

The House Financial Service Committee voted today to approve Rep. Wagner's Reforming Disaster Recovery Act, which permanently authorizes the CDBG-DR program. For more information, see NLIHC's press release here: <http://nlihc.org/press/releases/10848>

A number of DHRC recommendations were included in the approved bill:

- Requiring FEMA to share with HUD – and make publicly available – all data collected and analyzed during the course of the disaster recovery, including data on damage caused by the disaster, how federal assistance is spent, and the impact of the disaster on education, transportation, housing needs, and displacement.
- Requiring HUD to disapprove of state action plans that do not equitably allocate resources (1) between housing and infrastructure and (2) between homeowners, renters, and people experiencing homelessness based on damage and unmet needs assessments.
- Prohibiting HUD from reducing the percentage of CDBG-DR funds that must benefit low and moderate income households below 70% unless there is a “compelling need.”
- Requiring HUD to collect and make public data disaggregated by race, geography, and all protected classes under the Stafford Act, ADA, Fair Housing Act, Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other civil rights and nondiscrimination protections.
- Requiring the Inspector General to review programs to ensure that they are fulfilling their purposes and serving all eligible applicants, in addition to detecting waste, fraud and abuse.
- Requiring financial controls that do not only focus on preventing waste, fraud, and abuse, but to ensure that all eligible households are approved for assistance and are provided the full amount of assistance for which they are eligible.
- Requiring grantees to maintain a website with full and unredacted copies of documents, including all requests for qualification for assistance or for procurement with such funds, however styled; all responses to such requests; the identity of any individual or entity that reviews, evaluates, scores, or otherwise influences or determines the disposition of such requests; all reports, however styled, containing the reviewing individual or entity's scores, findings; and conclusions regarding such requests; and any resulting contract, agreement, or other disposition of such requests.
- Requiring infrastructure is built to meet minimum standards for protection from floods and storm water, and is built to at least 2 feet above the base flood level.

Additional DHRC recommendations were approved through a manager's amendment – thanks to the leadership of Ranking Member Maxine Waters - including:

- Requiring state action plans to outline a credible plan for ensuring compliance with fair housing laws;
- Prioritizing a one-for-one replacement of all damaged or destroyed federally assisted housing; and
- Providing HUD with the ability to set mitigation standards for multifamily housing.