

**NDRC: Resources Available to Applicants  
Webinar Transcript  
Thursday, August 27, 2015  
3:00 – 4:30 pm**

Patrick Taylor: ...and development. And with that, we will turn it over to today's presenters.

Joey Baietti: Good afternoon, and welcome to today's webinar for the National Disaster Resilience Competition. For today's webinar on – thank you for joining us for today's webinar on Resources for Applicants. Today, you will be hearing from Jessie Handforth Kome, Deputy Director, Office of Block Grant Assistance.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Hello.

Joey Baietti: Me, Joey Baietti, Program Analyst in the Office of Economic Resilience, and Todd Richardson, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development.

Todd Richardson: Hello.

Joey Baietti: Today I will be showing you all a brief overview of NDRC resources, some of the information on the NDRC HUD Exchange page, some info on resilience, and some resources from the Rockefeller Foundation. The majority of today's webinar will be devoted to answering your questions. We have our two NDRC experts in the room who will be available to answer questions on any and all NDRC topics.

We want to present you with this disclaimer. This presentation is intended to provide communities and states with the tools and information to help in climate resilience planning and activities. Information presented in this webinar is independent of the Notice of Funding Availability (the NOFA) for the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). While we expect that this information will be useful to interested communities and eligible applicants, it should not be construed as the definitive word on any singular approach to resilience.

Jessie Handforth Kome: But that last bullet's wrong. That was from – we will be answering NOFA questions during this because Todd and I are here.

Joey Baietti: Yes. The whole point of today's webinar will be to answer your questions so disregard this last one.

Jessie Handforth Kome: But the NFOA prevails.

Joey Baietti: But always, NOFA prevails.

So, the first thing I will need to show you will be on the NDRC page from the HUD Exchange site. So the first thing you'll need to do is go to the NDRC page on the HUD Exchange site. You'll have access to these slides so you'll be able to copy and paste this link right here. Or you could find it simply by Googling HUD Exchange and then the NDRC page. So I'm going to share my screen with you so we can get started.

So, once you get to the National Disaster Resilience Competition page from the HUD Exchange site, it will look like this. Now you can see that this page has a lot of different resources on it and I'm just going to walk you through a few of those resources. You can click on the links, any of these links, to go directly to those resources.

## NOFA-specific Resources Available to Applicants – 08/27/2015

I want to show you – the first thing I want to show you is where you could find the most updated FAQs. So, if you go down to right here, these are the Phase 2 FAQs. Simply click on the link and it'll take you directly to the FAQ page.

Jessie Handforth Kome: And we did put out updated FAQs on the 17<sup>th</sup> and we're working on another set right now because people have been busily sending us questions.

Joey Baietti: Yes, exactly. So right here, you'll see the most updated version date, which was the 17<sup>th</sup> like Jessie had mentioned. And when that's updated, you will see down here in the Categories, there will be an indicator next to the category where new questions have been added.

Jessie Handforth Kome: But they were all new on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Joey Baietti: Exactly. So these are all the categories and they were all new on the 17<sup>th</sup> so you don't see any indicator. But from here on, you'll see a little indicator next to these categories that have new questions.

So we're going to go back to the NRDC page simply by pressing back here. If you look up here at the top, this is the email address where you can send any and all questions to. And oh, the webinar page is right here, this link. If you click on this, it'll take you directly to the NDRC webinar series page. You can see that our webinars are divided into two categories – that's NOFA-specific webinars and the topical webinars. And these are all the webinars from Phase 1 and Phase 2. And as you can see, there's a little link next to a webinar. If you want to have access to all the information on the webinar, just click on that link next to the webinar you want to get access to. It will bring up all the information from that webinar, the video, and any related materials. Oh, this one doesn't have materials. Let's go to one with materials just so you can see that.

Jessie Handforth Kome: I think all the Phase 1 ones definitely have materials now.

Joey Baietti: Yeah.

Jessie Handforth Kome: There we go.

Joey Baietti: So you can see here this is the transcript of the webinar, the slides, and if there were any other materials, they would also be right here just below the video.

Jessie Handforth Kome: I'd like to point out that, you know, even for people not working on the competition, the webinars on the right hand side, the topical ones, if you want, people are getting interested in learning about resilience. Those topics are all going to survive the competition. They're not as bonded to the competition and they're meant to be topics of interest if you're interested in resilience from different aspects. So the fact that they're labeled "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" is just a convenience right now.

Joey Baietti: Yes, thank you very much. So we're going to go back to our slides here. The next thing I want to show you is some of the community resilience resources. So you can, again, either copy and paste this link or find it back on our NDRC HUD Exchange page. So, if we go back to the main page here, right here, Community Resilience Resources, just click on that link and this will take you to another page and you can see it has a lot of other resources on it. I'm just going to show you a few of these resources. So, if you go to the Natural Hazards tab and click on that, you could see a lot of information here on different natural hazards. If you click on any of these, so Flood, for instance, you'll see a lot of information and resources here for flood.

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You go back to our main page, go down here to Other Resource Portals. Show you the Climate Resilience Toolkit.

Jessie Handforth Kome: That's a cool toy.

Joey Baietti: Sorry, our computer's a little slow here. Open up this Climate Resilience Toolkit and you'll see that the toolkit provides resources in a framework for understanding and addressing climate issues. So, this is a neat tool that you have access to, as well, and that you can find from the NDRC HUD Exchange page.

Okay, and the last thing I want to show you is some of the resources that the Rockefeller Foundation has for you all. Again, you can go to that page by clicking on this link or copying and pasting this link into your web browser. But you can also get to it from the HUD Exchange NDRC page, and I'll show you how to do that right now. So if we go back to the main page right here. You can see by clicking on this link here, it'll take you directly to Rockefeller's page.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Which is much prettier than ours.

Joey Baietti: Yeah. So you can see here, this is Rockefeller's main page. This site has been transformed a bit from Phase 1, and now includes all the resilience initiatives that Rockefeller's working on across the globe. But if you'd like to get to the NDRC specific information, you can just scroll down the page to this link right here. It says "Resilience Academies." Go ahead and click on that link and this will take you to the Resilience Academies portion of their page and this has information and takeaways from the NDRC Resilience Academies that were hosted by Rockefeller earlier.

Jessie Handforth Kome: And a bunch of the materials, it looks like they've started putting them up.

Joey Baietti: Yes. And they have told us that this will be continually updating. So feel free to look around this site, as well, for more resources.

So with that, I would like to turn things over to our experts and open it up to your questions. Remember, you can ask any and all questions on NDRC topics. So Jessie and Todd will take it away now and feel free to ask us your questions.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Thank you, Joey. I have one thing, another resource that a few of you spotted in Phase 1 but not all of you, I guess, I gather when I was talking to people at the academies, and that is very soon, everybody's going to be out on the web for public comment. And if you want to see what you're up against, you could Google and try to catch when people post their applications out for public comment, looking for comment, see what the competition's doing. And that's one thing I would definitely – well, I am going to be doing because I'm curious.

But right now, we're starting to get some questions. There are none in the queue right now for any of you but the questions that we're starting to get are starting to involve eligibility waivers, eligibility in national objective questions, a lot of people trying to distinguish between how to do project and program BCAs. And we're getting a fair number from existing CDBG-DR grantees who are trying to figure out why their comments from us said that their submission on mid-earn was good enough for Phase 1. And maybe Todd would like to explain to us exactly what happened, why that comment came through.

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Todd Richardson: So in Phase 1, we were mainly focused on, “Did you pass the minimum threshold here that we established for most impacted, distressed, and unmet recovery needs?” And that’s what we were rating on.

But really, for Phase 2, we were looking for a much more thorough evidence-based description of unmet recovery needs. Particularly – and it’s particularly important for the grantees who have already received a substantial amount of funds through CDBG-DR to really demonstrate that the unmet recovery needs you have you have exceed what funding you already have to address those needs. That is what’s the critical piece here. You have received, in some cases, hundreds of millions of dollars or more, and you need to demonstrate how the needs you have remaining are in excess of what you already have received.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Yeah, yeah. So, that’s one of the critical points we get asked a lot about, I know a lot of people are, you know, feeling really, really competitive and don’t want to ask their questions out in the open. But we hold these open, sort of, like webinar sessions just in case you have burning questions and you really want to ask us. So far, we don’t have any questions in the queue. Has anybody got their hand up, Patrick? Because I don’t want to waste anybody’s time. If you’re killing yourself to try to get your application down to get out for public comment and get your BCA done and all that other fun stuff and sign a partner agreement...

Patrick Taylor: Yeah, this is Patrick Taylor. I don’t see any hands up yet. Just a remainder, look for the raise hand icon if you want to raise your hand and ask a verbal question.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Okay. We’ll give you a little longer, but if nobody signs up for the question, we’re going to go ahead and give you back your time. I’m looking through, thinking through the questions that we have in the queue right now that we’re dealing with. Some of them are about the – set aside, and I believe we’ve gotten those questions answered to the three applicants that are eligible for the set aside. And that’s coming. We’re updating one more FAQ on the content of what you need to submit to the Regional Coordination Committee Group for that purpose, and that doesn’t apply to any of the rest of you. But I don’t think we’ve had to kick too much else to the lawyers. We’ve been able to answer most questions by reading the NOFA.

I did think it was funny that you refer to Todd and me as the NOFA experts because right now, I think the applicants are getting to be more expert than we are. Been poring over it.

So, going once.

Todd Richardson: On that recovery, just as another side thing, don’t forget that one of the things that you can do with unmet recovery needs is it’s not the recovery you may have had, it’s the recovery you should have had had you had enough resources. So if you have already rebuilt a lot – you know, a tornado came through, people rebuilt their home. And the homes were not built with safe rooms. That’s continuing unmet recovery need because you didn’t build back the way you would have built back had you had the resources to do so. So that’s something to keep in mind as you sort of gather your unmet recovery needs.

Jessie Handforth Kome: And so is that our famous question 159 from Phase 1? Yeah, I think it is. Do we have a hand up?

TJ Winfield: Yes, we do. So I will go ahead – Shelley, I will go ahead and unmute you so you can ask your question now.

Shelley: Oh, okay, thank you. Can you hear me okay?

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Jessie Handforth Kome: Yup, we can hear you. Shelley the Bold.

Shelley: Great, great, thank you. I had sent an email a few weeks ago wondering about environmental notification and public comment period and the requirements. And I haven't heard back, but I also did not check to see if there were any updates to the FAQs.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Yeah, there definitely – I mean, that one's in the FAQs and I thought I'd answered you, actually, directly. Sorry about that.

Shelley: Oh, no, that's okay.

Jessie Handforth Kome: One of the little red flags telling me I have to answer that particular question. The answer was we sewed in the environmental – we pointed out all throughout the NOFA where you could streamline your environmental by doing certain things and particularly, in public comment was one place, alongside the required public comment for the NOFA, for example, and in the alternative consideration for the BCA. There's a bunch of places where you can speed up environmental.

But we're not requiring it. If you want to do your entire environmental review and you want to show that in your schedule and you're going to do it after you get an award, if any, you can do that. Or you can get with your environmental person now and try to sew these things together so at least when you go out for public comment, you ask some of the right questions. It depends whether you're writing a program or a project, whether you're going to be tiering or, you know, where you are in the whole scope of the thing. We just noted as a hint, a courtesy, that that was one way to streamline and speed up was to try to make your hearings and your public comment periods do double duty.

Shelley: Okay, great. Great, thank you.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Yup, so that was the answer. And there's another hand up? You've made them all bold. Thank you, Shelley.

TJ Winfield: Okay, Cindy, so I'll go ahead and unmute you so you can ask your question.

Cindy: Great, thank you. I was wondering: we are looking at how the sponsorship is required for this particular grant. If the CDBG normally requires that it comes through a city or a municipality or an AOG, if every activity has to be sponsored by one of those particular groups.

Jessie Handforth Kome: An interesting question. The word "sponsor" doesn't mean anything in the CDBG program. So I am assuming the only applicant that's allowed to – the only one that's allowed to apply is the actual governmental entity named in the press release. Of the 40, like a state or a local government. They must get the grant and administer the grant. They can make sub grant contracts carry out directly with their own staff. They have a whole range of means of carrying out the eligible activity. But they are the grantee and it's their grant and HUD will hold them accountable for the work. So there's no sponsorship relationship here. They can [interruption]...

Cindy: Okay, so unlike with CDBG, they get an amount of money, they allow people to apply for a project or an activity, and then they divvy it out. This way, they're actually – all the money goes to the applicant and the applicant can divvy it out how they – according to each one of the projects even if they're not considered a municipality.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Okay, so you're used to the State CDBG program.

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Cindy: Yeah.

Jessie Handforth Kome: An entitlement program, the rules are essentially exactly the same as what they just described for CDBG-DR/NDR entitlement, they're the same. For states, we made a waiver and allowed them to act as if they were entitlements if they want to or they can come – they don't have to do a method of distribution. Or, another way to say it is their method of distribution can include giving themselves some money to carry out activities like an entitlement would – some or all of the grants.

And so the states can make their own decision but they are the grantee. And in State CDBG, the regular program, they are also – to HUD – the state is the grantee and that's going to be held accountable.

So it's up to the state. If a state wants to run a competition, distribute by formula, just pat people on the shoulder and say, "We want to fund you." They don't have to just fund the municipalities. They can fund NGOs, they can fund other state agencies, they can fund partnerships. Anything they can get a contract with or an agreement, essentially, just the same way as an entitlement.

Cindy: Okay, great.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Yeah, it's in the waivers in Appendix A.

Cindy: Okay, thank you.

Jessie Handforth Kome: Sure. Anybody else have any more questions? I don't see any more hands up. We're happy to take questions. You can type them into the little box and Joey will see them and tell us about it. I don't have my glasses on so I can't read them [laugh]. Alright? Very quiet out there today. I think we're going to go ahead and tell you that the next live webinar is going to be one of the topical webinars talking about Integrated Resilience Planning. And it's going to be September 3, 3:00 to 4:30, which I assume is a Thursday because we kind of live here Thursday at 3:00. And we'll be continuing to update the series. We did a little bit of more shaking down. I think we're going to be adding – on one of the TBD ones, we're going to be adding one, I think, on long term commitment because we've been getting a few questions about what is and is not a long term commitment. And I'm not sure what else.

So the next one is Integrated Resilience Planning and we look forward to seeing you log in there. Any more questions one last time? Going, going, gone. And we will – see you all September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

[End of audio.]