

FYI on NDR

National Disaster Resilience

September 2024



Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

On August 22, 2024, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it was the 50th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. In this edition, some NDR team members reflect on CDBG's profound impact in communities like Minot, where the funds have been intrinsic to recovery and rebuilding efforts. Minot's journey of resilience, particularly after the devastating 2011 flood, exemplifies the versatile nature of the CDBG program; from disaster allocations to its upcoming entitlement allocation, CDBG has been vital to transforming challenges into opportunities for growth and improvement.

Building a Stronger Community: The Role of CDBG in Minot's Recovery

Chris Plank, NDR Grant Manager, highlighted how the CDBG program has directly facilitated the construction and rehabilitation of properties, providing essential support to low-and-moderate-income individuals in Minot. "Projects like the Center for Technical Education and the Milton Young Tower Renovation are just a few examples of how NDR dollars are at work, creating job training opportunities and safe, affordable housing options. The ongoing Broadway Circle project, set to be completed in 2024, will add affordable rental units and a family homeless shelter, directly addressing the community's needs," said Chris.

Minot's approach evolved with the integration of CDBG-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) funds, allowing the city to not only rebuild but also enhance its disaster resilience. Anthony Barrette, Grant Project Compliance Officer, underscored the importance of compliance in these initiatives, noting that diligent oversight

and attention to detail have safeguarded the success of Minot's projects. Anthony's military background equipped him with the skills necessary to adhere to both federal and local regulations, ensuring the city's investments are maximized for community benefit.

Linking Disaster Allocations to CDBG: A Strategic Approach to Resilience

Stacie Anderson has worked on the Minot Disaster Recovery Program since September 2013. She provided a deeper dive into how CDBG-DR and CDBG-NDR allocations tieback to the broader CDBG program. "When Minot faced the disaster, Congress utilized laws like the Stafford Act to allocate funds through CDBG-DR grants, which enabled the city to receive federal assistance for recovery. Each allocation required Minot to develop a Disaster Recovery Action Plan, which demonstrated how it would meet CDBG's national objectives, including benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, eliminating slum and blight, and addressing urgent need," said Stacie.

Minot's participation in the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) in 2014, was a turning point for the community. The NDRC awarded nearly \$1 billion in HUD Disaster Recovery funds to thirteen states and communities nationwide, encouraging a focus on long-term resilience through integrated, science-based proposals. Minot's NDRC application envisioned not just a recovery from the 2011 flood but a comprehensive transformation into a more sustainable, resilient community. The city set out to reduce flood risk, create affordable housing, revitalize downtown, and foster economic diversity—goals that have since been realized through completed projects such as the Center for Technical Education, various affordable housing initiatives, and the Resilient Homebuyer Program, to name a few.

A Vision Realized: Moving Forward with CDBG Entitlement Funds

Chris and Anthony's insights reveal that while the CDBG-DR and NDR allocations have contributed a strong foundation for Minot's recovery, traditional CDBG entitlement funds will play a promising role in Minot's future. As long as they are in line with Minot's Consolidated Plan, which is a HUD requirement that assesses affordable housing and community development needs, CDBG entitlement funds can support a range of diverse projects. As Stacie noted, "Having worked on this program for nearly 11 years, I drive around town and see the CDBG-thread that has been interwoven throughout Minot's landscape, and the impact of the disaster recovery funds is tangible. It will be exciting to witness the variety of ways Minot chooses to incorporate traditional CDBG funds into its future resilience."

As we commemorate CDBG's 50th anniversary, Minot's story stands as a testament to the program's enduring impact. The dedication of the NDR team, guided by Chris, Anthony, and others, has leveraged CDBG resources to turn a vision of resilience into reality. Together, they have shown that with strategic planning, community engagement, and a commitment to compliance, CDBG's versatility empowers cities like Minot to rebuild, thrive, and look forward with confidence.

Happy Birthday, CDBG! #CDBG50

Minot's success is a clear example of how CDBG has transformed lives and communities, proving that when we invest in resilience and sustainable development, we create a legacy of hope and progress that lasts for generations. #CDBG50

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Acquisition Program

- Currently, the NDR Team is working to acquire the Park View mobile home park, which is needed for the flood project, as well as preparing for a new round of upcoming acquisitions. Overall, the City of Minot has acquired 229 properties to date: 91 properties using CDBG-NDR funds and 138 properties using State Water Commission Funds; 8 properties included in the 91 NDR properties were partially funded with State Water Commission funds. These properties are needed for on-going or upcoming flood mitigation projects.
- The demolition contract for 309 1st Ave NE was awarded earlier this year and work is anticipated to start in September. Overall, the City has demolished 169 properties, with 79 of those being funded by CDBG-NDR funds.

Affordable Housing

- The Milton Young Towers (MYT) renovation project is complete. The NDR Team is performing quality assurance checks on the files to close out the project.
- Construction of the Broadway Circle 17-unit affordable housing complex continues. Drywall work is underway, electrical work is in progress, and the installation of the elevator will begin in September.

Family Homeless Shelter

- Construction of the Broadway Circle 6-unit Family Homeless Shelter continues. Electrical trim work in units was finished in August; cabinetry work is completed; final plumbing fixture installation is underway; and doors and frames are being installed. It is anticipated that all work on the Family Shelter will be completed by October.

Completed Projects

- **Blu on Broadway**
- **Milton Young Towers**
- **Park South Phases I & II**
- **Souris Heights**
- **Resilient Homebuyer Program**
- **Center for Technical Education**
- **City Hall Relocation**
- **Economic Resilience Strategic Plan**
- **Souris River Decision Support Tool**
- **Benefit Cost Analysis and IMPLAN Economic Model**
- **Funding and Financing Strategies Plan**
- **Affordable Housing Neighborhood Master Plan**
- **Affordable Housing Supply & Demand Study**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Reduce Flood Risk/

Improve Water Management

A. Buyouts / Acquisitions/ Demolitions / Relocations

- a. Total NDR Funds Budgeted - \$21,086,018
- b. Spent to Date - \$21,077,708

Build Affordable Resilient Neighborhoods

A. Multi-Family Affordable Housing

- a. Total Budget - \$26,839,611
- b. Spent to Date - \$26,335,639

B. Single-Family Affordable Housing

- a. Total Budget - \$6,296,429
- b. Spent to Date - \$6,179,365

C. Family Shelter

- a. Total Budget - \$4,276,569
- b. Spent to Date - \$3,532,164

Foster Economic Resilience and Diversification

A. Center for Technical Education

- a. Total Budget - \$3,540,000
- b. Spent to Date - \$3,461,223

B. Relocate City Hall

- a. Total Budget - \$8,222,593
- b. Spent to Date - \$7,526,965

Administration & Planning

- a. Total Budget - \$4,570,246
- b. Spent to Date - \$4,056,502

Total Budget - \$74,793,928

Total Drawdown - \$72,169,516