

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

This Notice is dated August 22, 2025. The Responsible Entity is the Autonomous Municipality of Caguas (Caguas, this point forward), located at 111 Alejandro Tapia y Rivera Street, William Miranda Marín New City Hall, Caguas, PR 00725, telephone 787-653-6354.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 3, 2025, Caguas will proceed to submit a request to the Puerto Rico Department of Housing for the release of CDBG-DR funds under the “Continuing Appropriations Act of 2018 and the “Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-56) (House Resolution 569 provided a Second Disaster Package) to carry out the **Public Lighting Infrastructure Rehabilitation Affected by Hurricane Maria at Caguas Urban Center, Main Avenues and Streets (PR-CRP-000262)** with an estimated CDBG-DR funding of \$3,757,895.00, which will impact the following avenues: Luis Muñoz Marín, Gautier Benitez, Rafael Cordero, Leoncio Vazquez, PR-156 and PR-34, and the following streets in the Traditional Urban Center: Acosta, Goyco, Padial, Muñoz Rivera, Cristóbal Colon, Baldorioty, Betances, Ruiz Belvis, and Georgetti. The project consists of replacing damaged street lighting, replacing poles to meet wind resistance standards, replacing obsolete luminaires with LED technology luminaires, repairing wiring and other electrical components for optimal lighting operation.

The activities proposed in your environmental review comply with Categorical Exclusions under 24 CFR Part 58.43(b)(1) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is available for review, examination, and copying Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Environmental Affairs Office of the Autonomous Municipality of Caguas, 111 Alejandro Tapia y Rivera Street, Second Floor, Caguas. The ERR will also be accessible on the website www.caguas.gov.pr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments regarding the ERR to Caguas. Caguas will consider all comments received within seven (7) calendar days of this Notice, prior authorizing the submission of a request for the release of funds. Caguas encourages electronic submittal of comments at asuntosambientales@caguas.gov.pr with the following subject: "**COMMENTS TO CAGUAS CDBG-DR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW Public Lighting Infrastructure Rehabilitation Affected by Hurricane Maria at Caguas Urban Center (PR-CRP-000262)**." The telephone number for information is (787) 653-6354. Alternatively, comments may be submitted on paper to the Caguas Environmental Affairs Office, within the timeframe established in this Notice.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Caguas certifies to the Department of Housing that Guillermo Rivera Cruz, serving as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if a legal action is brought to enforce responsibilities related to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities are satisfied. The Department of Housing's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Caguas to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Department of Housing will accept objections to its release of funds and Caguas' certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Caguas Certifying Officer; (b) Caguas has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) Caguas has committed funds, incurred costs or undertaking activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Department of Housing and Caguas; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from an environmental quality standpoint. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Department of Housing, Office of Disaster Recovery, Ciary Perez – Secretary, 606 Ave. Barbosa, Juan C. Cordero Davila Building, Rio Piedras PR 00918, telephone (787) 274-2527. Potential objectors should contact the Department of Housing to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

William E. Miranda Torres
Mayor

Guillermo Rivera Cruz
Certifying Officer
Autonomous Municipality of Caguas