



The Relationship Between Racial and Median Household Income Demographics and HUD CDBG-DR Funding

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Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) is a federal program that provides disaster recovery aid to local, state, and tribal governments within the United States of America. This program is funded by the United States Congress through supplemental appropriations and is overseen by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDBG-DR grantees are required to create action plans that detail the use of funding for activities that primarily benefit low and moderate income (LMI) individuals and communities. Upon request from grantees, HUD can waive requirements for grant spending, allowing grantees to use CDBG-DR funding for activities that no longer directly benefit those affected by disasters. Coupled with little supervision from HUD on CDBG-DR spending, this can leave marginalized and socially vulnerable members of a community, such as racial minorities and low-income individuals, in a difficult position after a disaster. The goal of this research is to determine the relationship between the race and income demographics within counties in Louisiana, Mississippi, and New York, and the CDBG-DR funding allocated to those counties. Linear regression models were created, and regression tests were performed to analyze this relationship. Results from the data analysis revealed either no correlation or a weak positive correlation between the median household income and racial demographics per county and the total CDBG-DR funds allocated per county. Future research should investigate other factors regarding CDBG-DR funding and socially vulnerable communities, such as the progression of disaster recovery in these communities and how funding is used.