

# Decoding HUD CDBG disaster programs

US Forensic & Integrity Services

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Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs play a crucial role in providing funding for disaster recovery and mitigation efforts. These programs are designed to supplement traditional emergency funding programs by targeting low- and moderate-income individuals, housing communities, and economic areas both during and after major disasters to address unmet needs. These programs aim to spend federal grant funds in a manner that supports the communities and individuals who have some of the most significant needs.

Two significant programs under the CDBG umbrella are CDBG-DR (Disaster Recovery) and CDBG-MIT (Mitigation). While both programs address the impact of disasters, they differ in their objectives, focus, timing, and eligible activities. Although there are similarities between the programs, it may be challenging to determine which of them may be right for an organization. Below, a few key differentiators of each program have been outlined, which may help a grantee identify which CDBG program may be the best fit.

## Recovery vs. mitigation

CDBG-DR is primarily focused on post-disaster recovery, aiming to rebuild damaged infrastructure, housing, and public services while revitalizing the local economy. These funds are activated in response to a disaster declaration and allocated on a case-by-case basis, addressing immediate recovery needs. The administration of CDBG-DR involves collaborative efforts among HUD, state and local governments, and community stakeholders.

CDBG-MIT emphasizes proactive measures for long-term mitigation, seeking to enhance community resilience and reduce the impact of future disasters. These funds are pre-allocated based on the magnitude and frequency of past disasters, providing a proactive approach to disaster mitigation. The administration of CDBG-MIT involves a competitive grant process, where communities develop comprehensive mitigation plans and propose projects aligned with their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

For both programs, grantees receive funding based on a formula calculation. Once funds are received, the usage of these funds at the grantee and subgrantee levels must align with at least one of the CDBG program's several national objectives.

## Key differentiators

	CDBG-DR	CDBG-MIT
<b>Perspective for funding use</b>	Retrospective	Forward looking
<b>Focus of funding use</b>	Funding promotes efficient and effective disaster recovery.	Funding focuses on implementing processes and infrastructures to help mitigate the impact of future disasters.
<b>How funds can be used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Infrastructure restoration</li><li>▶ Housing recovery</li><li>▶ Community planning</li><li>▶ Economic revitalization</li><li>▶ Public facilities and services</li><li>▶ Certain mitigation measures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Infrastructure improvements</li><li>▶ Housing resilience</li><li>▶ Community planning</li><li>▶ Economic revitalization</li><li>▶ Public facilities and services</li><li>▶ Natural and nature-based features</li></ul>
<b>Right time to pursue this grant funding</b>	During and immediately after a presidentially declared disaster; this particularly applies to areas that were highly impacted and need rebuilding.	After a presidentially declared disaster; this particularly applies to impacted areas and communities that have a high risk of being impacted by a disaster again.

## Key takeaway

Understanding the differences between HUD CDBG-DR and CDBG-MIT programs is crucial for communities seeking to access and utilize these funds effectively. By leveraging these programs appropriately, communities can enhance their resilience and reduce the impact of future disasters.



## Ernst & Young LLP contacts



**Bradley (BJ) Nichols**, Partner  
EY Americas Insurance &  
Federal Claims Services Leader  
Forensic & Integrity Services  
+1 202 327 8719  
bradley.nichols@ey.com



**Christopher Terry**, Senior Manager  
Insurance & Federal Claims Services  
Forensic & Integrity Services  
+1 214 754 3446  
christopher.terry@ey.com

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