

RISE WEST VIRGINIA SLUM AND BLIGHT REMOVAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the RISE West Virginia Slum and Blight Removal Program is to remove structures damaged by, or designated as slum and blight because of the June 2016 floods which, in turn, will promote the well-being of the community facilitating long-term recovery. Many homes and commercial properties have been abandoned by their owners in favor of relocating to higher ground. Immediately following the flood and into this year, the West Virginia National Guard utilized FEMA funding to tear down homes and remove personal property at no cost to the homeowner through the Private Property Debris Removal Program. While their efforts have been monumental, the National Guard, along with local emergency managers and code enforcement officials, have expressed that some areas within the affected counties are still left with remaining abandoned properties and have provided data to the State that corroborates this reality. Many of the local jurisdictions have already identified code enforcement cases but lack the funds to demolish the blighted structure. Areas that still have the most work left to do include the towns of Richwood and Clendenin in Kanawha County, where over 100 properties remain abandoned. The RISE West Virginia Slum and Blight Removal Program intends to continue the prior efforts of the Guard by working with local jurisdictions through their code enforcement offices to remove all standing structural components and any remaining debris. The purpose is to address slum and blight on a spot basis, and assist in the removal of vacant, deteriorated or abandoned buildings through code enforcement activities. The program will address voluntary and involuntary participation for any dwelling, building, structure, or property that is unfit for human habitation or for commercial, industrial, or business use and not in compliance with applicable codes and constitutes an endangerment to the public health or safety as a result of unsanitary or unsafe conditions.

ADMINISTERING ENTITY: The RISE WV Slum and Blight Removal Program will be directly administered by the State through the West Virginia Department of Commerce.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED: Disaster declared counties: Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Roane, Summers, and Webster Counties. Eighty percent of the CDBG-DR funds will be awarded to those properties located in the most impacted counties of Clay, Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Nicholas.

PARTICIPATION: Applicants may submit an application requesting demolition of an applicant owned structure. Voluntary participation will be limited to persons who are deemed low- to moderate-income. The program will allow involuntary participation through local code enforcement officials across the 12 declared counties. The code enforcement officials will submit cases for consideration to the program by providing evidence of the violation of the local public nuisance ordinance.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: All voluntary applicants must have had ownership interest in the property on June 26, 2016 and must currently own the property. The property must have been damaged by the flood, located in one of the 12 disaster declared counties, and currently be vacant. Eligible properties include both residential and commercial. For involuntary participation, a local jurisdiction may refer open code enforcement cases to the program for consideration of demolition activities.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES: Substantially damaged structures located in the floodway will be prioritized for demolition activities. Further, the State will prioritize outreach to owners of properties located in the floodway by utilizing FEMA flood zone data.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES: Eligible under HCDA Sections 105(a)(3) and 105(a)(4).

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE: Elimination of Slum and Blight and/or Urgent Need [24 CFR 70.483(d)]
CDBG-DR Allocation: \$5,875,000

PROJECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The State estimates it will be able to demolish up to 200 dilapidated properties.

START DATE: The State anticipates launching the Revitalize WV Demolition Program in the second quarter of 2018.

END DATE: The Revitalize WV Demolition Program will end upon the expenditure of all funds allocated for this program or within six years after the execution of the grant agreement with HUD.

BRIDGE HOME PROGRAM

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION: Given the state's rugged and rural landscape, many properties have only one access point via private roads with bridges, a substantial amount of which were damaged or destroyed during the flood. Due to the large amount of private, non-county maintained bridges that were damaged affected residents have limited or no access to their homes and some do not have access to evacuation routes. Homeowners and renters in West Virginia need this specific assistance. FEMA Public Assistance may not be available to repair these roads due to their lack of public maintenance, even though they provide critical emergency access to families and homeowners. Without the reconstruction of the private roads and bridges, residents will be at high risk when the next disaster occurs.

The State will coordinate with WVVOAD to administer the Bridge Home Program. Specifically, applicants will apply to the WV VOAD for assistance and WV VOAD will submit the applications of those residences located in Kanawha, Greenbrier, Nicholas and Clay Counties to WVDOC for review. WVDOC will review the applications for all eligibility criteria and process for assistance. Once an applicant is deemed eligible for assistance, WVDOC will fund the costs of repair. WV VOAD will provide the voluntary labor necessary to complete the repairs consistent with all program requirements. All bridges will be constructed in compliance with HUD environmental and all other applicable requirements. Additionally, bridges will be constructed to mitigate against future damage.

ADMINISTERING ENTITY: The Bridge Home Program will be directly administered by the State through the West Virginia Department of Commerce in partnership with the West Virginia VOAD.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED: Disaster declared counties: Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Roane, Summers, Webster.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Applicants must prove that the private bridge access was directly damaged or destroyed by the flood (DR 4273) and provides primary access to the target homes.
- Applicants should demonstrate that lack of access is a health and safety issue and provides emergency vehicle access.
- The private bridge should serve at least two residential properties, one of which must be a primary residence.