

Urgent Needs

Criteria

To comply with the national objective of meeting community development needs having a particular urgency, an activity must be designed to alleviate existing conditions which the local government certifies and state determines:

- ✓ Pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community,
- ✓ Are of recent origin or recently became urgent,
- ✓ The state grant recipient is unable to finance the activity on its own, and
- ✓ Other sources of funding are not available to carry out.

A condition will generally be considered to be of recent origin if it is developed or became critical within 18 months preceding the state grant recipient's certification. *Reference: 24 CFR 570.483(d)*

Example

An urgent community health crisis in which private wells are contaminated by failing septic systems. The community's other resources may well be depleted and other federal programs may not be sufficient to cover all the costs of replacing the septic systems.

Records to be Maintained

The records should include:

- ❖ A description of the nature and degree of seriousness of the conditions requiring assistance;
- ❖ Evidence that the state grant recipient certified that the CDBG activity was designed to address the urgent need;
- ❖ Information on the timing of the development of the serious condition; and
- ❖ Evidence confirming that other financial resources to alleviate the need were not available.

Tips

Planning–Only grants are not allowed under Urgent Needs.

States are free to establish criteria for what constitutes a “serious and immediate” threat. States are free to establish criteria or documentation requirements regarding the lack of other funding resources and local governments’ inability to finance activities on their own. Activities designated solely to prevent a serious health or welfare threat from developing in the future will not qualify under this criterion.