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September 27, 2022

VIA EMAIL to [info@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:info@stormrecovery.ny.gov)  
AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery  
60 Broad Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Re: Hurricane Ida CDBG-DR Action Plan and Program Design

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Westchester County Association ("WCA") is the region's professional roundtable. Our members rely on us to advocate for policies that foster economic development in the region and meet the needs of our communities. WCA's members include hundreds of the region's foremost businesses and nonprofits which collectively employ hundreds of thousands of workers. Amongst the WCA's primary focus areas is addressing the impacts of climate change on our regional businesses. This office reached out to seek our input in preparation of the Action Plan and Program Design.

**The Action Plan and Program Design Needs to Provide Support for Small Business:**

We appreciate the greater than \$41 million dollars in CDBG-DR funds to support the long-term recovery efforts following Ida and that the majority of those funds will be allocated to the hardest hit County of Westchester. However, we are disappointed that there are virtually no funds dedicated to assisting those businesses (primarily small businesses) devastated by Ida. This is most surprising considering that the Action Plan explicitly recognizes the severe economic impact on small businesses while simultaneously noting that these entities largely came up empty when applying for federal relief. See State of New York Action Plan for CDBG-DR, Governor's office of Storm Recovery at 50 *et seq.* Public accounts of struggles faced by small business owners in towns and villages throughout Westchester County such as Mamaroneck, Port Chester, Bronxville, and Rye, have confirmed that their needs went largely unmet by federal programs and were exacerbated by the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations. See, e.g., [A year after Ida: How these restaurants survived \(lohud.com\)](https://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/2022/09/26/a-year-after-ida-how-these-restaurants-survived/10171170002). The Action Plan's conclusion that individual business needs may be limited in geographic scope does not excuse the failure to support impacted operations. Accordingly, we respectfully request that some portion of available funds be committed to assisting businesses suffering losses due to Hurricane Ida.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Romita". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Michael Romita  
President & CEO  
Westchester County Association