

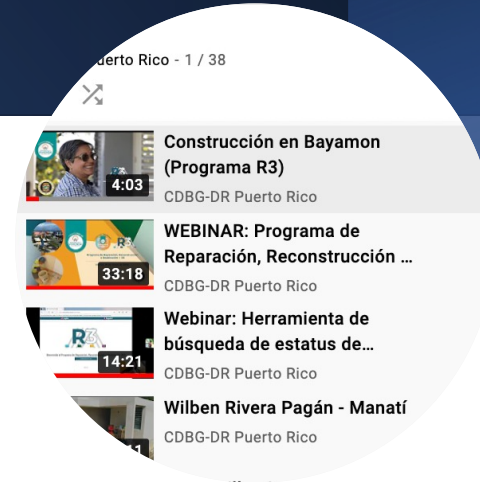
Puerto Rico's Repair, Reconstruction, or Relocation Program (R3): Concerns and Recommendations

IVIS GARCIA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

IRP's Emerging Poverty Scholars Fellow

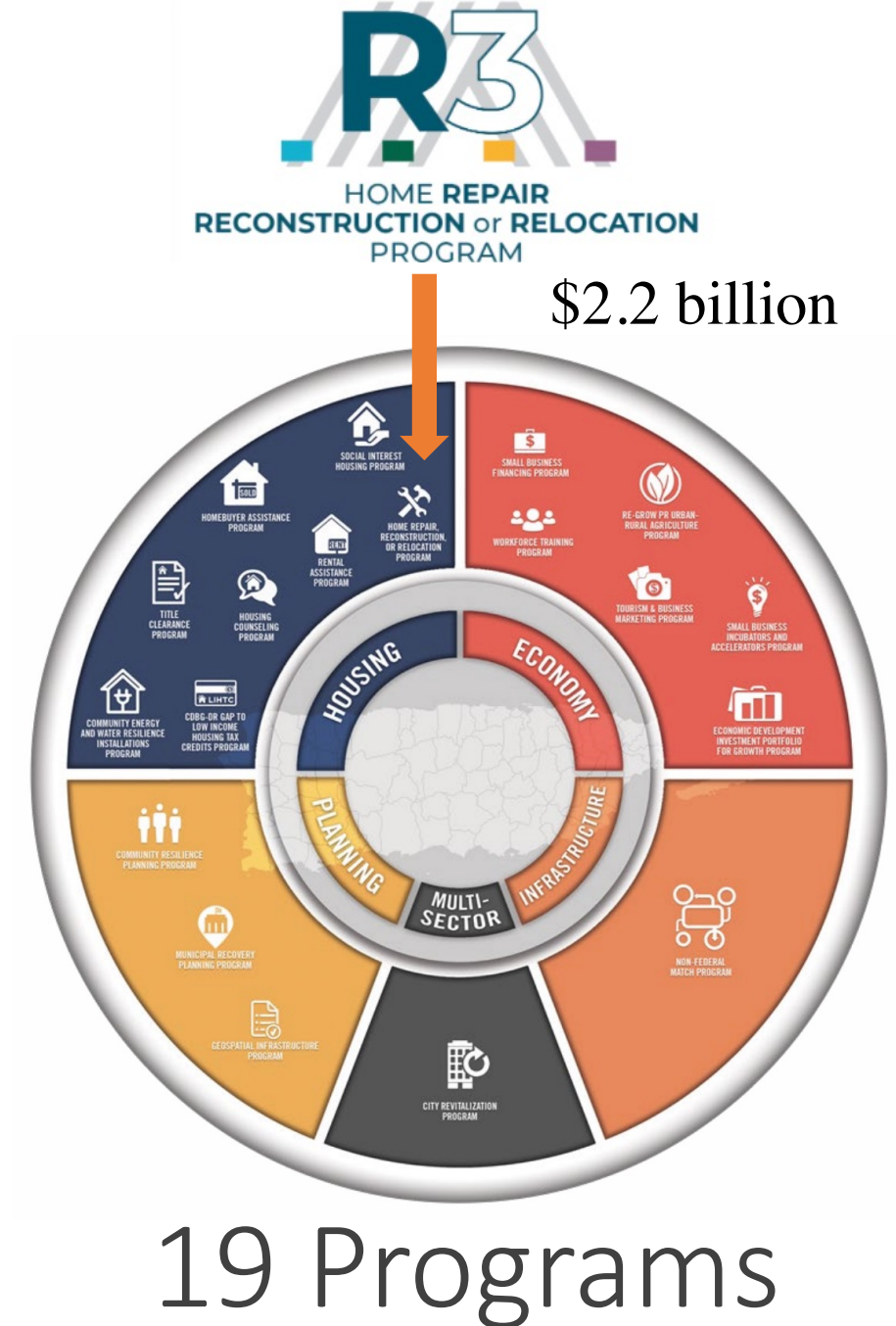


Methods



What are the concerns and recommendations raised by advocates about the R3 program?

CDBG-DR
\$20.2 billion





Priority Group 1

Applications that comply with the elderly applicant, disabled applicant, and significant property damage. All three (3) conditions must be met for an Application to be considered under this Priority Group.



Priority Group 2

Applications that comply with the elderly applicant and significant property damage or disabled applicant and significant property damage, as defined in the Intake Priority Period section of the R3 Program Guidelines.[2] If either of the two (2) conditions is met, the Application will be considered under this Priority Group.



Priority Group 3

Applications that only comply with the definition of significant property damage, as stated in the Intake Priority Period section of the R3 Program Guidelines. If this condition is met, the Application will be considered under this Priority Group.



Priority Group 4

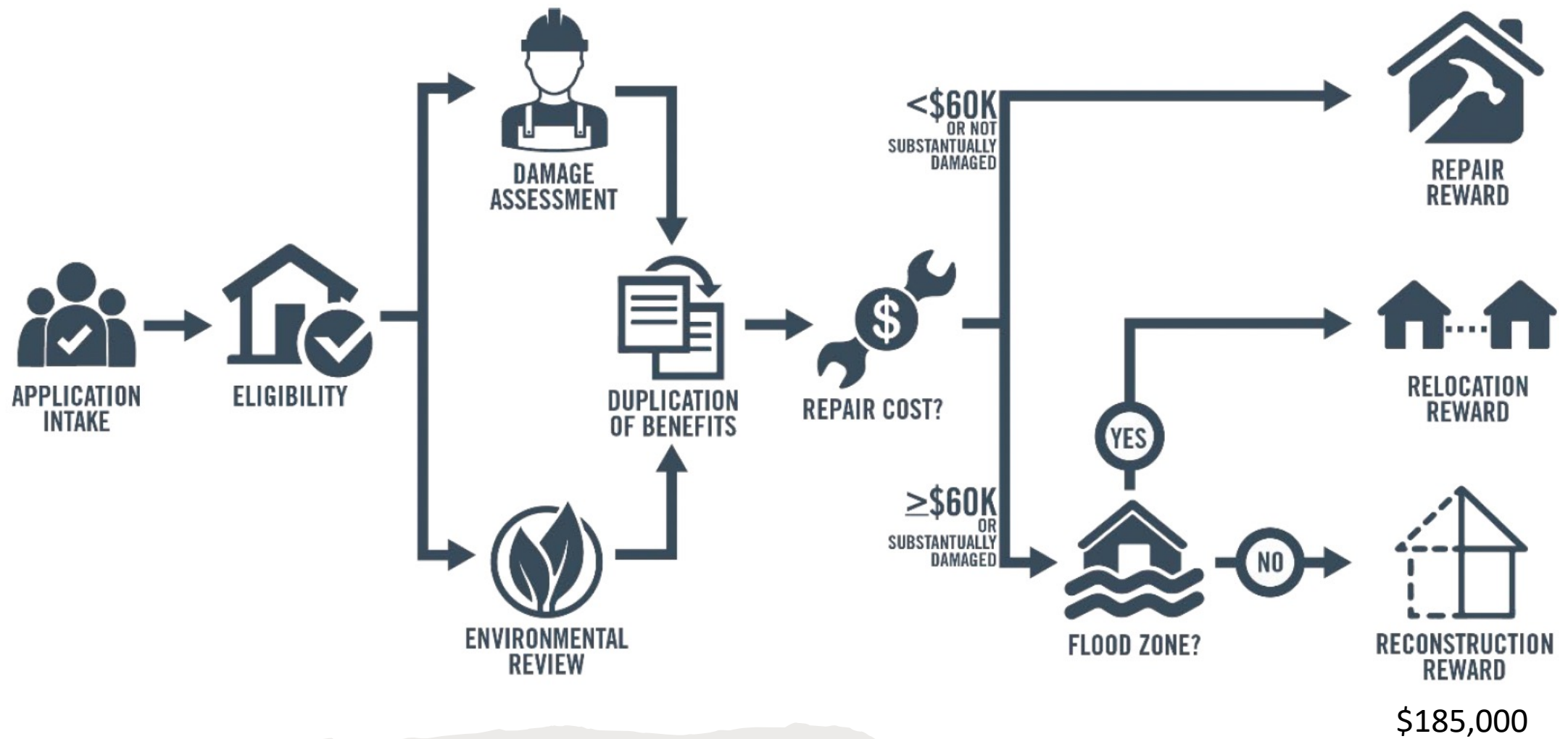
Applications that comply with the elderly applicant and/or disabled applicant definitions, as established in the Intake Priority Period section of the R3 Program Guidelines. If either, the elderly applicant or disabled applicant condition is met, the Application will be considered under this Priority Group.



Priority Group 5

(Non-Priority Group)

Applications that do not meet any of the Priority Group definitions outlined herein.



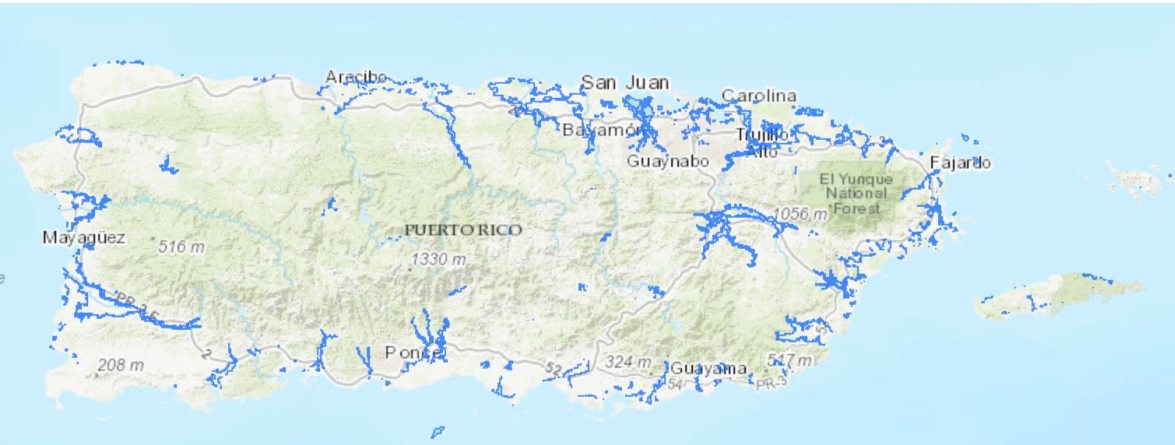
Process

Issue #1: vacant properties not favored in the Vivienda relocation pre-approved list

Issue #1: Allow elevation in flood zone of severely damaged structures



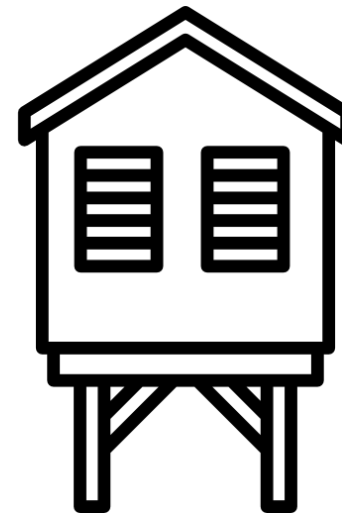
100-year Flood Zone



245,586 households living in areas at risk of FEMA's 100-year flood plain map (about 20% of all households)

"We do not want to rebuild in an area that is insecure, so we can be more resilient in the future"

"The property should be up to code and be safe" - Vivienda



In the 100-year floodplain is allowed:

- ✓ Elevation of historic structures
- ✓ Repair of non-substantially damaged structures
- ✓ **Substantial damage structures when reasonable**

500-year Flood Zone





CDBG-DR PROGRAM GUIDELINES

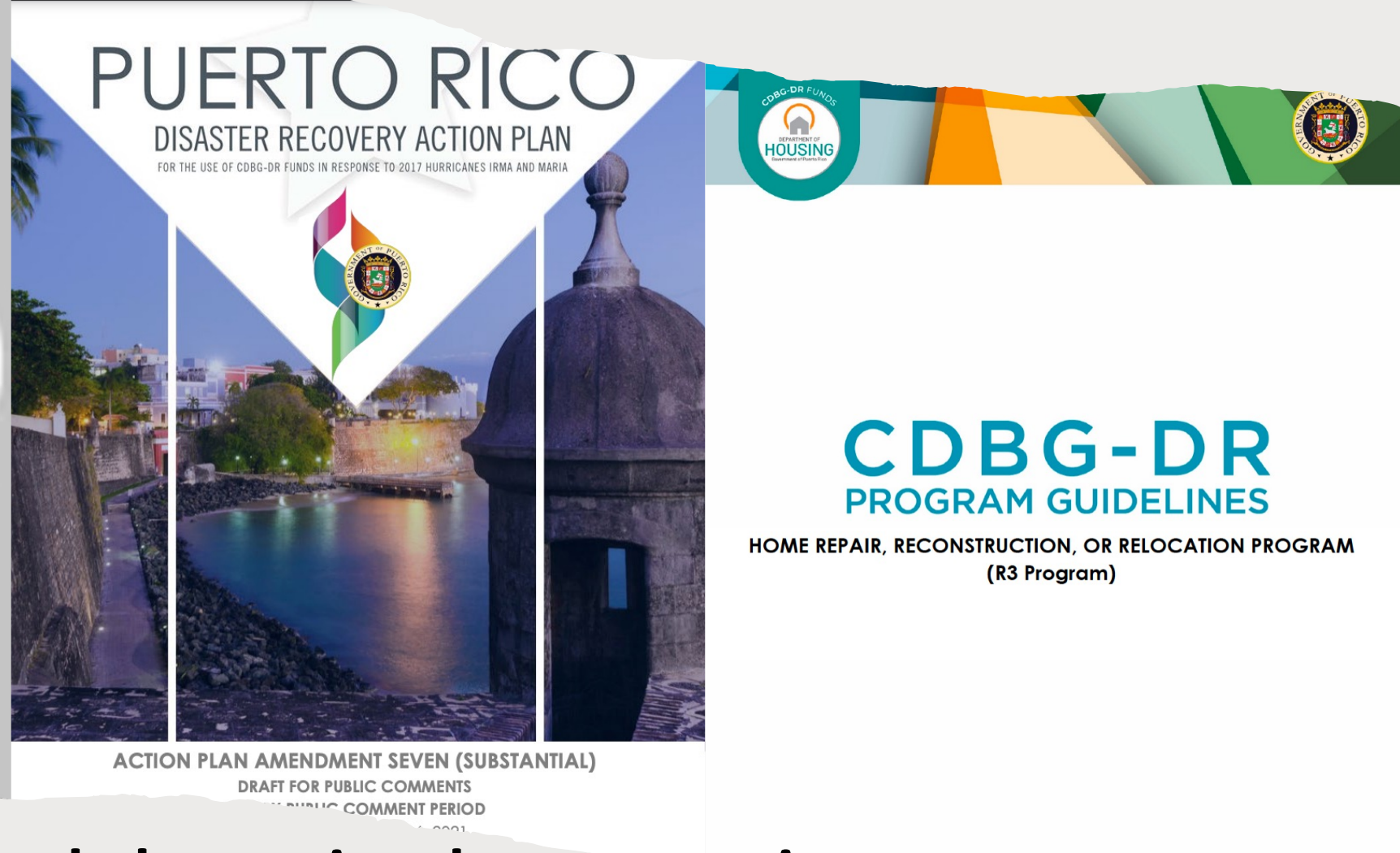
HOME REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR RELOCATION PROGRAM
(R3 Program)

June 14, 2019 (V1)
March 29, 2021 (V 9)

March 29, 2021
V.9

- ***Issue #3*** Only available in English
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act 1994
- ***Issue #4*** No process of public participation
- ***Issue #5*** Various modes of reaching populations
- ***Issue #6*** Relocation of complete communities
- ***Issue #7*** Allocation Notice, Program Guidelines, and Action Plan inconsistent

“The processes are confusing, they are not well organized and they are not well structured. The guides do not agree with each other”



- **Issue #8 Title issues and alternative documentation**

Action Plan – Those with no title have the “possibility” of demonstrating ownership through alternative documentation.

Program Guidelines – Applicants were referred to the Title Clearance Program.

Program Information



Issue #9: Lack of program transparency and sharing of data

30,000 homes with blue tarps

Open: July 31, 2019

Closed: December 2019



27,003 applicants

4,500 homes with blue tarps

6,138 eligible applicants

By June 23, 2020



4,257

Total Awarded



1,541

Reconstruction



2,526

Repair



190

Relocations

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Total applications received: 27,003



19,050

Total active applications

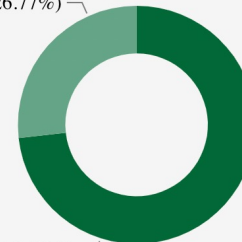


14,375

Priority

APPLICATION STATUS

5,100 (26.77%)



● Completed
● Submitted

13,950 (73.23%)

Issue #10: Location Assistance Benefits

“Instead of seeing transitional housing assistance as exceptional, Vivienda should offer assistance within the R3 program that allows these families to relocate temporary.”

- Advocate





Thanks!

Ivis.Garcia@tamu.edu