

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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### DWS Circular Letter # 2014-13

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) *J. Mathieu*

DATE: July 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Second Tranche Funding Applications - Superstorm Sandy Disaster Relief for Public Water Systems

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act authorized funds for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program to assist states and local communities that were most impacted by damages from Superstorm Sandy. A Department of Public Health (DPH) circular letter [http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/Circular\\_Letter\\_6\\_Community\\_Development\\_Block\\_Grants\\_-\\_Disaster\\_Relief.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/Circular_Letter_6_Community_Development_Block_Grants_-_Disaster_Relief.pdf) reminded, or notified, potential eligible stakeholders in effected counties of the opportunity to improve the resiliency of water systems that serve their communities. The letter emphasizes a critical role that public water system adequacy, redundancy, and resiliency has in ensuring continued public health and safety, above all in disasters. Stakeholders are encouraged to work together with the state to identify effective uses of the state's funds.

The CT Department of Housing (DOH) redirects federal disaster relief funds. The DOH has announced that Second Tranche (series) funds totaling more than \$26 million are available for infrastructure projects and improvements to existing infrastructure resiliency to minimize damage from future storms. The minimum amount of funds that can be applied for is \$100,000 and there is no maximum amount. Joint applications are welcome if solving a shared problem requires mutual action. Applications [http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy\\_relief\\_docs/application\\_form\\_final.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy_relief_docs/application_form_final.pdf) are due August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by electronic mail to [Elizabeth.swenson@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.swenson@ct.gov) or mail two copies to CDBG-DR Team Sandy – Attention Geraldine Rice, CT Department of Housing, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (see details in link).

The state [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) substantial amendment for Second Tranche funds reflects the Act's Rebuilding Strategy and recognizes need to build resilient. The DOH's guide [http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy\\_relief\\_docs/infrastructure\\_program\\_guide\\_final.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/sandy_relief_docs/infrastructure_program_guide_final.pdf) indicates that water system hardening is a priority and details the point based criteria used to evaluate the applications. Relevant categories for water resiliency include: (3) mitigation/resiliency of potable water systems (15 Points); (6) project addresses conditions that threaten public health and safety (10 Points); (7) readiness to proceed and complete by the September 30, 2017 spending deadline (Up to 3 Points); (8) satisfy Federal requirement to spend 80% of funds in Fairfield/New Haven Counties (5 Points); (9) project funding commitments are in place (7 Points); (10) satisfy Federal requirement that 50% of funds benefit households at or below 50% of AMI (5 Points); and (11) contribute significantly to long term recovery and economic revitalization (5 Points). We recommend regional planning agencies and municipalities work together with us to identify regional infrastructure significant investment needs now during this unique opportunity. Please contact Steve Messer at [steve.messer@ct.gov](mailto:steve.messer@ct.gov) or (860)509-7333 for related inquiries.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Regulatory Services Branch Chief; Jane Downing, EPA Region 1; Hermia Delaire, Dept. of Housing; Suzanne Piacentini, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Local Health Directors



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