



GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
Ricardo Rosselló Nevares

February 23, 2018

Hon. Ben Carson
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

**Re: Puerto Rico Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
Grantee Designation**

Dear Secretary Carson:

First and foremost, please receive my gratitude on behalf of the American Citizens of Puerto Rico, not only for the recent award of \$1.5 billion from the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) that will help our Island to recover from the severe impact caused by hurricanes Irma and María, but also for the commitment the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has shown during these challenging times. I can assure this grant will pave the way for the reconstruction of many of our neighborhoods and will promote the wellbeing of the communities served by HUD across the Island.

The financial damages suffered by the People of Puerto Rico because of such unprecedented catastrophes were steering Puerto Rico's central government, its instrumentalities, and municipal governments to a significant liquidity crisis that would likely intensify in the near future. Nonetheless, HUD and the Federal administration have understood and witnessed the current conditions of our physical infrastructure, electrical and telecommunications systems, the necessities of our public health facilities, as well as the limited ability of most local governments to meet basic human needs.

In addition to the physical destruction, Puerto Rico's economy is tirelessly and gradually improving after a near standstill, due to the impact of these hurricanes. Despite this, it is very likely that many businesses will not be back in

operation and running at pre-hurricane levels for a considerable time. It is imperative that we continue to work together to achieve the goals of the Disaster Recovery Grant.

The recently published CDBG-DR notice requires each grantee to primarily consider and address its unmet housing recovery needs. The Puerto Rico's Department of Housing has been working diligently to address the housing needs of the families affected by the disasters. Therefore, as Governor of Puerto Rico, I **hereby designate the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) as the CDBG-DR grantee.**

The PRDOH will work in collaboration with the Central Recovery and Reconstruction Office of Puerto Rico (CRRO), which is responsible for overseeing the work of reconstruction developed with private, state, or federal funds. In addition, the PRDOH will work with other Municipal and State entities in the delivery of CDBG-DR eligible activities.

Once again, I appreciate your genuine compromise as we strive to provide the United States Citizens of Puerto Rico with access to quality affordable housing and sustainable community. I look forward that we continue to work together, as we implement these important improvements to our communities. I appreciate your commitment to the recovery of the Island and I am positive that together we will be able to build back better a stronger and resilient Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Rosselló
Governor of Puerto Rico

cc: Mr. Fernando Gil-Enseñat, Esq. – Puerto Rico Secretary of Housing
Mr. Omar Marrero-Director of the Central Office of Recovery