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

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

$20.2 billion

19 Programs

$2.2 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.
Issue #1: vacant properties not favored in the Vivienda relocation pre-approved list
Issue #1: Allow elevation in flood zone of severely damaged structures

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

100-year Flood Zone

500-year Flood Zone
• 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.
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
By June 23, 2020

6,138 eligible applicants

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

13,950 (73.23%)
Submitted
“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!

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