIC - Unmet Need

All Year-Round Beds/Units						Seasonal	Overflow
Beds for Households with at Least One Adult and One Child	Units for Households with at Least One Adult and One Child	Beds for Households without Children	Beds for Households with Only Children	Units for Households with Only Children	Total Year-Round Beds	Total Seasonal Beds	Overflow Beds
Emergency Shelter							
12	4	110	6	5	128	30	28
Transitional Housing							
67	20	205	6	3	278		
Safe Haven							
		27				27	
Permanent Supportive Housing							
141	46	293	0	0	434		

Further, the Alliance has calculated the percentage of persons living in poverty by sub-region, as well as the cost burden of housing as a percent of income by sub-region. In the north, 36.8% of the households are cost burdened, that means 16 family PSH units with 48 beds, plus 100 adult PSH beds. This unmet need calculation is for permanent supportive housing to serve homeless households, and the need for supportive housing more broadly could be higher. Please see the chart below for details:

**FY2015 IDHS Prevention Application - Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County
Data to Consider in Determining Each Region's Proportion of Funding**

Region	Total People	Percent of People	People In Poverty	Poverty Rate	Proportion of SCC's People in Poverty
N	1,046,278	42.43%	77,993	7.45%	30.95%
S	784,276	31.80%	102,584	13.08%	40.71%
W	635,506	25.77%	71,421	11.24%	28.34%
Total	2,466,060	100.00%	251,998	10.22%	100.00%

Region	Average (of Median Rents)	Median (of Median Rents)	Ratio to Overall Median
N	\$ 1,177	\$ 1,111	1.134
S	\$ 941	\$ 928	0.947
W	\$ 918	\$ 916	0.935
Total	\$ 1,020	\$ 980	1.000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2007-2012 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates Program

Severe Housing Cost Burden: 50% or more Housing Cost Burdened

Region	Sev HCB	% of Total	All renters	% of Renters	% Sev HCB of total renters
N	22,851	36.86%	97,942	41.14%	23.33%
S	21,478	34.65%	70,133	29.46%	30.62%
W	17,664	28.49%	69,986	29.40%	25.24%
Total	61,993	100.00%	238,061	100.00%	26.04%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

One reason to focus on the Des Plaines Watershed for the replacement housing is that the south suburbs benefitted from the opening of South Suburban PADS' Country Club Hills Wellness Center (77 units of PSH) in October 2012, and the west suburbs benefitted from the opening of West Suburban PADS' Open Door Housing (65 scattered-site leased PSH apartments). The north suburbs would benefit from additional supportive housing of a similar scale.

Infrastructure

USACE has produced the Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries, Illinois and Wisconsin Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. The plans described in the report propose the construction of levees, reservoirs and other features to reduce flood damages in the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed. Communities in this area have experienced major flooding and damages over the past

30 years, and this watershed was among the most impacted by the flooding in April 2013. The USACE study evaluated a range of measures related to flood risk management. The full plan recommended by the report includes 14 recommendations for Cook County, one of which covers the non-structural measures (buyouts and flood-proofing) mentioned in the Housing section above. Eleven of the remaining thirteen projects are recommended for other implementation channels, but two projects were found to be economically justified but not compliant with USACE policy and therefore ideal for implementation by state or local entities. These two projects are:

- Lake Mary Anne Pump Station in Maine Township
- First Avenue Bridge Modification in River Grove

The County will continue working with USACE, the local jurisdictions and other partners to evaluate these two projects for potential use of CDBG-DR funding. The Lake Mary Anne project is part of a larger MWRD project described in more detail below.

MWRD has a significant pipeline of storm water management projects through its Phase 1 and Phase 2 programs. Phase 1 includes regional flood control projects that were recommended in MWRD's Detailed Watershed Plans, and these projects aim to address flood control and overbank flooding on regional waterways. Each recommended project was categorized as either streambank stabilization or flood control based on its primary objective. MWRD developed a prioritization methodology that recommended the highest priority for implementation be given to streambank stabilization projects that address public safety and/or protect structures or infrastructure in imminent danger of failure. The next highest priority was flood control projects, which were ranked using factors including the project's benefit-to-cost ratio, the number of benefiting communities, total dollar cost and total dollar benefit. Cook County is focusing on the Phase 1 flood control projects given the nature and purpose of the CDBG-DR funding, though some streambank stabilization projects have flood control benefits as well. Phase 1 projects currently under design and/or likely to be bid within the next year are included below.

MWRD's Phase 2 program includes projects that will assist communities with more localized flooding issues. Information about flooding concerns, current efforts underway, and any applicable studies were solicited from units of government and other agencies within Cook County. Over 600 problem areas and/or project requests were received. Based on the severity of flooding and project specifics, MWRD initially recommended 35 projects for implementation. The full set of Phase 2 projects approved by the MWRD Board in September 2013 is included in the Appendix. Phase 2 includes 12 projects now in the design stage and 23 conceptual projects in a variety of areas across Cook County. Three additional Phase 2 projects were approved by the MWRD Board in October 2014.

Many of these Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects will need or would benefit from local matching funding to help them move forward to implementation. The County has preliminarily identified the eight Phase 1 projects below along with 19 of the 35 Phase 2 projects as projects to potentially be supported with CDBG-DR funding, though other Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects may be considered if appropriate. The three new Phase 2 projects are also being considered, and assessment of the appropriate level of CDBG-DR support is still underway.

MWRD Phase 1 Storm Water Management Projects include:

- Flood Control Project on Farmers and Prairie Creeks in Maine Township, Park Ridge, and Niles (which includes the Lake Mary Anne project mentioned above)

- Lyons Levee in Forest View
- Flood Control Project for Deer Creek in Ford Heights
- Flood Control / Streambank Stabilization Project on Tinley Creek in Crestwood
- Flood Control Project on Cherry Creek East Branch in Flossmoor
- Arquilla Park Levee in Glenwood
- Streambank Stabilization Projects along Midlothian Creek and Calumet Union Drainage Ditch in Markham
- Flood Control Project at Arrowhead Lake in Palos Heights

In light of the requirement for a comprehensive risk analysis of proposed infrastructure projects, the County views a partnership with MWRD to help implement their existing pipeline of stormwater projects as the logical path forward given MWRD's extensive analysis of the proposed projects. The County relied on a variety of studies as mentioned above, but a primary resource has been MWRD's six Detailed Watershed Plans (DWPs). The DWPs combined existing planning data with computer modeling, damage estimation, rainfall data, impacts of climate change and other inputs to arrive at a data-driven set of recommended projects for each watershed. The projects were assessed based on project benefit, project cost, the area removed from the floodplain, number of structures protected, among other factors. The County, in conjunction with MWRD, is using MWRD's analyses to identify the intersection of projects that require additional financial support and that also link to recovery from the declared disaster and accomplish the low-to-moderate income goals of the CDBG-DR program. A particular focus is on the areas most impacted areas by the disaster that have seen significant recovery resources invested, such as FEMA individual assistance (see the Appendix and the Housing section above). The County will be prioritizing infrastructure investments that will preserve and protect these past recovery efforts.

Through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), IEMA has also received requests for structural projects in municipalities, including Westchester, Matteson, and Northbrook. The County has identified and will continue to identify problem areas via the municipal surveys, referrals from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH), and other outreach and will evaluate the appropriate response. In tandem with MWRD and other partners, the needed comprehensive risk analysis will be conducted to determine the best infrastructure projects to pursue, including the installation of green infrastructure to improve stormwater management.

The County also examined FEMA Public Assistance damage estimates from 2013 flooding. In total, the damage estimates for Cook County (excluding the City of Chicago) exceeded \$7 million. Excluding the Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures categories, the damage estimate is over \$2.1 million. A full list of damage assessment data by FEMA applicant is included in the Appendix. The most impacted municipalities include Des Plaines, Franklin Park, Forest View and Maywood. While significant damage occurred, Cook County did not meet the FEMA threshold and was therefore denied Public Assistance. As a result, much of this damage may still be an unmet need. The County is comparing this data with the municipal survey results, FEMA RiskMAP assessments, and other information gathered to determine where support may still be needed.

Economic Development

During the County's consultations, ongoing impact on the business community has not frequently been cited as a need. Several business losses were mentioned by local jurisdictions, but a remaining impact

was not indicated as a high priority. The municipal surveys conducted for this needs assessment did ask about flood-related business impacts, and results received to date are included in the Appendix. The County's work on the NDRC Phase 1 application did reveal business impacts in the NDRC pilot area in the southern suburbs. The County is in the process of gathering specific business data and is evaluating data from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan program.

Infrastructure projects, like those noted in the above section, would have positive economic benefits and likely reduce flood-related impacts on businesses. The County has also been evaluating infrastructure projects in commercial and industrial areas that will address flooding issues and assist in economic recovery in the area. The County has also been engaged in the increasing use of green infrastructure as a stormwater management solution. Discussions are underway as to how the County can support new workforce development efforts aimed at training local residents in the implementation of maintenance of green infrastructure and other flood-related tasks.

Cook County has been increasing its economic development efforts through increased outreach to businesses for existing tax incentives as well as through new tools like the BUILT (Broadening Urban Investment to Leverage Transportation) in Cook Loan Fund (a HUD Section 108 loan fund) and the Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA). As the needs assessment continues and County staff meets with businesses, long-term economic recovery from flood impacts will be kept at the forefront of conversations. The County may evaluate the use of loan or grant programs in areas impacted by the flooding.

2. Connections between Needs and Allocation(s) of Funds:

The above assessment has identified a significant need for resources to address housing and infrastructure projects and initiatives in suburban Cook County, along with a smaller yet important need for disaster-related economic development efforts. As a result, we are proposing that the allocation of CDBG-DR funding be focused on the following activity categories:

- *Strategic Acquisition Program* – A significant need exists for property acquisition and buyout activity in suburban Cook County. IEMA, USACE, and IDNR all indicate the need for resources to support this activity. IEMA's most recent round of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications related to the April 2013 flooding resulted in buyout requests that far exceeded the available funding. IEMA's program also requires a local match. MWRD has also initiated a buyout program this year. Given the high benefit-cost ratio typically associated with buyouts, the County is proposing to allocate a significant amount to this activity. The County will work with partners like the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and local park districts to identify the proper future ownership and use of the subject properties.
- *Rehabilitation / Remediation* – Based on consultations and a review of FEMA Housing Assistance data, a significant unmet need likely remains on homes impacted by last year's flooding. The County will continue working with IEMA, local jurisdictions and other partners to gain a more detailed understanding of the unmet need, but currently anticipates supporting rehabilitation and remediation efforts in the two sub-regions of suburban Cook County: south and north with the dividing line as 39th Street.
- *Infrastructure* – As noted in the above needs assessment, MWRD, IEMA and USACE have identified a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects to address flooding issues in suburban

Cook County. In many cases, local resources or a local match is needed to move the projects forward. Some of these projects are proceeding very soon, making them good candidates for partnership with the CDBG-DR funding. The County will continue working with the above partners, CCDOTH and local jurisdictions to identify the infrastructure projects that align best with the purpose and eligibility requirements of the CDBG-DR funding. Given the identified need and required funding, the County has made a significant allocation for this activity category, the largest of all the activities.

- *Replacement Housing* – The needs assessment identified an unmet need for over 400 units of permanent supportive housing (PSH) in suburban Cook County. Given the high cost of housing in the north and northwest, and the recent PSH projects in the south and west suburbs, the County may focus these resources in the north/northwest part of the Cook County. The County will work with local jurisdictions and other partners to identify projects that best meet these unmet needs in disaster-impacted areas.
- *Tenant-Based Rental Assistance* – Due to the high cost of housing in suburban Cook County, as well as the high demand for rental housing, providing rental assistance to households who have needed to move as a result of the flood may help them find replacement housing they would not otherwise be able to afford.
- *Economic Development* – While funding had not been identified for economic development prior to this Substantial Amendment, the above needs assessment indicates that the County has learned of additional business impacts during more recent consultations. In addition, the potential to support infrastructure projects that address both flood impacts and economic recovery has surfaced during outreach and consultations, as well as the ability to connect local residents to employment opportunities in supporting the growing use of green infrastructure. As a result, the County has identified a need for funding in this category.
- *Planning* – While not explicitly addressed in the above needs assessment, the County’s consultations have uncovered a continued need for planning support related to flood mitigation efforts. Coordination with the needs identified in the County’s new Hazard Mitigation Plan is a key area of focus. Furthermore, planning capacity challenges exist in suburban Cook County particularly on stormwater planning issues, and the CDBG-DR funding provides an important opportunity to address these gaps. Municipalities have inquired about available support for planning through the CDBG-DR funding. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the official regional planning organization for northeastern Illinois, currently provides planning assistance to suburban Cook County municipalities through its Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The County intends to use CDBG-DR funding to support an increased level of stormwater planning via the LTA program. This LTA support may be combined with other planning support to allow municipalities to better prepare proposed projects for MWRD’s Phase 2 program or to pursue the capital improvements themselves. Furthermore, MWRD is piloting an initiative to create storm water master plans focused on problem areas, with four plans to be developed in suburban Cook County, and the County will partner accordingly. One of these pilot plans overlaps with the County’s NDRC pilot area, and additional planning resources may be required to support the efforts to improve the County’s disaster resilience. The County is also interested in determining how best to bring important tools like Flow Path modeling, sewershed optimization, and soil mapping to suburban jurisdictions and other partners to drive better

stormwater management investment decisions. Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) has developed the “Rain Ready” Initiative that works with local communities to create stormwater plans that include early warning systems and discusses how neighbors can work together. CDBG –DR funding is being explored to bring this program to additional suburban communities. Diagnostic testing that can point to solutions for reducing infiltration and inflow into the sewer system is another area the County plans to support. The County will support efforts to amend MWRD’s existing Detailed Watershed Plans to be approvable under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and thereby create access to new sources of funding for stormwater management projects. Lastly, the County is examining geographies in need of FEMA map amendments and other local planning needs that will mitigate future flooding and foster long term economic recovery in impacted areas. Given all of these identified needs, we are allocating significant resources to be able to support this array of important planning efforts that will reduce future costs and flood impacts.

The Department will identify priority projects based upon the continuing needs assessment and solicit participation from municipalities, subrecipients, developers, or individual residents as appropriate. CDBG funds will be approved and distributed on a project by project basis with priority given to those projects located within areas of greatest need, as listed elsewhere in this draft Plan, and those projects that help achieve the CDBG-DR low and moderate income expenditure requirement. As with PY 2014 CDBG and HOME projects, funding will follow need and there is no restriction on projects by sub-regions although the region bordering the Des Plaines watershed continues to demonstrate the greatest needs based upon research to date.

3. Planning and Coordination:

As part of the development of this Action Plan and its Substantial Amendment, the Department of Planning and Development has been working with Cook County’s Departments of Transportation and Highways and Environmental Control, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, FEMA, and IEMA. Additionally, Cook County’s Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has recently undertaken the writing of our first Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This final Plan was adopted by the County Board in September 2014. County leadership have participated in several workshops around the concepts of planning for natural disasters, as well as convened meetings specifically to deal with the flooding which occurred in April 2013. Through this process, several areas are being targeted for specific study – whether for storm water management or better infrastructure. Cook County is in the process of determining which areas will benefit from more in-depth study and may utilize planning funds from this grant for this purpose. In determining specific uses of the CDBG-DR funding, the County plans to build on the research and work already done by the above subject matter experts.

4. Leveraging of Funds:

The CDBG- DR Funds will be used in conjunction with other funds and therefore leverage resources strategically to reach highest impact. Specifically, they will be used as local match to the identified Infrastructure projects, including those recommended for implementation by MWRD and USACE. IEMA also has funds for buy-out of flood damaged homes that require a local match. FEMA has already invested over \$63 million in the County in emergency relief for individuals and homeowners, and Cook County through their own CDBG and corporate funding will be making additional investments in the municipalities and unincorporated areas of Cook County. In regards to the Rehabilitation and

Renovation program, DPD will be working with the Department of Public Health and Neighborhood Housing Services and utilizing their funding for Torrens Projects and funding from the National Mortgage Settlement to fund a larger Single Family Rehab program. The Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program will have two parts to it: the first is a program that will give individuals and families up to three months of rental assistance (up to \$6,000) for emergencies caused by the flooding. The second part of the program will work in conjunction with the Cook County Housing Authority, where families will be identified who have been displaced due to flooding or lack of available housing due to flooding and who can become self-sufficient within a two year period. CDBG – DR funding will focus on providing services to these families such as job counseling and they will be given Housing Choice Vouchers. In the case of replacement housing, CDBG-DR would be a small portion of the total project costs.

5. Protection of People and Property: Construction Methods:

Cook County Written Housing Standards for Owner Occupied Single Family and Multi Family Residential Rehabilitation and New Construction will be used for CDBG Homeownership Purchase and/or Rehabilitation assisted activities. In addition, all homes either newly constructed or renovated will adhere to HUD's Green Building Standard or Green Retrofit program per the HUD Green Building Retrofit Checklist. The County's written Housing Standards, as well as the Green Building Standard or Retrofit will be incorporated in the CDBG agreements by reference. All housing that requires rehabilitation or is newly constructed must meet the applicable building codes of the municipality or local housing jurisdiction in which it is located, as well as the HUD Green Building Retrofit Checklist. Local building codes and written housing standards take precedence if they are more stringent than County standards. If no code enforcement exists in the Jurisdiction, the property will be governed by the current BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators International) Code for the State of Illinois. Cook County Written Housing Standards will be used to describe in detail the specifications for the rehabilitation work needed to bring substandard housing into compliance with the State of Illinois BOCA Code. Green or energy efficient/environmentally friendly components will be included in these aforementioned standards. When proceeding with work in the infrastructure category, the County will incorporate resilience performance standards that can be applied to each infrastructure project. In particular, the County is looking to resources like the *Toolkit for Resilient Cities*, a research effort produced by Arup, the Regional Plan Association and Siemens. This report identified five resilience performance indicators – robustness, redundancy, diversity and flexibility, responsiveness, and coordination – that can be used to help assess the resilience of infrastructure. The County will incorporate these indicators into its assessment of potential infrastructure projects, with a goal of strengthening each of these areas through the set of projects that are selected for funding. The County will also use research and resources developed through HUD's Rebuild by Design competition as well as the Rockefeller Foundation's work on city resilience. The County certifies that it will apply the resilience standards required in section V.3.e of the June 3, 2014 Notice.

6. Public Housing, HUD- assisted Housing, and Housing for the Homeless:

As noted earlier, while no housing authority owned or managed property has specifically documented damage related to the flooding, it did exacerbate existing building deterioration. Additionally, privately-owned properties which house housing choice voucher holders may be eligible for assistance. There are two senior buildings, one in Skokie and one in Arlington Heights that need significant repair and a renovation program is being designed for both buildings. It is further anticipated that related outreach regarding the program and available funding will shed light on need and related eligibility within the aforementioned categories. Additionally, the County will continue to coordinate with the Continuum of

Care to identify properties which serve as emergency shelters or housing for the homeless/at-risk of homelessness as potential funding targets. As the needs assessment is ongoing, specific properties have not yet been identified.

It is anticipated that there will be a focus on replacement housing that is permanent supportive housing to further assist households with special needs. Consideration of a focus on geographic areas adjacent to the Des Plaines Watershed is based in part on the existence of such housing in the South and West whereas the North continues to have a need for additional supportive housing of a similar scale. Moreover, the State of Illinois has committed in two Consent Decrees; Williams v. Quinn and Colbert v. Quinn, to provide community supportive housing. While Cook County was not a party to the decrees, we see supportive housing as an important community resource and will help to assist in this effort where possible and appropriate with CDBG-DR funds.

Cook County has also been approached by several developers to assist with funding for permanent supportive housing. Several of the projects are in communities that have suffered from the April 2013 flooding, so Cook County has made an initial funding allocation for supportive replacement housing.

As for low income home owners, the County will use a portion of the funding to create a new Single Family Rehab program that will serve as a resource for residences with one to four units.

7. Disaster – Resistant Housing:

Cook County is considering new construction and renovation of replacement housing with these grant funds and will have an opportunity to encourage provision of disaster-resistant housing for all income groups, as well as persons with disabilities and seniors. Toward that end, Cook County will use this grant along with its HOME, CDBG and ESG funding to address the following:

(a) The transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and permanent housing needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. As an active member of The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (Alliance), Cook County DPD works with the other Alliance agencies to produce new units of housing for such persons and families, preserve the units already available through rehabilitation, and fund housing stabilization services. This is accomplished through a collaborative application for Continuum of Care funding, as well as: Community Development Block Grant (rehab and public service funding); HOME Investment Partnerships Program (new construction and renovation); and Emergency Solutions Grants (shelter, street outreach, homeless prevention and rapid rehousing) funding. Flooding is the most common natural disaster that affects housing in Cook County, so **no** new construction is carried out in the floodplain.

(b) The prevention of low-income individuals and families with children from becoming homeless is part of the mission of the Alliance. The Alliance brings together a range of services and housing options for those in need with multiple information and access points for emergency assistance. Homeless service providers, local government agencies, community groups, faith based organizations, and other concerned residents bring together their housing and emergency assistance resources and participate in joint planning. Information is available to the public through wide distribution of printed brochures, web-based information systems, and a Virtual Call Center that provides referral assistance to residents throughout suburban Cook County. Some member organizations provide legal assistance and other pro-bono services for those who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing. Alliance agencies partake in community fairs, “clinics” or walk-in events designed to engage unsheltered persons in services. Other

efforts such as street outreach and meals-only services at the shelter target unsheltered homeless persons. The 150 Homes Team (a local effort of the 100,000 Homes Campaign) has been working with the most vulnerable unsheltered persons to secure housing through Section 8 Flow Vouchers and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units.

Persons calling the Virtual Call Center, which is also funded by the County, are referred to an agency in their area that will best be able to assist them. While the Virtual Call Center exists, its hours and staffing are limited, and the County is exploring ways to support a more comprehensive 211 system that would also provide disaster recovery benefits. The Alliance's Homelessness Prevention Committee has been working on coordinated protocols for screening and eligibility determination. The Homeless Prevention Committee has also been working toward developing a standard coordinated assessment process to determine the best way to assist an applicant to regain stability in their current housing; to achieve stability as they move to new permanent housing; or, for those in emergency shelters or who are unsheltered, to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability.

Coordination of services is standard through use of the HUD mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and all agencies are required to use it.

(c) The special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing are taken into consideration during the Cook County Consolidated Planning and annual funding allocation processes. Housing projects are awarded to developers and non-profits on a competitive basis. However, there are several Court cases especially in Northwest Cook County against municipalities regarding the placement of these facilities. The State of Illinois is also under a Consent decree to find suitable housing for persons currently living in nursing homes, but who can successfully live in the communities with support in Cook County (Colbert v. Quinn). Toward that end, Cook County will work with several developers who are looking to build supportive housing in the communities that have been affected by the flood, but not in the flood plain. An emphasis is placed on projects serving vulnerable populations. Additional multipliers are also given for projects serving: individuals at the lowest income levels; persons with disabilities; persons with mental illness; and persons with additional housing challenges.

(d) Cook County will also address how planning decisions affect racial, ethnic, and low-income concentrations directly in response to this disaster. It will ensure that all planning practices conform to Federal fair housing and equal opportunity protocols as well as the County's Human Rights ordinance.

(e) One of the most troubling issues the County contends with is the spatial mismatch between the respective locations of jobs and housing. The County has begun reaching out to as many constituents as possible as part of our Planning for Progress (PFP) strategic planning initiative. PFP will be inclusive of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, focused on affordable housing, community development, and economic development needs and priorities, and will be submitted to HUD in August of 2015. A common repeating theme in the outreach conducted and feedback obtained to date concerns the location of new construction housing in "opportunity areas" and co-located with other investments. While CMAP defined preliminary opportunity areas in their Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA), the County is exploring potential approaches related to target areas and related prioritization of resources including but not limited to the renovation and maintenance of existing housing.

8. Minimize or Address Displacement:

All CDBG-DR-funded acquisitions of real property are expected to be voluntary acquisitions and are exempt from Section 301 of the URA. Given the nature of the funding, relocations will be funded in accordance with the regulations and limitations set out under the Uniform Relocation Act (URA). Funding will be available to relocate renters who currently live in a flood plain and have experienced repetitive and excessive damage. In addition to receiving moving expenses, they are eligible for the difference between their current rents and the new rents for up to 42 months.

Homeowners will be offered a fair market value for their property as determined by a third party appraisal. The homeowner is also allowed to seek a determination of fair market value. If the two are not aligned, a third party will be engaged to make the final determination of Fair Market Value. These homes will be demolished and the property will be given to a public agency to be maintained as wetlands, forest preserves or park district areas that can sustain flooding with minimal damage.

9. Program Income:

CDBG-DR program income is the gross income received by Cook County and its sub-recipients directly generated from the use of CDBG-DR funds. Program Income may come from the following sources:

- Proceeds from the sale or lease of property purchased or improved with CDBG-DR funds
- Proceeds from the sale or lease of equipment purchased with CDBG-DR funds
- Gross income from the use or rental of real or personal property acquired constructed or improved by Cook County (or a sub recipient), less the costs incidental to generate program income
- Payments of principal and interest on loans made with using CDBG-DR funds
- Proceeds from the sale of loans or obligations secured by loans made with CDBG-DR funds
- Interest earned on program pending its disposition.

Program income does not include:

- Income earned from the investment of initial proceeds of a grant advance from the U.S. Treasury
- Interest earned on loans or other forms of assistance with CDBG-DR funds that are used for activities that are determined by HUD to be ineligible
- Interest earned on the investment of amounts reimbursed to a program account prior to the use of the reimbursed funds for eligible activities
- Any income received in a single program year by the grantee and its sub recipients, that does not exceed \$25,000;
- Income generated by certain Section 108 activities (refer to 570.500(a)(4)(ii))
- Proceeds from sub recipient fundraising activities
- Funds collected through special assessments to recover non-CDBG-DR outlays of public improvements
- Proceeds from the disposition of real property by a sub recipient or the County, that was acquired or improved with CDBG-DR funds, when the disposition occurs after the time period specified in 570.503(b)(7) for sub recipient owned property (generally five years

after the expiration of the sub recipient agreement) or the time period required by 570.505 for grantee-owned property.

Cook County may authorize a sub-recipient to retain program income for additional CDBG-DR projects pursuant to a written agreement. Program income (other than program income deposited in a revolving loan fund) must be disbursed prior to the drawdown of additional funds from the U.S. Treasury (or in the case of a sub recipient, from the County). The CDBG-DR regulations require the County to determine if it has excess program income on hand and return any excess to its line of credit.

Any program income received as a result of this program will be recycled into the program for further support of eligible related activities (minus any allowable administrative expenses).

10. Monitoring Standard and Procedures

Cook County will follow its new Monitoring Standards and Procedures, which have been written as part of their HUD-funded One CPD technical assistance process. Monitoring protocols will vary by activity type and are particularly intensive for housing projects. A full copy of the internal policies/procedures manual including monitoring was recently provided to HUD. In short, Cook County will perform a desk review of each multifamily property to review Tenant Income Certifications, perform an onsite inspection, as well as a full financial review with a full risk assessment (using our new Risk Assessment Tool). Any single family homes that are renovated or constructed, will have an annual letter certifying occupancy. Any infrastructure improvements or facility improvements will be monitored for change in use and all agencies funded (subrecipients and developers) will be monitored by program and finance staff and also have a full financial audit each year.

The County currently conforms to all A-133 single financial audit requirements. Please see the Financial Proficiency documents previously submitted to HUD, for details.

Additionally, the Department of Planning and Development within the Bureau of Economic Development is subject to audits by the Office of the County Auditor (OCA), which has a mission to provide independent and objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve the County's operations while promoting transparency and accountability in government. The OCA assists the County in accomplishing its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of countywide risk management, control, and governance processes.

The OCA operates in accordance with the County Ordinance, Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 6, Auditor, Sec. 2-311, which grants the OCA the authority to conduct financial, management and performance audits of all Cook County departments, offices, boards, activities, agencies and programs and in any government entity that is funded in whole or in part by the County pursuant to the County's annual appropriation bill. The OCA reports directly to the President and Board of Commissioners of Cook County. An organizational diagram showing that responsible audit staff report independently to the President of the County Board and the County Board's Audit Committee will be submitted to HUD as part of the County's Financial Proficiency documents.

11. Procedures to Detect & Prevent, Fraud, Abuse & Mismanagement

Paragraph 10 above describes the monitoring mechanism that will be used to detect fraud, abuse and mismanagement. We will also involve the Office of the County Auditor as needed. (Information about the functions of the County Auditor was provided in the Financial Proficiency documents previously submitted to HUD.) Additionally, Cook County has adopted an Ethics Ordinance that provides direction for ethical conduct of the President, County Cook Commissioners, and all County employees that are to be followed in conducting the business of Cook County. This Ordinance contains conflict of interest provisions and can be viewed on the County website at www.cookcountyil.gov. Cook County staff must go through an annual training on the Ethics ordinance and is responsible to report suspected fraud, waste and/or abuse to the County Office of Inspector General. Additionally, the County will comply with all HUD conflict of interest provisions.

12. Capacity

Activities funded by this grant will be carried out by County staff or by subrecipients, contractors or developers under the supervision of County staff. DPD currently administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program grant (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant, and Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Cook County is timely in its obligation of funds, expenditures, project completion, and reporting. Under its CDBG program, Cook County has implemented over 130 capital improvement projects over the past three years and has significant experience in this area. These programs are audited each year by an external auditor. The County's CDBG and HOME programs have been monitored by HUD in the last three years. The County successfully administered both the CDBG-R program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) Program. It is anticipated that at least \$55 million will be expended by September 1, 2018, with the expenditure of the remaining \$13.8 million to be completed by August 1, 2019.

13. Description of Programs/Activities

A general description of programs and activities appears in the below Activity Summary Table. Cook County intends to carry out all of the programs and activities through sub-recipients or developers, with the possible exception of the planning activity.

CATEGORY	TOTAL Allocation	March 2014 Allocation	September 2014 Allocation	May 2015 Allocation
Strategic Acquisition	\$15,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$0
Rehabilitation/ Remediation	\$12,000,000	\$2,205,000	\$4,395,000	\$5,400,000
Infrastructure	\$28,936,000	\$2,000,000	\$22,260,000	\$4,676,000
Replacement Housing	\$15,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$2,000,000
Tenant Based Rental Program	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$0

Economic Development	\$2,000,000			\$2,000,000
Planning	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$0
Administration	\$4,180,000	\$695,000	\$2,745,000	\$740,000
TOTAL	\$83,616,000	\$13,900,000	\$54,900,000	\$14,816,000

Cook County residents and business owners will access the Strategic Acquisition Program through applications already submitted to IEMA and/or via a program mechanism to be outlined by the County. Cook County will work with local jurisdictions and/or other County agencies (e.g. the Forest Preserve District of Cook County) on the acquisition/disposition of the subject properties.

The Rehabilitation/Remediation program will provide small amounts in the form of a forgivable loan to existing homeowners to deal with issues that remain unresolved from the floods.

The Infrastructure Program will be used to fund strategic infrastructure projects the County and its partners have identified to address flood impacts or mitigate future flooding.

Replacement Housing will be identified as part of IHDA's 2014 and future funding rounds, where the housing can be identified as replacement housing for vulnerable populations.

The Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program will be administered by The Housing Authority of Cook County along with qualified subrecipients who will provide services. The Program will provide shallow subsidies on a short term basis along and vouchers needing the subsidy for a longer term to low-income households who are in need do issues around flooding and wishing to live in opportunity areas to be close to work, family or community and are priced out of the rental market due to high demand.

Economic development needs identified more recently were described in Section 2 above, and the County is exploring how to support these needs. Planning dollars will be used to fund studies in municipalities and/or unincorporated areas of Cook County to determine what projects/efforts would help address current flooding problems. Other efforts as noted in Section 2 above will also be supported via the planning allocation.

14. Basis for Allocation:

The needs assessment has informed the allocation determinations in that two high priority needs were identified: housing and infrastructure. The infrastructure funding that has been set aside will be used as a local match to work with other agencies and/or to support smaller projects that the other agencies are not undertaking. Economic development activities have been identified as a lower priority and has received a smaller allocation under this Substantial Amendment.

15. Unmet Needs not yet Addressed:

The unmet need in Cook County is huge and growing. USACE is planning to go to Congress later this year to seek the \$400 million that was identified as needed within their study. Again, these funds will be used in part to support areas where they have identified for local and state government to assist in all that needs to be done. Cook County will look to supplement rather than duplicate these efforts with CDBG-DR funds. Given the scope of the need and the size of the related eligible geography the County

recognizes that its CDBG-DR funding will only partially address unmet need. However, the County is hopeful that effective utilization of this funding will set the stage for other internal and external efforts.

Toward that end, Cook County has now signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with MWRD, who was granted the authority by Cook County to address storm water management. MWRD has done a full water shed management study of the County and is now working with each individual municipality to identify areas of overland flooding. Cook County will be looking to partner with MWRD to fund studies in communities that may not have the wherewithal to work with MWRD and may need additional outside help. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) may also be engaged to help with preparing either Comprehensive Plans or other plans around flooding issues for municipalities with capacity limitations.

16. Program/Activities Details:

Activity	Description	Total Budget
<p><i>Administration</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Cook County is allowed to use up to 5% of the Grant for Administration Services.</p> <p>National Objective: N/A</p> <p>Projected Start Date: 6/1/14</p> <p>Projected End Date: 9/29/19</p>	<p>Administration of the Grant Fund over the five year period of the grant.</p> <p>Location/geographic description: N/A</p> <p>Responsible Organization: DPD</p> <p>Performance Measures: Timely and compliant administration of the grant; timely expenditures; timely reporting.</p>	<p>\$4,180,000</p>
<p><i>Planning</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Cook County is allowed to use up to 15% of the Grant for Planning Activities</p> <p>National Objective: N/A</p> <p>Project Start Date: 9/1/14</p> <p>Projected End Date: TBD</p>	<p>Will be used for Planning Studies of smaller geographies and an array of planning activities as detailed above.</p> <p>Location/geographic description: TBD</p> <p>Responsible Organization: DPD/Potential Subrecipient(s)</p> <p>Performance Measures: Completion of studies and identification of projects needed to assist the identified geography.</p>	<p>\$5,000,000</p>
<p><i>Strategic Acquisition</i></p>	<p>This activity will work in conjunction with local municipalities to undertake voluntary buy-out of</p>	<p>\$15,000,000 (funding</p>

<p>Eligibility: Repetitive loss properties</p> <p>National Objective: All three are possible</p> <p>Projected start date: 6/1/2014</p> <p>Projected end date: 9/29/2019</p>	<p>owner occupied houses or other properties impacted by the flood event, with a focus in low-mod areas or owned by low-mod households which meet the Cook County buy-out criteria: structures not protected by capital improvements; projects in approved watershed plans; structures subject to flooding depth of one foot above the low entry elevation for any one historic event; subject to a flooding depth of one-half foot for any two historic flood events; or a FEMA repetitive loss structure.</p> <p>Buy-out is the only alternative in many flood prone areas of the County where there is no permanent infrastructure solution to the flooding. This will result in long-term recovery for these households.</p> <p>The buyouts will be performed in conjunction with the Cook County Forest Preserve District, local park districts, or other partners, allowing the land to be returned to open land for easier flow of waterways.</p> <p>Location/geographic description: To be determined – see needs assessment.</p> <p>Responsible Organization: Cook County DPD, IEMA, MWRD, Cook County Forest Preserve District, municipal park districts</p> <p>Performance measures will be: # of units (approximately 60 anticipated)</p>	<p>threshold per property will be determined on a case-by-case basis)</p>
<p><i>Rehabilitation/ Remediation</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Housing with an unmet need</p> <p>National Objective: Low/Mod Housing</p> <p>Projected Start Date: 6/1/2014</p> <p>Projected End Date: 9/29/2019</p>	<p>Outreach to impacted areas to determine if low-income residents need assistance with rehabilitation and/or remediation occurring as a result of the flood event. This will result in long-term recovery for these households.</p> <p>Location/geographic description: Cook County, beginning with outreach to most affected neighborhoods identified in this Action Plan</p> <p>Responsible Organization: Neighborhood Housing Services (South) and Northwest Housing Partnership (north)- Nonprofit Subrecipients will administer the program.</p>	<p>\$12,000,000</p>

	Performance measures will be: # of units (250 anticipated)	
<p><i>Replacement Housing</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Housing</p> <p>National Objective: Low/Mod Housing or Limited Clientele</p> <p>Projected Start Date: 6/1/2014</p> <p>Projected End Date: 9/29/2019</p>	<p>Looking at several rental developments that will target seniors and special needs populations, as well as some new construction single family homes</p> <p>Location: areas near heavily impacted areas, but not in flood plains.</p> <p>Responsible Organizations: Non-Profit or For Profit Developers – mostly CHDO's.</p> <p>Performance measures will be: # of units (80 anticipated)</p>	\$15,000,000
<p><i>Infrastructure</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Needed infrastructure improvements that address flooding</p> <p>National Objective: Low/Mod Area Benefit, Low/Mod Jobs, Urgent Need</p> <p>Projected Start Date: 6/1/2014</p> <p>Projected End Date: 9/29/2019</p>	<p>There are a number of infrastructure projects under consideration. Conversations are ongoing with MWRD, IEMA, USACE and local municipalities.</p> <p>Location: TBD – see needs assessment</p> <p>Responsible Organization: Cook County in coordination with units of local government</p> <p>Performance Measures: 10 - 20 infrastructure projects supported.</p>	\$ 28,936,000
<p><i>Economic Development</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Working Capital for businesses who were either closed due to flooding or can show structural damage to buildings; workforce development efforts</p> <p>National Objective: All three are possible</p> <p>Project Start Date: 5/1/2015</p>	<p>Looking to assist up to five businesses and support workforce development efforts in the implementation and maintenance of green infrastructure and other flood related tasks</p> <p>Location: TBD</p> <p>Responsible Organization: Cook County Bureau of Economic Development.</p> <p>Performance Measures: up to five loans to businesses to be repaid; employ up to 20 local residents via workforce efforts</p>	\$2,000,000

Project End Date: 9/29/2019		
<p><i>Tenant-Based Rental Assistance</i></p> <p>Eligibility: Housing</p> <p>National Objective: Low/Mod Housing</p> <p>Projected Start Date: 6/1/2014</p> <p>Projected End Date: 9/29/2019</p>	<p>Rental demand in opportunity areas (areas of high employment) of the County has risen over the past five years, and flooding has exacerbated the problem, by reducing the supply of rental homes available. Families and individuals also suffered from illness, not allowing them to work for a period of time, others were permanently displaced, due to the flooding. A tenant-based rental assistance program would assist households with short term emergency needs (up to three months of rent) and those families who were displaced up with services and a Housing Choice Voucher</p> <p>Location: High Opportunity Areas</p> <p>Responsible Organization: Designated “banker” and fulfill a similar role for the North/Northwest suburbs under the Continuum of Care structure. Connections for the Homeless</p> <p>Performance Measures: # of households assisted (150 households)</p>	<p>\$1,500,000</p>

17. Environmental:

Due to the nature and design of this program, these actions are subject to a HUD-required environmental review. DPD assumes responsibility for environmental reviews at the appropriate level.

18. Fair Housing:

Cook County has a current Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing, which was submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and Office of Community Planning and Development in 2012. A new Consolidated Plan is currently under development for 2015-2019 and will include updates as applicable for fair housing impediments and proposed actions to affirmatively further fair housing. It will be submitted to HUD in advance of August 2015.

19. Duplication of Benefits:

Cook County DPD will administer the CDBG-DR funding with a focus on preventing the duplication of benefits. For the purposes of this program, duplication of benefits is taken to indicate a situation where a beneficiary receives more disaster assistance than the amount of loss, or receives benefits for a loss already covered by other sources. Disaster assistance includes private and public sources such as donations, insurance proceeds, volunteer work and grants. The focus on preventing duplication of

benefits is meant to guard against fraud and ineligible use of taxpayer funding, and to ensure federal government funding is the last source of recovery funding made available.

Assistance is considered duplicative when two sources exceed the need for the same recovery item. Assistance is not duplicative when two sources contribute to the same need and total assistance does not exceed the total need. Different sources of assistance can be combined to meet recovery needs as long as the assistance is not duplicative.

In administering the CDBG-DR funding, DPD will establish a process to work with federal, state and local sources of disaster assistance to verify any assistance applied for and/or received by beneficiaries. DPD will work with all potential beneficiaries to determine the level of unmet need prior to providing any assistance. DPD will require all beneficiaries to:

- Report all assistance sought or received including insurance, loans and grants
- Sign an affidavit certifying that all assistance has been reported
- Allow DPD to check for sources of disaster assistance
- Sign a subrogation agreement, to be used if a duplication of benefits is determined

The Project Management function within the Housing and Community Development divisions of DPD, in conjunction with any sub recipients funded for this purpose, will be primarily responsible for gathering and verifying the above information. Any issues identified will be escalated to the Program Managers for review and final determination.

The County is already working with FEMA/IEMA and MWRD to ensure that funds are supportive of their related efforts and not duplicative. Cook County has administered flood assistance to individual homeowners through other Federal funds in the past and will follow a similar program model.

For the replacement housing, a full subsidy layering analysis will be performed as part of the underwriting.

For tenant-based rental assistance, households will need to show some direct cause of need to flooding and share the last two years of tax returns, as well as any other financial documents to show that they qualify for funding.

20. Procurement:

Cook County has its own procurement code, which will guide the procurements needed for this grant as applicable. However, most of the solicitation of sub-recipients is not subject to the Procurement Code. Cook County DPD has administered hundreds of CDBG projects via sub recipients in recent years and requires all sub recipients to adhere to HUD procurement standards. Sub recipients will be identified to assist with the Rehabilitation/Renovation program. The County will work with the Housing Authority of Cook County to implement the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance. As for replacement housing, Cook County will review proposals that are simultaneously sent to IHDA as part of their Qualified Allocation Plan and will review them based on the following Housing Prioritization criteria based on the HOME Program.

Cook County Housing Prioritization Criteria

In general, entities submitting for housing funding and those receiving housing funding will be reviewed, evaluated and monitored based on the following guidelines:

1. Complete Application - This comprehensive request should include all documents requested on the Housing Checklist. Those documents not available should be indicated with a full and detailed explanation. Any missing or non-submitted documents may cause a delay or denial of request of housing funds.
2. Qualified Development Team - The applicant must include and identify information about the persons or organizations that will be responsible for carrying out all aspects of the proposed project. This includes, but is not limited to the following areas: (a) Housing, (b) financing, (c) construction, architectural design and management, (d) management of housing, including marketing, leasing and assets, and (e) legal team.
3. Past Performance - The County will consider the past performance of developers that will include, but is not limited to: the ability to successfully structure and close a project, timeliness of completing a project, management practices other housing facilities and payment history on the servicing of their loans.
4. Underwriting Analysis - The applicant must provide a detailed development cost breakdown which includes all acquisition, construction, soft costs, and fees. A full operating budget must also be submitted documenting an economically feasible project after payment of expenses and debt. A subsidy layering review is conducted to determine the appropriate level of housing subsidy. This review is summarized in the Department's Staff Report presented to the County Board of Commissioners. All other financing components of the transaction must be identified at the time of request, including the most reasonable loan amounts, interest rate and terms. A final financial review is performed prior to loan closing to ensure that the project is still economically feasible. The project's analysis of the operating budget or pro-forma must show that there is adequate cash flow to meet all debt service requirements (by all lenders) and provide for adequate reserves throughout the affordability period. A capital needs assessment is required for all projects with 26 or more total units. A market analysis is required for new construction and new single family housing projects which will indicate a favorable market for the proposal.
5. Risk Management - Generally, the property is used as security for the housing funds provided to a development. The County is generally in a second mortgage position behind the primary lender, but will evaluate request for modifications to this request.
6. Compliance Monitoring – Where HUD required, the County will require annual rental compliance monitoring throughout the affordability period. The owner remains responsible throughout the affordability period to continue to comply with all federal regulations applicable to the project, including but not limited to: 1) maintaining the appropriate rent levels, 2) income qualifying the household, 3) maintaining the appropriate number of assisted units as required by federal regulations, 4) collecting all necessary documentation in a timely manner and forwarding it to the County, and 5) ensuring an adequately maintained facility.

7. Asset Monitoring - The County also reserves the right to perform asset monitoring to insure continued viability of a project. This includes, but is not limited to, the review of financial statements, records retained at the management office related to operations, insurance documentation, affirmative fair marketing and other pertinent documents. This review must be conducted annually for projects with 10 or more assisted units

21. Waivers:

Cook County intends to utilize the waivers and alternative requirements applicable to this appropriation published by HUD in the Notices. Cook County will be requesting the following waiver to existing regulations in a separate submission to HUD:

- Cook County requests a waiver of 42 U.S.C. 5305(a) in order to provide tenant-based rental assistance to households for a period of up to two years impacted by disasters eligible under the Appropriations Act. Cook County further reserves the ability to request additional waivers from the Secretary of HUD, if and as necessary.

22. Substantial Amendments:

At a minimum, the following modifications will constitute a substantial amendment: a change in the program benefit or eligibility criteria; the allocation or reallocation of more than \$5 million; or the addition of any activity. Cook County may substantially amend the Action Plan by following the same procedures required for the preparation and submission of the initial Action Plan. Amendments to the Action Plan that do not meet the threshold to be considered a substantial amendment will not require a public comment period, but all amendments will be numbered sequentially and posted on the disaster recovery website.

23. Pre- Agreement Costs:

Pre-Agreement costs of this grant include planning costs, preparation of the required Certification of Controls, Processes and Procedures and accompanying documents, conducting the needs assessment, data analysis, and preparation of this Action Plan.

24. Public Comments:

A summary of comments received and County responses will be inserted in the Appendix upon conclusion of the public comment period.