

Executive Summary

The Jefferson County Commission is applying for a Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resiliency grant as part of national competition and is available by HUD in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation.

The proposed national competition is seeking unmet recovery needs that can be presented in a resilient manner to provide not only a safeguard against natural disasters manner that provide, but create quality of life improvements and economic prosperity.

The county is proposing to address its unmet recovery need; housing that was lost from the April 27, 2011 tornado. Based on information from the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency, almost 5,000 homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

Due to communities directly impacted by the tornado requesting dual purpose storm shelters for a level of safety since the county has been struck three (3) times in the last four (4) year, the CDBG-DR funds were unable to address all of the housing applications it has received to date.

The county is proposing to address this unmet need in a resilient manner by building sustainable communities that will provide the lower income citizens and seniors improve quality of life and economic opportunities.

This will be achieved by working with committed community stakeholders to make this type community become a reality.

The community stakeholders partnering with Jefferson County is as follows:

1. Alabama Power
2. AT&T
3. Community Foundation of Birmingham
4. Bryant Bank
5. Goodwyn Mills and Cawood
6. Jefferson County Birmingham Transit Authority
7. United Way of Central Alabama
8. Birmingham Habitat for Humanity
9. Innovation Depot
10. Birmingham Business Alliance
11. City of Birmingham, Alabama
12. Bessemer, Alabama
13. Pleasant Grove, Alabama

The proposed concept for the sustainable community is to work with Alabama Power to get power to the new community. In addition, the county will work with AT&T to assure that

broadband service can be extended to the site for Internet Access so the residents can access important information to improve their quality of life, as well as improve their economic status.

This will be achieved by a community resource/exercise room being constructed with computers and access to the Internet where these residents can pay their bills online, have access via Internet to job training opportunities through the county's WIA Workforce Development program to be prepared for high demand jobs, opportunities available through the Office of Senior Citizens Services, services offered via Internet for Healthcare services, access to public transportation to essential services and to jobs, job opportunities that may become available at the Innovation Depot, which is the location of the city's business incubator, recreational opportunities for improved health; safe housing that will withstand higher wind loads, and a commercial store that will serve the development and the larger community.

The county believes this development(s) will offer opportunities across the county and serves as a pilot program because of the resiliency it will achieve in dealing with future tornados that are likely to occur in the future based on recent historical trends.