



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-1000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL  
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Cindy Axne  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Representative Axne:

On behalf of Secretary Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., thank you for your letter requesting an update on the status of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to assist the State of Iowa in recovery from the catastrophic floods of 2019. The following information is from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development.

On January 27, 2020, the Department published a *Federal Register* Notice that allocates \$96,741,000 of CDBG-DR funds to the State and establishes the requirements for the use of those funds. To expedite access to this funding, the *Federal Register* Notice does not establish new requirements for this grant but relies on the requirements previously established by the Department for 2017 disasters.

As required by the appropriation that provided this funding, the State is required to expend CDBG-DR funds in the most-impacted and distressed (MID) area of the disaster. For the State of Iowa, data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other sources indicate that all CDBG-DR funds must be expended in Mills and Fremont counties. The State has proposed adding additional areas to the HUD-identified MID area and that request is under review.

Under the Notice, the State must post its proposed Action Plan for using these funds no later than April 4, 2020, and solicit public comment on its proposed long-term recovery activities. The State must respond to public comments and submit a final Action Plan to HUD for review no later June 2, 2020. As a former CDBG-DR grantee, the State is well positioned to move quickly with implementation of the Action Plan following HUD's approval.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

[signed electronically on April 15, 2020]

Len Wolfson  
Assistant Secretary for Congressional  
and Intergovernmental Relations