



Round I Committee Member Implementation FAQs

October 2014

- What's happening with the consulting firm that the Committee worked with during the planning phase of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program?
 - The work of the planning consultants that supported your committee during the planning phase of the program has concluded, and the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) has hired a new consulting firm—Hunt, Guillot and Associates (HGA)—to assist with implementing projects from the NYRCR Plans. These grant consultants have managed hundreds of projects and billions of dollars within U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) programs, particularly in the Gulf Region. They'll help to deliver projects that are implemented through the NYRCR program efficiently, successfully, and in full compliance with federal regulations.
- Why is it necessary to have grant consultants?
 - Implementing projects in compliance with HUD requirements can be complex, and the State wants to provide subrecipients with technical assistance to execute these projects efficiently and effectively.
- What has the State been doing since the Committee submitted its NYRCR Plan?
 - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) has been confirming additional project details, such as CDBG-DR eligibility and feasibility, for implementation. We have begun to identify the projects best poised to be implemented in the near term, to identify subrecipients, to meet with those subrecipients, and to enter into subrecipient agreements establishing a partnership for project implementation.
- What is a subrecipient?
 - A subrecipient is the entity—a municipality, other government agency, or eligible nonprofit organization—that will be charged with implementing the NYRCR projects.
- Will a subrecipient agreement be needed for each project?
 - Most projects will be implemented by an eligible local government or non-profit—a "subrecipient." In these cases, a subrecipient agreement between GOSR and the local partner will be necessary. In some other cases, a project may be directly implemented by a state agency. A project will provide the same benefit to a community regardless of the subrecipient or state agency selected.
- What are some of the HUD requirements for the State and subrecipients?
 - Requirements include financial management controls, project documentation and record keeping, reporting and payment, sub-granting, procurement/contracting, and use and reversion of assets in compliance with all federal regulations. Federal, state, and local regulations must also be followed, and include items such as federal and state

environmental review requirements (NEPA/SEQR), federal HUD Section 3 rules, federal and state Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise goals, and federal and state labor requirements, like Davis-Bacon rules.

- What support is the State providing to subrecipients to ensure that projects are implemented quickly and successfully?
 - GOSR is providing subrecipients with the flowing resources, which will not impact community allocations:
 1. Technical Assistance: As outlined above, GOSR grant consultants from the firm HGA will be providing technical assistance to subrecipients around CDBG-DR (eligibility, process, etc.), NYRCR Program implementation, and procurement.
 2. Environmental Review: GOSR will execute and fund all environmental review.
 3. Davis-Bacon Monitoring: Monitoring, including onsite interviews, will also be performed and funded by GOSR.
 4. Administrative Costs: GOSR will provide subrecipients with up to an additional 0.5% of project costs to fund items such as systems set-up for complying with CDBG-DR regulations.
 5. Program Delivery Costs: GOSR will provide subrecipients with up to an additional 10% of project costs to fund items such as staffing related to NYRCR project management.
- Which projects from the NYRCR Plan are eligible for funding through the Communities' NYRCR allocation?
 - Projects profiled in the NYRCR Plans are eligible for implementation through the NYRCR Program.
- Will all Proposed Projects in the NYRCR Plan be funded?
 - In many cases, NYRCR Planning Committees chose to include in their plans Proposed Projects with an aggregate cost that exceeded their community's allocations. As a result, not all Proposed Projects in the NYRCR Plan will necessarily be funded.
- Will all of a Community's projects be implemented at once?
 - No, implementation of projects will be staggered.
- How does payment work? Will the subrecipient be required to layout money? I heard that it was "reimbursement-based."
 - GOSR will provide funding to subrecipients for work once it has been completed. This will not necessarily require subrecipients to outlay funds, as a subrecipient may submit invoices to GOSR for reimbursement as they are received from contractors. GOSR will work with the federal government to reimburse subrecipients as quickly as possible.
- What happens if a project is over budget? Under budget?
 - GOSR is working with consultants and subrecipients to determine a reasonable cost estimate to complete these projects within the specified budget.

- What is included in project costs?
 - Hard and soft costs associated with construction (materials, labor, design, etc.).
- Are all projects in the plan CDBG-DR eligible?
 - Not all projects in the plan are necessarily CDBG-DR eligible, although GOSR worked with the Planning Committees to help ensure that most Proposed Projects are likely to be eligible. The grant consultants will provide further reviews of these projects based upon their expertise and additional information gathered as projects are further scoped through the pre-application phase of implementation.
- How were the first projects that will be advanced to implementation selected?
 - These are projects that are important to the community, have strong subrecipient support, protect populations and critical assets, and can be moved forward relatively quickly.
- What are the stages of implementation for each project?
 - After a subrecipient agreement is signed, what will follow for each project is the:
 1. Pre-Application Phase;
 2. Application Phase;
 3. Project Development Phase;
 4. Bidding/Pre-Construction Phase;
 5. Construction Phase;
 6. Monitoring Phase; and
 7. Project Closeout Phase.
- What are the next steps?
 - We have begun entering into subrecipient agreements and will continue over the coming weeks and months. Once the subrecipient agreement is signed, we will formally announce the first project in your community.
- Who is the Committee's point of contact?
 - The Regional Lead will continue to be the Committee's point of contact on the ground.