WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §29-31-7

§29-31-7. West Virginia Disaster Recovery Trust Fund disbursement.

Upon the proclamation of the existence of a state of emergency due to a natural hazards event under the provisions of §15-5-6 of this code or upon a Presidential declaration of a major disaster under Section 406 of the Stafford Act, the State Resiliency Officer shall have the power to disburse funds from the Disaster Recovery Trust Fund created pursuant to §29-31-6 of this code to any person, political subdivision, or local organization for emergency services in such amounts and in such manner, and to take such other actions, as the State Resiliency Officer may determine is necessary or appropriate in order to provide assistance to any person, political subdivision, or local organization for recovering from the disaster, or otherwise involved in disaster recovery activities: *Provided*, That except as provided hereafter in this section, requisitions for payment shall not be made or authorized for payment by the Auditor without the express approval of the State Resiliency Officer: *Provided, however*, That all disbursements arising out of the events surrounding the aftermath of a disaster event giving rise to the relevant disbursements shall require the express approval of the State Resiliency Officer, which approval shall not be unduly withheld or delayed.

In the occurrence of a qualifying event granting the State Resiliency Officer the power to disburse funds from the Disaster Recovery Trust Fund, the following provisions and conditions shall be adhered to:

(1) Disbursements shall be prioritized to the benefit of low-income households and geographic areas, and not less than 50 percent of all funds disbursed through the Disaster Recovery Trust Fund following any particular disaster event shall be disbursed to the benefit of low-income geographic areas, low-income households, or to local organizations conducting disaster recovery activities to the benefit of low-income geographic areas or low-income households;

(2) Disbursements to the benefit of a political subdivision may only be allowed upon the verification to the State Resiliency Officer that the recipient political subdivision has adopted, or will adopt within 24 months, the following programs or measures or risk forfeiture of future funding opportunities:

(A) Town road and bridge standards consistent with or exceeding those listed under the most current version of standards published by the West Virginia Department of Transportation;

(B) A flood hazard bylaw, or an adopted interim flood hazard bylaw as an intermediary step to secure enrollment and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), if applicable;

WV Legislature

(C) A local Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the provisions of 44 CFR § 201.6 that has been approved by the local community and is approved or in the process of securing final approval by FEMA. The local mitigation plan may be part of a larger multijurisdictional or regional mitigation plan;

(D) Adoption of a local Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in accordance with State standards; and

(E) Attainment of an active rate classification (class #1 through #9) under FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) that includes activities that prohibit new structures in mapped flood hazard zones; and

(3) Disbursements may be further prioritized or conditioned at the discretion of the State Resiliency Officer and upon approval of the State Resiliency Office Board.

WV Legislature