

# SAMPLE METHODOLOGIES FOR DETERMINING AND PRIORITIZING NEEDS

## Disaster Impact and Unmet Needs Assessment Kit: Appendix D

**Description:** As part of the *Disaster Impact and Unmet Needs Assessment Kit*, the Sample Methodologies for Determining and Prioritizing Needs provides mini-case studies, including links, of CDBG-DR grantees that have estimated, or in the State of Mississippi's case, reestimated their unmet needs.

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**Caveat:** This is an informational tool and/or template that should be adapted to each grantee's specific program design.

### For More Information

This resource is part of the [Disaster Impact and Unmet Needs Assessment Kit](#). View all of the Disaster Recovery Toolkits here: <https://www.onecpd.info/resource/2853/cdbg-dr-toolkits>.

For additional information about disaster recovery programs, please see your HUD representative.

This is not an official HUD document and has not been reviewed by HUD counsel. It is provided for informational purposes only. Any binding agreement should be reviewed by attorneys for the parties to the agreement and must conform to state and local laws.

## Appendix D: Sample Methodologies for Determining and Prioritizing Needs

### *City of Cranston, Rhode Island (2010)*

[http://www.cranstonri.com/pdf/hottopics/Complete%20Plan\\_2034.pdf](http://www.cranstonri.com/pdf/hottopics/Complete%20Plan_2034.pdf)

After historic flooding in March 2010 along the Pawtuxet River, the City used a unique approach to estimating unmet needs by collecting and analyzing data sets over 30 years old. *Of special value, the City used existing FEMA data from flood insurance claims to target streets and neighborhoods, going back to 1978, to establish that over 472 have been filed in these affected neighborhoods. The City used the geographic proximity to the river of these neighborhoods in the community and related prior flood insurance claims to establish unmet need for long term recovery.* It led to the establishment the priorities for funding and program activity for their long term recovery plan.

### *Mississippi Housing Recovery Data Project, (2009)*

<http://www.smpdd.com/data-center/mississippi-housing-data-project.html>

This series of reports focus on the progress of housing recovery in the six counties most severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina. These reports are somewhat unique in that they focus on *remaining unmet needs mid-way through* the long-term recovery progress and attempt to predict how in-progress housing recovery efforts (supply) and anticipated population recovery rates (demand) will balance (or not). *Noteworthy aspects of the reports include: the level of analysis of different components of the housing recovery (e.g., by county, by tenure type, by affordability band, by housing stock type); the collection of a 100% sample of homes using graduate student labor to better understand blight conditions due to failure to repair damage (see June 2009 Update) and the use of a mail survey of residents of living in temporary housing (FEMA trailers and Mississippi Cottages); and the analytical conclusion that, in certain segments of the housing market, there was a risk of overbuilding the recovery while unmet needs were likely to remain in other segments.* See in particular the extensive (36 pages) Executive Summary of the original January 2009 report; the detailed version of the January 2009 report; and the June 2009, December 2009 and June 2010 updates.

### *Louisiana Speaks Long Term Community Recovery Parish Planning Baselines (2006-2008)*

<http://www.louisianaspeaks-parishplans.org/ParishHome.cfm>

This website contains summaries of 27 Louisiana Counties' Long Term Community Recovery Plans that were developed in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Of particular value is the section of each plan that identifies the baseline scope of damages (from the menu of Parishes click on a specific Parish and then select the subtopic "Needs Assessment" under the heading "Parish Planning Baseline" on the left hand side of the page). *See in particular the data for St. Tammany and Calcasieu Parishes which are particularly robust and well documented.*

### *Louisiana Speaks Long Term Community Recovery Projects (2006-2008)*

[http://www.louisianaspeaks-parishplans.org/RecoveryProjects\\_Overview.cfm](http://www.louisianaspeaks-parishplans.org/RecoveryProjects_Overview.cfm)

This website provides detailed project analysis for potential recovery activities from 27 Louisiana Counties that took part in the Louisiana Speaks, a long-term community recovery planning process. The

project lists demonstrates the use of the Parish Recovery Planning Tool – a tool to assist community’s in a systematic evaluation methodology to categorize projects by their recovery value. *A significant element to each project profile is that projects clearly align with one of the nine state-wide sector (i.e. economic and workforce development) and a parish-level strategic recovery goal (i.e. to provide reliable, long-term source of fresh surface water for Allen and neighboring Parishes by 2010). In addition, detailed analysis includes an assortment of maps and an unmet needs analysis that highlights use restriction for each funding source.*

### ***Texas Rebounds (2006)***

<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/files/press-office/Texas-Rebounds.pdf>

The State of Texas experienced significant damage in 2005 from Hurricanes Rita at a time when the State had just absorbed a significant sheltering burden due to Hurricane Katrina. Over \$2 billion in assistance was requested, divided into categories such as housing assistance, public safety, educational services, and community and economic redevelopment. For each individual funding assistance request, a justification statement about the extent of damage and unmet needs was made. *Of special value, pages 22-24 detail analytical steps, including the exact formulae and data sources, used to estimate damage to homes. This may prove useful for other disaster communities to recreate to estimate unmet needs.*