



NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION

# Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition: National Webinar

November 1, 2022

# Webinar Agenda



- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
  - Sarah Saadian, Senior Vice President of Policy and Field, National Low Income Housing Coalition
- **State and Local Panelists:**
  - *Puerto Rico*

Maritere Padilla Rodriguez, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Puerto Rico Operations, Hispanic Federation
  - *Florida*

Lois Healey, CEO, Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc. (Ft. Meyers, FL)
- **National Panelists**
  - Marion McFadden, Principal Deputy Assistance Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD
  - Joe Carlile, Senior Advisor for Budget Policy and Programs, HUD
  - Jemine A. Byron, Acting General Assistant Deputy Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD
- **DHRC Legislative Priorities: Reforming Disaster Recovery Act**
  - Noah Patton, NLIHC Housing Policy Analyst

# Welcome and Opening Remarks



Sarah Saadian,  
Senior Vice President of Policy and Field  
National Low Income Housing Coalition

# Florida Update



Lois Healey  
CEO

Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc.

# Puerto Rico Update



Maritere Padilla Rodriguez  
Director of Policy and Advocacy  
Puerto Rico Operations  
Hispanic Federation

# National Panelist



Marion McFadden  
Principal Deputy Assistance Secretary for Community  
Planning & Development  
HUD

Joe Carlile  
Senior Advisor for Budget Policy & Programs  
HUD

Jemine A. Byron  
Acting General Assistant Deputy Secretary for  
Community Planning & Development  
HUD



# Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing Program (RUSH) NLIHC DHRC 11/1/2022



# Filling the Gap

- The Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) program will fill a gap in federal disaster assistance for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- People experiencing pre-disaster homelessness have very limited eligibility for FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA).
- FEMA activation of TSA informs that the disaster has created significant displacement due to loss of housing and temporary housing solutions are needed. Pre-disaster homeless would not have access to TSA.





# Grounding Our Work in Equity

Modeled after HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant Program, RUSH funding will be available to States or units of general local governments to support people:

- experiencing homelessness;
- those living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a place not meant for human habitation;
- people at risk homelessness; and
- those who have below 30 percent of area median income and either live in severe overcrowding, face eviction in the next 21 days, or have another risk factor for homelessness.



# Use of Funds

RUSH provides funding for eligible activities including:

- emergency shelter;
- rapid re-housing, which provides up to 24 months of rental assistance, financial assistance for move in costs, and supportive services for people currently experiencing homelessness;
- homelessness prevention, which provides up to 24 months of rental assistance, utility assistance, and supportive services for people at risk of homelessness; and
- outreach assistance, including assistance to meet urgent needs, for people who are unsheltered.



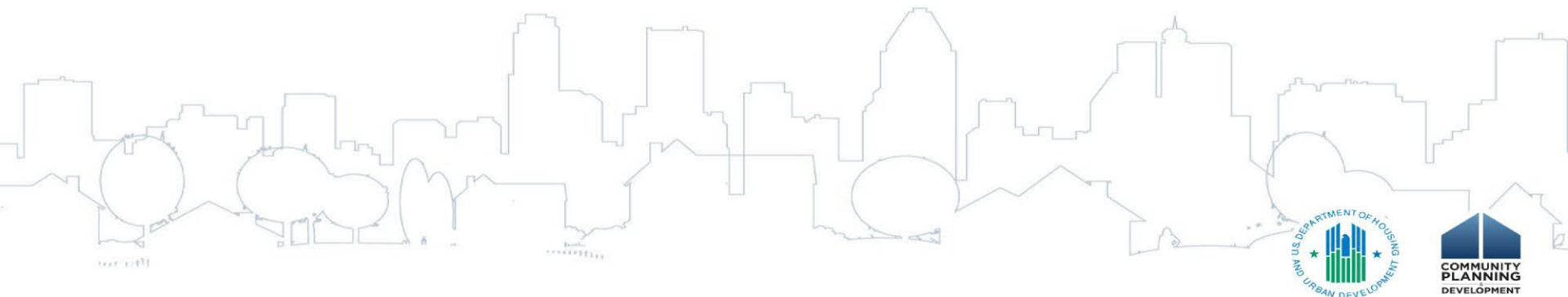
# Initial Allocation Formula Description

- For Localities, the First (Initial) Allocation is the lesser of \$1M or the number of sheltered or unsheltered homelessness (based on Point-in-Time (PIT) count) multiplied by Fair Market Rent for a 1-bedroom apartment where FEMA's TSA is made available.
- Statewide allocations will be capped at \$3M.
- This first allocation in response to Hurricane Ian is providing \$6.8 million to seven local ESG grantees plus a grant to the state of Florida.



# Second Allocation Formula Description

- The second allocation will come later, as more complete data on the extent of damage— particularly for rental units occupied by very-low-income households— becomes available.
- The exact methodology for this second allocation is still being developed.

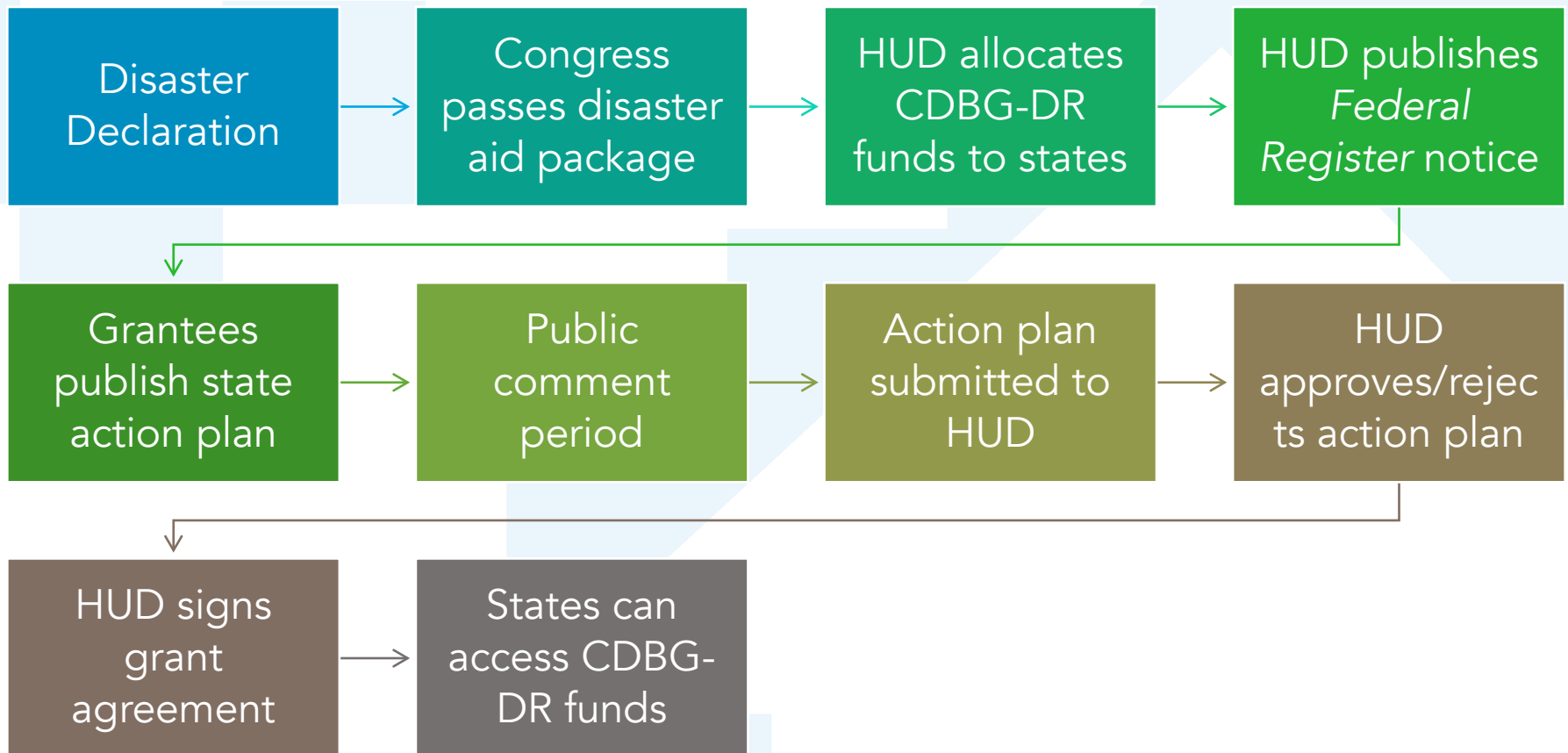


# National Low Income Housing Coalition



Noah Patton,  
NLIHC Housing Policy Analyst

# A Lengthy Process to Access Recovery Funds



# Current CDBG-DR Issues



1. Lengthy process slows down recovery time
2. Requirements vary each time
3. Funds can be spent disproportionately
4. Lack of oversight of grantees
5. Capacity Issues for Smaller grantees

# Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2021



## Bipartisan support:

- S. 2471, Brian Schatz (D-HI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Todd Young (R-IN), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Al Green (D-TX)

## Permanently authorizes the CDBG-DR program

## Targets resources to those with greatest need

- Requiring equitable distribution of resources between housing, infrastructure, and economic development
- Requiring proportional funds between homeowners and renters

## Prioritizes data transparency and oversight

## Protects civil rights and fair housing

## Encourages mitigation and resiliency



# Moving Forward



- Currently
  - Version in the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
  - Version in the Senate Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriation Bill
  - End of Year Packages
- Previously
  - Passed the House in 2019
  - Endorsed by HUD and Government Accountability Office in last two Administrations
  - Survey by Bipartisan Policy Center: 97% of CDBG-DR grantees supported permanent authorization
- Currently Collecting Organizational Sign-Ons:  
<https://forms.gle/WwNj6SXRUSy9kfVw7>

# Ongoing DHRC Calls and WG's



- National Call
  - Tuesdays at 2:00pmEST
  - Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Fiona, Kentucky Flooding
  - National-level messaging and report outs
- Disaster Recovery Working Group
  - Wednesdays at 2:00pmEST
  - Detailed discussion on disaster policy and advocacy
  - Report outs by advocates from impacted areas
  - RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3Rm08rb>
- Puerto Rico Working Group
  - Thursdays at 3:00pmEST
  - Detailed discussion on PR issues, Hurricane Maria/2020 Earthquakes/Hurricane Fiona recovery
  - Open to survivors and advocates in Puerto Rico/others by invite
  - Send email to [npatton@nlihc.org](mailto:npatton@nlihc.org) to join