

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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### DWS Circular Letter # 2014-06

TO: Fairfield, New Haven, New London, and Middlesex County Municipal Public Water Systems, Chief Elected Officials, Council of Governments, Regional Planning Agencies; Mashantucket Tribal Nation

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section (DWS) *L Mathieu*

DATE: April 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief Funds Available for Public Water Systems

Hurricane Sandy provided a reminder of the extreme weather events that occur in Connecticut and the importance of resilient, redundant water supply infrastructure. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act signed into law by President Barack Obama on January 29, 2013 authorized funds to repair and replace infrastructure damaged by Superstorm Sandy and to plan infrastructure resiliency improvements. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates the funds to eligible states under the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. The state Department of Housing (DOH) redirects the CDBG-DR funds to Sandy-impacted communities in Fairfield, New Haven, New London, and Middlesex Counties following an application process to determine eligibility, need and priority ranking. Connecticut's First Tranche (series) CDBG-DR fund has allocations for infrastructure (\$4 million) and infrastructure resiliency planning (\$2 million). The CDBG-DR application can be found here: [http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy\\_relief\\_docs/final\\_cdbg-dr\\_application\\_revision\\_3\\_07\\_2014.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy_relief_docs/final_cdbg-dr_application_revision_3_07_2014.pdf). First Tranche applications are accepted at DOH, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106-7106 until April 28, 2014.

To date the unmet water and sewer infrastructure needs identified in the First Tranche total \$1 million. Hence DOH's CDBG-DR Program Guide states "... *most resiliency ... investments will be funded with future allocation of CDBG-DR program funding; and, ... the State will seek local and regional cooperation in prioritizing and leveraging these investments by utilizing CDBG- DR planning funds; and ... as the State ... update(s) the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as the State Plan for Conservation and Development, it is expected that the need for significant investment in resiliency measures associated with infrastructure and public facilities will be further documented*" as found herein: [http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy\\_relief\\_docs/final\\_infrastructure\\_planning\\_and\\_public\\_facilities\\_program\\_guide\\_3\\_10-14.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy_relief_docs/final_infrastructure_planning_and_public_facilities_program_guide_3_10-14.pdf). The Act's Rebuilding Strategy recognizes the need to build back stronger and more resilient. Hence the HUD has indicated the intended programmatic focus of Second Tranche funds is infrastructure and infrastructure-related projects. Connecticut's Second Tranche funding has allocations for infrastructure and infrastructure resiliency investment (\$30 million) and for comprehensive planning to promote regional resilience (\$7 million) as listed herein: [http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy\\_relief\\_docs/substantial\\_amendment\\_cdbg-dr\\_for\\_public\\_comment.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy_relief_docs/substantial_amendment_cdbg-dr_for_public_comment.pdf). Water system hardening/mitigation has priority designation. First or Second Tranche funds cannot be used to benefit private utilities. The DPH continues to work with our federal, state, local, and regional partners to plan responsibly. The DPH recommends that regional planning agencies and municipalities work together to identify regional water infrastructure significant investment needs now during this unique opportunity as fund eligible projects must be completed prior to September 30, 2017. Please contact Steve Messer at [steve.messer@ct.gov](mailto:steve.messer@ct.gov) or (860)509-7333 for all related inquiries.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Regulatory Services Branch Chief; Jane Downing, EPA Region 1; Department of Housing; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Local Health Directors; WUCC Committee Chairpersons



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