

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Committee on Financial Services

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

DATE: June 5, 2026

SUBJECT: June 10, 2026, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance Hearing Entitled:
“Examining Local Needs in Disaster Recovery”

On Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance of the Committee on Financial Services will hold a hearing in Room 2128 of the Rayburn House Office Building titled “Examining Local Needs in Disaster Recovery.” The following witnesses will testify:

- **Mr. Joseph V. Jaroscak**, Analyst in Economic Development Policy, Congressional Research Service
- **Mr. Pat Cave**, Senior Vice President of Policy, Enterprise Community Partners
- **Ms. Heather Lagrone**, Senior Deputy Director, Texas General Land Office
- **Mrs. Stephanie McGarrah**, Deputy Secretary, North Carolina Department of Commerce

General Background

This hearing will examine the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and its effectiveness in addressing unmet local recovery needs. In particular, the hearing will focus on the timeliness of how the program operates in the aftermath of a disaster, where the program overlaps with or duplicates other federal disaster recovery efforts, and ways to improve overall the delivery of assistance to victims after major disasters. While the funding provided through the CDBG-DR program has no doubt been valuable to communities recovering from disasters, over the last three decades many questions have been raised regarding the effectiveness of CDBG-DR in addressing unmet needs. The hearing will provide an opportunity for members to discuss those questions and examine whether alternative approaches should be explored.

The CDBG-DR program is the supplemental disaster recovery assistance grant program administered by HUD through its traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) framework. Unlike the traditional program, the DR sub-program of CDBG is not permanently authorized and lacks statutory codification. Thus, funding for CDBG-DR only takes place when Congress enacts a specific appropriation for that purpose. The first use of CDBG-DR funding took place in FY1993 when Congress voted to appropriate \$85 million to assist the victims

recovering from Hurricanes Andrew, Iniki, and Typhoon Omar.¹ Since then, Congress has voted more than 30 times to appropriate more than \$111 billion in CDBG-DR funds, including roughly \$65 billion since FY2016.² Congress has intended this funding to be used by the communities that receive it to address long-term disaster needs that remain unmet after other sources of assistance such as grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or loans made available by the Small Business Administration. CDBG-DR funding recipients are typically areas subject to federal disaster declarations under the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* and can include states, localities, U.S. territories, and federally recognized tribes.

¹ *CDBG-DR Active Disaster Grants and Grantee Contact Information*, <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/cdbg-dr-grantee-contact-information/#congressional-appropriations-by-year> (last visited Jun. 5, 2026).

² CONG. RSCH. SERV., IF13221, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY: A PRIMER 1 (2026).