

Name of the Exhibit: **ExhibitAExecutiveSummary**

Applicant: **The State of Connecticut**

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New Haven and Fairfield counties were designated as most impacted and distressed counties due to Hurricane Sandy, the Qualifying Disaster for this competition. Sandy damaged 2,853 single-family homes in Fairfield County and 1,165 in New Haven County. Unmet recovery needs in these counties total more than \$158 million from housing (\$135,789,167) and infrastructure (\$22,360,508). This unmet need includes eight public housing properties (815 units) in the 100-year floodplain. If Connecticut were to assess all resilient repair needs the additional need would be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Coastal communities are home to 60% of the state's population and more than 32,000 homes lie within the 100-year floodplain. Connecticut has the second highest exposure of vulnerable coastal assets on the east coast. With more than \$542 billion in assets at risk to coastal storms; only Florida has a greater exposure.

The Applicant, the State of Connecticut's Department of Housing (DOH), is working with the State Agencies for Resilience (SAFR, pronounced safer) to address these risks and prepare and implement the NDRC proposal. SAFR includes representatives from eight state agencies. SAFR is supported by 19 additional partners including the regional Councils of Government, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, University of Connecticut, Yale, Partnership for Strong Communities, Housing Development Fund, Connecticut Green Bank, the state's largest utility companies, several environmental organizations, The Red Cross, CT Rises, and the Tremaine Foundation. All Partners have incorporated resilience to the impacts of severe weather, sea level rise and climate change into their core mission or programs.

To address Connecticut's vulnerabilities, this proposal outlines a long-term vision for establishing more resilient coastal communities where structures and critical infrastructure in the flood zone are adapted to withstand occasional flooding and protected by healthy buffering ecosystems, where critical services, infrastructure and transport hubs are located on safer, higher ground, and where strong connections exist between the two. Increasing investment in identified

resilience zones provides an opportunity to increase economic resilience by strongly tying back to the regional transportation network and regional economic opportunities. Therefore, these investments represent a ‘no regrets’ approach to climate adaptation because in addition to providing long-term resilience, they provide a myriad of co-benefits that strengthen communities and economic opportunities in the short term and between storms.

To develop this proposal the team undertook a robust process of public outreach and engagement. This process built upon the lessons learned in Rebuild by Design and numerous other community resiliency processes. The process included over 50 consultations, 3 public hearings and open houses, a project website, site visits, and social media campaigns. This enriched the Phase 1 discovery process, informed the resiliency strategy, resulted in numerous partnerships (with more to come) and will continue to shape the Phase 2 application.

The concept is closely aligned with state spending priorities, including the Governor’s priority of a “best-in-class transportation system.” As a member of SAFR, Connecticut’s Department of Transportation pledged to coordinate appropriate projects in their FY15 \$1.7 billion capital budget with the NDRC proposal. Other SAFR partners have committed to exploring similar opportunities during Phase 2, if selected. The state has already committed \$250,000 to the CDBG-NDR application, and the team has identified potential sources of leverage funding totally over \$2.75 billion.

Connecticut has demonstrated its long-term commitment to building back better through the Connecticut Climate Preparedness Plan, which advanced legally mandated efforts to prepare for climate change. The State has reduced coastal vulnerabilities through the passage of two new laws, the dedication of new resources to the Microgrids program, and the creation of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation and Shore Up Connecticut, a low-interest loan program for flood mitigation.