

Action Plan

Grantee: Northern Mariana Islands

Grant: B-19-DT-69-0001

LOCCS Authorized Amount:	\$ 16,225,000.00
Grant Award Amount:	\$ 16,225,000.00
Status:	Reviewed and Approved
Estimated PI/RL Funds:	\$ 0.00
Total Budget:	\$ 16,225,000.00

Funding Sources

No Funding Sources Found

Narratives

Mitigation Needs Assessment:

Risk assessment is a process of measuring potential loss of life, personal injury, economic injury, property damage, and other negative community impacts resulting from natural hazards. In the immediate planning horizon this type of assessment allows emergency management personnel to establish response priorities by identifying potential hazards and vulnerable assets and communities. At a broader scale, the risk assessment enables data-driven hazard mitigation planning and strategy development. The basic risk assessment process focuses on the following key elements:

- Hazard identification: Utilization of all available information to determine the types of disasters that may affect a jurisdiction, how often they can occur, and their potential severity.
- Vulnerability identification: Determine the impact of natural hazard events on the people, property, environment, and economy of a locale.
- Cost evaluation: To the degree possible given best available data, estimate the cost of potential damage and/or cost that can be avoided by mitigation.

In the development of the CNMI's 2018 Standard State Mitigation Plan (SSMP), which informs and guides significant components of this CDBG-MIT Action Plan, a thorough hazard risk and needs assessment was performed with the best available data at the time. Moreover, the CNMI has used the most recent risk assessment completed through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program process to inform the

hazards analyzed in this action plan, and to guide the subsequent use of CDBG-MIT funds (84 FR 45840 and 86 FR 561).

It is important to note that substantial updates to national and state level data regarding hazards, built environment, and socio-economic characteristics have enabled many locales to assess risk in a more comprehensive, standardized manner during the mitigation planning process. The recent publication of the National Risk Index (Zuzak et. al 2021) and mapping tool from FEMA provides a well-structured, consistent and transparent method for many states to determine risk. The risk index is comprised of (1) a natural hazards component with calculated losses from hazard events, (2) a “consequence enhancing” component consisting primarily of a census-informed social vulnerability index, and (3) a “consequence reduction” component that estimates “community resilience” as the ability of a community to prepare for and adapt to hazards.

CNMI was not included in the National Risk Index in its initial 2021 public release; however, efforts were taken in the CDBG-MIT planning process to quantify and develop proxies for Index components, particularly with respect to natural hazard exposure and losses, as well as social vulnerability. The analysis and resulting area-based mitigation prioritization index for CNMI is described in detail in Section 3 of NMHC’s CDBG-MIT Action Plan, while the initial natural hazard profiles and data that informed the risk assessment are highlighted here in Subsection 2.1 of said Plan.

In the process of developing the following hazard profiles and the subsequent risk assessment and mitigation prioritization areas, the following resources were utilized as appropriate:

- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Local Mitigation Planning Handbook
- FEMA Hazus GIS-based software and associated Hazus database for CNMI assets, buildings, populations, and facilities.
- CNMI Coastal Resilience Assessment (Dobson et. al 2020) and Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST)
- FEMA Special Wind Region data for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (2020)
- International Code Council – International Building Code and Residential Code (2018)
- NOAA Office for Coastal Management – Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper (coast.noaa.gov/floodexposure/)
- NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory – Tsunami Hazard Assessment of the CNMI (Uslu et. al 2013)
- Tabular and spatial data for CNMI-wide infrastructure and buildings (CNMI Department of Public Works; Commonwealth Utilities Corporation)
- National Centers for Environmental Information – International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship (IBTrACS – Knapp et. al 2021)
- Miscellaneous assessment data gathered from other Federal and Local agencies (e.g. CNMI Climate Vulnerability Assessments; U.S. Army Corps Post-Disaster Watershed Assessment for CNMI; FEMA Risk MAP preliminary reports for CNMI)

Proposed Use of Funds:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) received \$16,225,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for mitigation activities to be funded in accordance with Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds. In the CDBG-MIT Federal Register Notice [FRN] (85 FR 45838), HUD defines mitigation as “those activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to or loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters.”

The CNMI, through NMHC, intends to utilize CDBG-MIT funding to take additional action to make the CNMI more resilient. NMHC acknowledges the high probability

that these extreme weather conditions will continue to affect CNMI residents and services and may become more severe or more frequent in occurrence. Proposed projects for funding in the CDBG-MIT Action Plan for infrastructure include are listed in Table 1 below.

The CDBG-MIT Infrastructure Mitigation Program in this Action Plan is structured to align with the best practice mitigation guidance and current capital investments planned for the islands of Saipan and Tinian. The CNMI has identified four (4) key strategies built into the Infrastructure Mitigation Program to align with the coordination of mitigation projects and leverage requirements found at 84 FR 45838. These key strategies are woven into program design and incentivized through evaluation criteria and supported by the development of capacity-building tools, including the Risk Assessment evaluation tool released during stakeholder engagement and outreach activities. These strategies include: (1) Capacity Building; (2) Community and Regional Investment; (3) Lifeline Stability; and (4) Alignment of Capital Investments.

Table 1. List of Potential CDBG-MIT Projects

Municipality	Project	Project Description	Estimated Cost	Estimated Duration	Saipan
	Beach Road Improvement Project	Flood control and drainage project.	\$10,626,457	36 mos.	Saipan
	Lower Base Road and Drainage Improvement	Improve the drainage system at Lower Base area.	\$2,152,000	19 mos.	Tinian
	Replacement of the Tinian Carolinas Village 0.50 MG Water Tank	To improve the water capacity for the island, and replace existing welded tank with more resilient concrete structure	\$5,180,000	27 mos.	Saipan
	Kagman Community Shelter Project	Provide safe, secure and habitable long term-shelters for displaced residents during future typhoons and other natural disasters.	\$1,258,705	24 mos.	Saipan

Assessment of Risk, Vulnerability and Disaster Bonding/Insurance Feasibility to Support Comprehensive Sustainable Development Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction

This project will support the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) in its mission to provide data-driven analysis, tools, and policies that support comprehensive sustainable development plan (Comprehensive Plan) for CNMI that ensures smart, safe development occurs to support socio-economic growth goals of the community.

\$807,380

24 mos.

Saipan

Replacement of the Dandan Water Tank

There is a current risk of catastrophic failure of the water tank if another typhoon will hit area. Therefore, the objective of this Hazard Mitigation Grant application will be to replace the current tank

\$7,048,000

24 mos.

Saipan

Replacement of the Kagman Water Tank

There is a current risk of catastrophic failure of the water tank if another typhoon will hit area. Therefore, the objective of this Hazard Mitigation Grant application will be to replace the current tank

\$7,141,000

24 mos.

Saipan

Power Plant #1 Facility Repair and Mitigation

To Harden Power Plant #1

\$ 4,987,427

18 mos.

Project Summary

Project #	Project Title	Grantee Activity #	Activity Title	Grantee Program
9999	Restricted Balance	<i>No activities in this project</i>		
ADM	Administration	ADM	Administration	
INF	Infrastructure	INF	Infrastructure Mitigation Program	
PLA	Planning	PLA	Planning	

Activities

Project # / ADM / Administration

Grantee Activity Number: ADM

Activity Title: Administration

Activity Type:

Administration

Project Number:

ADM

Projected Start Date:

09/29/2022

Project Draw Block by HUD:

Not Blocked

Activity Draw Block by HUD:

Not Blocked

Block Drawdown By Grantee:

Not Blocked

National Objective:

Low/Mod: Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons/families

Activity Status:

Under Way

Project Title:

Administration

Projected End Date:

10/02/2032

Project Draw Block Date by HUD:

06/16/2034 by Steven Edwards

Activity Draw Block Date by HUD:

06/16/2034 by Steven Edwards

Total Budget: \$ 811,250.00

Most Impacted and Distressed Budget: \$ 811,250.00

Other Funds: \$ 0.00

Total Funds: \$ 811,250.00

Benefit Report Type:

NA

Ancillary Activities

None

Proposed budgets for organizations carrying out Activity:

Responsible Organization

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation1

Organization Type

Unknown

Proposed Budget

\$ 811,250.00

Location Description:

Activity Description:

This activity will focus on the funding of all activities related to the overall administration of the CDBG-MIT grant (staffing and general management oversight and coordination).

Environmental Assessment: UNDERWAY

Environmental Reviews: None

Activity Attributes: None

Activity Supporting Documents: None

Project # / **INF / Infrastructure**

Grantee Activity Number: INF

Activity Title: Infrastructure Mitigation Program

Activity Type:

MIT - Public Facilities and Improvements-Non Covered Projects

Project Number:

INF

Projected Start Date:

09/30/2022

Project Draw Block by HUD:

Not Blocked

Activity Draw Block by HUD:

Not Blocked

Block Drawdown By Grantee:

Not Blocked

National Objective:

Low/Mod: Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons/families

Activity Status:

Under Way

Project Title:

Infrastructure

Projected End Date:

10/03/2032

Project Draw Block Date by HUD:

06/16/2034 by Steven Edwards

Activity Draw Block Date by HUD:

06/16/2034 by Steven Edwards

Total Budget: \$ 14,697,000.00

Most Impacted and Distressed Budget: \$ 14,602,500.00

Other Funds: \$ 0.00

Total Funds: \$ 14,697,000.00

Benefit Report Type:

Area Benefit (Census)

Ancillary Activities

None

Projected Beneficiaries

of Persons

Total

100

Low

50

Mod

50

Low/Mod%

100.00

of structures harden against future flood events

0.0

Projected Accomplishments

Total

of Singlefamily Units

of Multifamily Units

of Housing Units

of Targeted Section 3 Labor Hours

of Section 3 Labor Hours

of Total Labor Hours

% decrease in NFIP CRS score

of storm water projects implemented

of small water retention devices/systems installed

of reduced hours streets are flooded

of linear feet of shoreline restored

cubic feet of stormwater storage added



of non-invasive species trees planted on project sites
 # acres of newly added or improved green space
 # of properties with access above 100-yr flood level
 # of fewer outages of critical facilities and utilities
 # of acres no longer vulnerable to flood events
 # of green infrastructure projects constructed
 # of acres green infrastructure created
 % reduction of water surface elevation level
 % reduction of sanitary sewer overflows
 % reduction in loss of service
 % reduction in energy costs
 % increase in pumping capacity
 % increase in number of acres converted to open space
 % increase in groundwater infiltration
 % increase in acres of cropland protected from flooding
 % decrease water surface elevation level during a flood with a qualifying event
 % decrease in road closures in target area during a flood event
 % decrease in disruption hours to residents and businesses from impacts of
 % decrease in area inundated by flooding
 % decrease in affluent discharged
 % reduction in emergency maintenance costs
 # of water control structures repaired/replaced
 # of pump stations repaired/replaced
 # of linear feet of stream restored
 # of containment systems constructed
 # of brownfield acres converted to wetland
 # of acres with improved multiple hazard risk mapping
 # of acres of native vegetation planted
 # of residents protected from future flooding
 # of properties protected from future flooding
 # of acres green space preserved
 # of acres green space created
 # of vacant lots repurposed
 # occupied structures in floodplain
 # linear feet of streams restored
 # acres of wetlands created
 \$ estimated flood loss avoidance
 # of linear feet of trails constructed
 # of greenspace users
 \$ Funds allocated for water-quality improvements
 \$ Funds allocated for water management/flood mitigation improvements
 % reduction of watershed nitrate loading
 # of Elevated Structures

3



of Linear Feet of Water Lines

of Linear Feet of Sewer Lines

of Linear miles of Public Improvement

of Linear feet of Public Improvement

of Non-business Organizations benefitting

of public facilities

of buildings (non-residential)

LMI%:

Proposed budgets for organizations carrying out Activity:

Responsible Organization	Organization Type	Proposed Budget
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation1	Unknown	\$ 14,697,000.00

Location Description:

Activity Description:

The CNMI has identified over \$680 million in potential infrastructure projects. This results in a remaining unmet need of over \$526 million. These programs and projects are intended to benefit the Islands as a whole while helping to address the remaining unmet need. Figure 73 below represents the needs that were submitted by Government and Non-Profit entities. There are over 275 projects submitted that need assistance. The estimated total value of these projects as mentioned above is over \$680 million. There are no funds available or other identified resources to address the remaining unmet need for infrastructure.

Infrastructure activities considered during the planning process are based on a scoring criterion with concentrations on the islands of Saipan and Tinian as most impacted areas. It was also desired that infrastructure activities selected would benefit the Islands as a whole due to the fact that any block group and/or any combination of block groups qualifies as a low- and moderate income benefit area and that over 90 percent of the population on any island are minority residents. These factors also ensure economic stability so residents can remain in homes and residences and retain their jobs because of improved infrastructure. The actual size of the Islands and reach of community lifeline systems (e.g. power distribution) also means that all persons will benefit from most of the infrastructure improvements.

Environmental Assessment: UNDERWAY

Environmental Reviews: None

Activity Attributes: None

Activity Supporting Documents: None

Project # / PLA / Planning

Grantee Activity Number: PLA

Activity Title: Planning

Activity Type:

MIT - Planning and Capacity Building

Project Number:

PLA

Projected Start Date:

09/02/2022

Project Draw Block by HUD:

Not Blocked

Activity Draw Block by HUD:

Not Blocked

Block Drawdown By Grantee:

Not Blocked

National Objective:

Low/Mod: Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons/families

Activity Status:

Under Way

Project Title:

Planning

Projected End Date:

10/02/2032

Project Draw Block Date by HUD:

06/16/2034 by Steven Edwards

Activity Draw Block Date by HUD:

06/16/2034 by Steven Edwards

Total Budget: \$ 716,750.00

Most Impacted and Distressed Budget: \$ 716,750.00

Other Funds: \$ 0.00

Total Funds: \$ 716,750.00

Benefit Report Type:

NA

Ancillary Activities

None

Proposed budgets for organizations carrying out Activity:

Responsible Organization

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation1

Organization Type

Unknown

Proposed Budget

\$ 716,750.00

Location Description:

Activity Description:

This activity will focus on planning eligible activities under the CDBG-MIT program.

Environmental Assessment: EXEMPT

Environmental Reviews: None

Activity Attributes: None

Environmental Reviews: None

Activity Supporting Documents: None

Action Plan History

Version	Date
B-19-DT-69-0001 AP#4	06/14/2023
B-19-DT-69-0001 AP#3	01/19/2023
B-19-DT-69-0001 AP#2	12/13/2022
B-19-DT-69-0001 AP#1	11/16/2022