



HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Julián Castro, Secretary
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

HUD No. 16-006
George I. Gonzalez
202-402-6054
<http://www.hud.gov/news/index.cfm>

FOR RELEASE
Thursday
January 21, 2016

HUD AWARDS \$1 BILLION THROUGH NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE COMPETITION

State of Iowa to receive \$96M for resilient infrastructure and housing projects

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro and the Rockefeller Foundation announced the winners of the \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). Among the 13 grant recipients is the State of Iowa who will use this funding for resilient housing and infrastructure projects in particular areas that were impacted by recent major disasters.

The National Disaster Resilience Competition winners are:

States		Cities/Counties	
California	\$70,359,459	New York City	\$176,000,000
Connecticut	\$54,277,359	New Orleans	\$141,260,569
Iowa	\$96,887,177	Minot, ND	\$74,340,770
Louisiana	\$92,629,249	Shelby County, TN	\$60,445,163
New Jersey	\$15,000,000	Springfield, MA	\$17,056,880
New York	\$35,800,000		
Tennessee	\$44,502,374		
Virginia	\$120,549,000		

State of Iowa:

The State of Iowa will receive \$96,887,177 in NDRC funding to support the Iowa Watershed Approach, a holistic watershed-scale program designed to sustain its valuable agricultural economy while protecting vulnerable residents and communities. HUD funding will enable several watersheds to form Watershed Management Authorities, which will develop hydrological assessment and watershed plans, and implement pilot projects in the upper and lower watersheds, as well as invest in more resilient, healthy homes in Dubuque.

[Read a summary of each of the NDRC awardees above.](#)

“Climate change is real and we must think more seriously about how to plan for it,” said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. The grants we award today, and the other sources of capital these grants will leverage, will make communities stronger, more resilient and better prepared for

future natural disasters such as floods and wildfires. The National Disaster Resilience Competition exemplifies how government can work hand-in-hand with the philanthropic and private sectors to create lasting partnerships that will allow us to together face the challenges of tomorrow.”

“The National Disaster Resilience Competition demonstrated where we are moving as a country, embracing resilience as a way to build a better future,” said Dr. Judith Rodin, President of The Rockefeller Foundation. “The communities awarded funding through the Competition – and in fact all those that competed – today have a greater awareness of their vulnerabilities and strengths and what they need to do to be ready for whatever comes their way. This is the heart of resilience.”

“Through the competition process the State of Iowa made significant commitments to the long-term resilience of communities focused on reducing flooding and increasing water quality,” said Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell.

The competition took place in two phases, with final winners selected from [previously announced 40 states](#) and local communities designated as finalists. Finalists were then asked to submit specific projects that would advance their community’s resilience plans. More than 25 federal agencies or offices, and 100 industry experts were involved in the implementation of the 16-month long competition.

NDRC is funded through Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) appropriations provided by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

NDRC was developed in response to requests from state, local, and tribal leaders seeking to build resilience and better prepare their communities for the impacts of climate change, following the model of the Rebuild by Design Competition, and the recommendations of the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. The National Disaster Resilience Competition was designed to promote risk assessment, stakeholder engagement, and resilience planning in communities where the risks of disaster are projected to increase substantially due to climate change.

Partnership with Rockefeller Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation worked closely with HUD and state and local governments to encourage and support a culture of resilience around disaster preparedness and planning in American communities. Through a companion effort, the Rockefeller Foundation provided targeted technical assistance to the applicants and supported a stakeholder-driven process, informed by the best available data, to identify recovery needs and innovative solutions. The strategic partnership between the Rockefeller Foundation and HUD drew on the successful strategies of the [Rebuild by Design](#) competition, where the Foundation provided lead support for administration of the competition and community engagement.

[Read more about the first and second phases of the National Disaster Resilience Competition.](#)