



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC NOTICE (October 17, 2024)

Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“NMHC”) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) Program’s Action Plan (“AP”), this is to notify the general public about these proposed substantial and non-substantial amendments to the CDBG-DR AP and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments.

The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP. Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts.

A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC’s CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:

1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Conversely, non-substantial amendments to the Action Plan are not subject to citizen participation but NMHC decided to include a non-substantial amendment to the said Plan in this Public Notice for informational purposes only. Furthermore, all action plan amendments will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Last, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program’s Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or found at Subsection 4.E.1. Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 72 - 74), as amended. A copy of the Action Plan, as amended by these proposed changes, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.



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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes are highlighted in yellow. The corresponding page numbers reflect the actual page numbers of the most current action plan, as amended and posted on NMHC's CDBG-DR website at: <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/action-plan/action-plan-documents/>

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 04

Summary and Modifications

Pursuant to **Subsection 5.D.¹**, the following proposed modifications shall go into effect after the required 30-day public comment period ends and concurrence from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The proposed modifications, as presented herein, were prompted by the following reason(s):

1. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) has determined the necessity to allocate additional funding towards road, power, and water repair projects under the Low Mod Area Benefit (LMA) National Objective. This need stems from the significant damage caused by qualifying storms that have impacted vital infrastructure, disrupting essential services and community functioning. NMHC proposes to reprogram \$19,565,454.32 from Public Facilities Activities to Roads Activities (\$6,325,166) and Utilities Activities (\$13,240,288.32).
2. **Evaluation and Expansion of Projects:** A comprehensive evaluation revealed that the CNMI's infrastructure, particularly in the areas of road and utilities, requires greater diversification and support. The damage assessment, limited resources, and cost of inflation led to the identification of additional projects and additional funding needed on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, which have been severely impacted. These additional projects are crucial to restoring and improving critical infrastructure and services, hence the need to increase the budget allocated for these activities.
3. **Infrastructure Activities for Disaster Recovery:** The Substantial Amendment also allows NMHC to adjust the program's Infrastructure Plan. By reallocating funds, the agency can provide targeted assistance to disaster victims by accelerating the pace of infrastructure recovery. Given the importance of roads, utilities, and basic services to the economic and social stability of the affected areas, modifying the funding allocations is vital for disaster recovery efforts.
4. This amendment is necessary for the CNMI's infrastructures that were greatly impacted by the 2018 storms. In order to target heavily impacted areas and make improvements, NMHC is proposing to amend the CNMI Action Plan to allocate sufficient funding to critical infrastructure projects. Doing so will not only greatly impact the strength and resilience, but also, recovery of the CNMI. NMHC strongly believes that this amendment is necessary and funds will ensure that the resources are appropriately allocated to the most heavily impacted areas.
5. During the planning process, it became clear that the most impacted areas were Saipan and Tinian, and that infrastructure activities on these islands should be prioritized. The scoring criteria established in the action plan (refer to page 51) will guide how projects and activities are selected, with a strong emphasis on the infrastructure's broad benefits across the islands.

¹ A **substantial amendment** is defined as a change in program benefit or eligibility criteria; the addition or deletion of an activity; or the allocation or reallocation of a monetary threshold specified by the grantee in its action plan. The CNMI monetary threshold for a substantial amendment is any changes in Action Plan amounts that exceed \$5 million. Substantial amendments are changes to an Action Plan which require a 30-day public comment period. All amendments will be listed on the CDBG-DR website sequentially.



- **Benefit to the Population:** Due to the small size of the CNMI islands, any infrastructure improvements will have widespread benefits for the entire population. Moreover, the high percentage of low- to moderate-income benefit area and over 90% of the population are minority residents ensures that these activities will provide broad, equitable benefits. These factors also ensure economic stability so residents can remain in homes and residences and retain their jobs because the infrastructure is improved. The actual size of the Islands also means that all persons will benefit from most of the infrastructure improvements.
- **Economic Stability:** Improved infrastructure will play a critical role in ensuring economic stability for residents. Enhanced roads, power grids, and water systems will help maintain residential stability, allowing individuals to retain their homes and jobs, which are key factors in sustaining local economies.

6. The transfer of funds under Substantial Amendment No. 04 is necessary to address the infrastructure challenges exacerbated by recent storms. Without this amendment, NMHC would not have the flexibility to allocate sufficient resources to critical infrastructure projects. By modifying the budget and increasing the available funding for road and utility projects, the CNMI can make measurable progress in recovery, particularly in the areas that have been hit hardest. These improvements are also essential for long-term resilience in the face of future natural disasters.

Given the substantial impact these infrastructure projects will have on both the recovery and future resilience of the CNMI, we strongly believe that this amendment is justified and necessary. The transfer of funds will ensure that resources are appropriately allocated to the most urgent areas, allowing us to support disaster victims and stabilize the affected communities.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CDBG-DR ALLOCATIONS

	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	\$254,324,000		\$254,324,000
HOUSING PROGRAMS	\$137,923,600		\$138,423,600
Homeowner Rehab and Recon	\$39,457,033		\$39,957,033
Single-Family New Const Dev	\$59,009,534		\$59,009,534
Affordable Rental Housing Dev	\$39,457,033		\$39,457,033
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	\$91,279,335		\$91,279,335
Port Facilities	\$0		\$0
Public Facilities	\$58,881,508	(\$19,565,454.32)	\$39,316,053.68
Roads	\$10,650,000	\$6,325,166.00	\$16,975,166
Utilities	\$21,747,827	\$13,240,288.32	\$34,988,115.32
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$8,660,000		\$8,660,000
ADMINISTRATION	\$12,617,718		\$12,617,718
PLANNING	\$3,843,347		\$3,343,347



Figure 22. Proposed Projects and Estimated Budgets. This details the specific budgets of HUD-funded activities.

PROGRAMS	TOTAL ALLOCATION	PERCENT OF TOTAL ALLOCATION BY PROGRAM	PERCENT OF TOTAL ALLOCATION BY PROJECT TYPE
HOUSING (includes delivery costs)	\$138,423,600		
Homeowner Rehabilitation & Reconstruction	\$39,957,033	29%	54%
Single Family New Construction Development	\$59,009,534	43%	
Affordable Rental Housing Development	\$39,457,033	29%	
SUB TOTAL HOUSING	\$138,423,600	100%	
INFRASTRUCTURE	\$91,279,335		
Port Facilities	\$0	0%	36%
Public Facilities	\$39,316,053.68	43%	
Roads	\$16,975,166	19%	
Utilities	\$34,988,115.32	38%	
SUB TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	\$91,279,335	100%	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$8,660,000	100%	3%
ADMINISTRATION	\$12,617,718	100%	5%
PLANNING	\$3,343,347	100%	2%
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS	\$254,324,000	100%	100%

Page 84

a. Allocation Amount

PROPOSED PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
Port Facilities	\$0
Public Facilities	\$39,316,053.68
Roads	\$16,975,166
Utilities	\$34,988,115.32
TOTAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE	\$91,279,355
Performance Outcome	About 20-30 public facilities will be assisted

Written comments must reference “CNMI Action Plan – Substantial Amendment No. 04” and are due by November 16, 2024 and may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.



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NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

(October 17, 2024)

Sigun para i Seksiona 5 A. gi “Northern Marianas Housing Corporation” (“NMHC”) i “Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”)” na Prugrâman “Action Plan” (“AP”), para u manafanungu’ i henerât publiku put esti i manmaproponi na “substantial” yan “non-substantial” na amenda siha gi CDBG-DR AP yan para u manâ’i i publiku tiempu para u fampattisipâo yan i uputunidât para u famanoppi’ gi esti i manmaproponi na amenda siha. I henerât publiku debi na u ma’intrega hâlum i upiñon-ñiha gi halum trenta (30) dihas ginen i fetchan publikasion nu esti na Nutisia put esti i tinilaika ni manmaproponi siha gi CDBG-DR AP.

I “substantial” na amenda siha manaprisisu yanggin guaha tinilaika gi halum i prugrâman benifisiu/“criteria” i kuâlifikâo, “addition/deletion” nu i aktibidât, o sino “reallocation i “substantial amount”. I “substantial” na amenda siempri lokkui’ prumisisu yanggin kuatkuet na tinilaika siha gi prugrâma umopus i singku miyon pesus (\$5,000,000). I “substantial” na amenda debi na u pribeni rasonâppli na uputunidât (maseha 30 dihas) para upiñon publiku.

Todu i tinilaika siha debi na u madokumentu ni Prugrâman NMHC’s CDBG-DR para u pribeni todû i dos nisisâriu yan rasonâppli na “justification”. Todû i “substantial” na amenda siha siempri ingklusu i mantinattiyi:

1. I eksakto na aidentifikasion nu mânu na sinahguan manâ’yi, mafunas, pat matulaika;
2. Klâru na diskripsion nu ginen mânu/para mânu i fundu; yan
3. I mâs nuebu yan maribisa na “budget” dispues di i “re-allocation” nu i salâppi’.

Gi inâtlabis, i “non-substantial” na amenda siha para i “Action Plan” ti manmasuhetu para pättisipasion siudadanu lão i NMHC madisidi para u ingklusu i “non-substantial” na amenda para i mamensiona na Plãnu gi halum esti na Nutisia para infotmasion ha’ na rason siha. Yan mâs, todû i “action plan” na amenda siha siempri managuaha gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi www.cnmicdbg-dr.com yan siña machuli’ kopia gi ufisinan i NMHC yan i CDBG-DR siha ni gaigi iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta para etyi siha i ti siña ma’akses i “Internet”. I ninatutungu’ i publiku mampus impottânti sa’ esti na fundu dinipendi meggai gi pättisipasion publiku yan i tetenan ni ti matakka’ nisisita para u ma’ebalua.



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I NMHC siempri ma'usa i mantinattiyi na "avenues/outlets" para u manafanungu' i pupbliku put i Prugrâman CDBG-DR:

- Nutisia gi halum gaseta
- Anunsiu Rediu • Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Uttimu, i NMHC siempri ha chuli' rasonâpbli na manera para u na'siguru na i "very low-, low-," yan "moderateincome" na petsona siha, kuntuodu i tâotâo ni gai disibidât, i gai inamku' yan i tâotâo ni "Limited English Proficiency (LEP)" na managuaha akses para u mäs makumprendi i prugrâma yan parehu na uputunidât para u fampattisipâo gi halum esti impottânti na aktibidât i CDBG-DR ni kumunfotma yan i manmakâtkâtga na "policies" yan "procedures" ni gaigi gi halum i Prugrâman CDBG-DR Citizen Participation Plan." I manmamensiona yan kumplidu na "Citizen Participation Plan" siña ma'akses gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña masodda' gi Subsection 4.E.1. Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 72 - 74), ni ma amenda. I kopian i "Action Plan", komu ma'amenda ginen esti na tinilaika na priniponi siha, siña ma'akses gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña machuli' kopia gi maseha mânu na ufisinan i NMHC iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

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