

# Baldwin County LGRIP Office Hours Summary

## Session 2: Defining the Service Area

April 10, 2026

10 – 11 AM

## Summary

Session 2 of the LGRIP Office Hours discussed how to define a project’s service area and the expected beneficiaries. HUD National Objectives and their application to infrastructure projects were reviewed, with a focus on the Low- to Moderate Income Area (LMA) Benefit. The Service Area Tool was presented and demonstrated to assist applicants with defining the service area of their projects and meet LMA income thresholds. A summary of attendee questions and responses is below.

The Service Area Tool was created to assist applicants with drawing the physical project service area and determining the percentage of LMI residents within. The tool will calculate LMI residents based on the following geographies: Census Tract, Census Block Group, or Place. Please refer to the Office Hours Session 2 slide deck for instructions how to use the tool.

## Attendee Questions and Responses

*Q1: Where will the LMI Service Area Tool be housed?*

A: This is a link to the [Service Area Tool](#). The link will also be added to the Portal and/or the Baldwin County CDBG-DR website.

*Q2: What are the other National Objectives that a project can qualify under?*

A: In addition to Low- to Moderate-Income Area Benefit and Urgent Need, infrastructure projects could qualify as Low Mod Limited Clientele (LMC). Activities qualifying as LMC are those that benefit presumed LMI residents within specific groups, such as the elderly or severely disabled. Examples of LMC activities include the construction or rehabilitation of a senior center, or the removal of physical barriers to accessibility. Income verification would be required to show that at least 51% of the beneficiary group are LMI. Projects submitted under LGRIP are most likely to be eligible either under LMA or Urgent Need.

*Q3: What information will be required for justifying the use of the Urgent Need objective?*

A: If you feel your proposed project best fits under the Urgent Need objective, you will need to describe the health and safety issues created by the storm, provide documentation of the storm damaged infrastructure or photos of the storm impacts to the infrastructure, and how the project will address these issues. Pages 18 - 21 of the LGRIP Application Guidance contains a checklist outlining the documentation that is either required or suggested, and can be referenced to help collect the documentation needed to build a case for Urgent Need.

The budget and funding sources should be discussed to further substantiate the need. In order to document there are no other funding sources available for the work needed, the municipal budget will need to be submitted along with a duplication of benefit analysis showing the lack of alternate funding sources. It is important to note that the intended project impacts must address current and urgent health and safety issues for the proposal to be eligible under the Urgent Need National Objective. If the proposed work will stop the same or similar impacts from a future storm, the project would be deemed a mitigation project rather than a disaster recovery project, and mitigation projects are not eligible under this program.

*Q4: If project service area cannot meet LMI thresholds should the applicant move forward with Phase 2?*

A: Yes. While there is limited funding for Urgent Need projects, due to the requirement that 70% of Baldwin County's overall allocation must benefit LMI populations, it is still worthwhile to apply if the case can be made for the Urgent Need national objective.