



TO: Mayor Shaun Sipma
Members of the City Council

FROM: John R. Zakian, DR Grant Program Manager & Chief Resilience Officer

DATE: May 24, 2020

SUBJECT: SUPPORT REQUEST OF CONGRESS TO EXTEND CDBG-NDR UNTIL 9/30/25

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

City Council support the letter from 13 CDBG-NDR Grantees asking Congress to extend the deadline to September 30, 2025 and authorize the Mayor to send support letters to the North Dakota Delegation.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

John R. Zakian, DR Program Manager & Chief Resilience Officer, 420-4528

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Background

During the past 30 days, the grantee administrators representing the 13 CDBG-DR grantees, California, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Iowa, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Louisiana, Shelby County, TN, New York City, New Orleans, LA, and Minot, ND, have held virtual meetings to seek to reach agreement on a common extension request to be sent to Congress. Several grantees including Minot are much further along in carrying out their Action Plans than others but there was an early consensus that legitimate concern exists that future impact of Covid-19 restrictions can impact all Grantees' ability to meet the current statutory September 30, 2022 deadline. Several states and one city legal teams researched the statute and related federal regulations, and agreed that there is only one way to pursue a deadline extension which is through Congressional action. While grantees initially expressed a wide range of deadline options to pursue, there was quick agreement reached that the most reasoned, reasonable approach is to request three years.

B. Proposed Project

The CDBG-NDR Grantees agreed that the steps to be taken to seek the extension was for all 13 Grant Administrators to concur on the strategy. Second step is to commence June 1st for the 13 Grantee Administrators to secure letters of support from their appropriate elected officials which in the case of states will all likely be their Governors, in the cases of NYC and New Orleans with strong Mayor governments it will be the Mayor, Shelby County will be the county's Mayor, and Minot will be the Mayor and City Council. Since any such extension success will require bipartisan support in the House and the Senate, the Grantees recognized that Minot, Iowa, Tennessee, Louisiana will have a key role with the Senate. It was also agreed that the large states with fully staffed Washington, DC offices will have the lead in pursuit of actual draft legislation,

It was also strongly agreed by the 13 CDBG-NDR Grantees that for the moment carrying out the completion of the Action Plans needs to continue to focus on the September 30, 2022 deadline.

IV. IMPACT:

A. Strategic Impact:

The 13 CDBG-DR Grantees reaching consensus on an extension and speaking with one consistent voice significantly strengthens the case to secure an extension

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

An extension would provide the CDBG-NDR grantees with needed flexibility to address future adverse impacts that cannot be foreseen resulting from the Covid-19 impacts

C. Fiscal Impact:

Current tracking of CDBG-NDR administrative budget line comfortably projects sufficient funds through September 30, 2025

V. ALTERNATIVES

N/A

VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS

N/A

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft CDBG-NDR Grantees' letter