

# County of Cook, Illinois



## **Citizen Participation Plan Addendum for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funding**

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Cook County Board of Commissioners**

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

## **Purpose**

This document is supplemental to Cook County's current Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) which was last revised and adopted in 2013. It outlines stakeholder and public engagement policies and procedures which may vary from the standard CPP specifically as it relates to the County's allocation of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. It governs all existing and future CDBG-DR funding allocations. Current allocations total \$68.8 million in accordance with the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2). These funds 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. A requirement of the CDBG-DR grant funds is the adoption of a CPP specific to these funds. This CPP plan is more streamlined than the County's standard CPP and meets the requirements stated in the Federal Register publications found at the following link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/cdbg-dr/cdbg-dr-laws-regulations-and-federal-register-notices/> under the title of Hurricane Sandy and Other Disasters Occurring in 2011-2013

## **Additional or Distinct Provisions**

The following provisions are in addition to or distinct from the County's standard CPP and apply specifically to stakeholder and citizen participation for CDBG-DR funding. Note – in many cases, these are minimum requirements and the County may elect to offer expanded citizen participation opportunities.

- At least seven (7) days will be provided for citizen comment on the original Action Plan to the CDBG-DR Action Plan.
- The County will ensure ongoing citizen access to information about the use of grant funds via postings to its website at <http://blog.cookcountyl.gov/economicdevelopment/cdbg-dr/>. All relevant documents including the original CDBG –DR Action Plan, subsequent Substantial Amendments, public notices, performance reports, etc. will be posted at this website page specifically developed by the County for this purpose. Additionally, the County will utilize press releases, email blasts, and presentations to share related information. Moreover, the County will coordinate with local municipalities to reach affected citizens.
- Unless specifically required, public hearings may not be held on Draft Substantial Amendments to the Action Plan.
- CDBG-DR may also be discussed at meetings of the Cook County Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) and Cook County Board as well as related subcommittees. All such meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Therefore, notification and reporting requirements apply any time a majority of a quorum of any of these groups assembles.
- All public meetings will be accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Cook County will ensure that all citizens have equal access to information and opportunities for input. Persons needing special accommodations due to disabilities or limited English proficiency will have an opportunity to request said accommodations. The County is also in the process of developing a specific Language Access Plan (LAP) in accordance with HUD requirements which will be incorporated within its standard CPP. The revised standard CPP inclusive of the LAP will be released for public review and comment prior to consideration for adoption later this year. Contingent upon the components of this LAP, the County will secure appropriate oral and written translation services for languages which meet the regulatory threshold per Federal requirements. Depending on the unique demographics and language proficiency levels of communities impacted by flooding and potentially eligible for CDBG-DR, the County may offer additional translation services as its discretion. The LAP will stipulate the appropriate written translation of vital documents (as deemed so by the County).
- For CDBG-DR only, at a minimum, the following modifications will trigger a Substantial Amendment:
  - a significant change in program benefit or eligibility criteria
  - the allocation or re- allocation of more than \$5 million
  - the addition of an activity

- Cook County may substantially amend the Action Plan by following this CPP Addendum as well as the standard CPP.
- Amendments to the Action Plan that do not meet the threshold to be considered a Substantial Amendment will be classified as minor amendments and will be published to the County's website.
- All amendments, minor or substantial, will be numbered sequentially and posted on County's website.