

HUD's Methodology for Allocating the Funds for Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP3)

Overview

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 provided an additional \$1 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) that was originally established under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

The statute calls for allocating funds to States and local governments with the greatest need, as determined by:

- (A) “The number and percentage of home foreclosures in each State or unit of general local government;
- (B) “The number and percentage of homes financed by a subprime mortgages in each State or unit of general local government; and
- (C) “The number and percentage of homes in default or delinquency in each State or unit of general local government.”

The statute also requires that a minimum of 0.5 percent of the appropriation, \$5 million, be provided to each state.

The Department has determined that for NSP3, the states and local governments with the greatest need for neighborhood stabilization funding are those communities that have high numbers of foreclosed and/or vacant properties in the neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of foreclosures, delinquent loans, and subprime loans. The basic formula allocates funds based on the number of foreclosures and vacancies in the 20 percent of US neighborhoods (Census Tracts) with the highest rates of homes financed by a subprime mortgage, are delinquent, or are in foreclosure. This basic allocation is adjusted to ensure that every state receives a minimum of \$5 million. The net result is that these funds are highly targeted to communities with the most severe neighborhood problems associated with the foreclosure crisis.

Estimating Greatest Need

To target the funds to States and local communities with the greatest need, HUD estimated the number of loans 90 days delinquent or in foreclosure for each Census Tract in America. This estimate was based on a model that was comprised of three factors that explain most foreclosures and delinquent loans (see note 1):

- Rate of Subprime Loans. This is measured with HMDA data on high cost and high leverage loans made between 2004 and 2007. These data are available at the Census Tract (neighborhood) level.

- Increase in Unemployment Rate between March 2005 and March 2010. These data are from the BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics, at the city and county level.
- Fall in Home Value from Peak to Trough. Home value data at the Metropolitan Area level is available quarterly through March 2010 from the Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index.

In addition to wanting to capture loans that are currently delinquent or in the foreclosure process, HUD sought to capture the aggregate impact of the foreclosure crisis on individual neighborhoods between 2007 and 2010. To do this, HUD estimated for each neighborhood the number of foreclosure starts between January 2007 and March 2010 as well as the number of foreclosure completions between January 2007 and June 2010 (see note 2). Each neighborhood was assigned the larger of the two estimates.

Finally, HUD has March 2010 administrative data from the United States Postal Service on addresses not picking up mail for 90 days or longer. These data are very good current indicators of neighborhood stress from vacant housing. This number is adjusted using Census 2000 tract level data to remove vacant vacation properties from the count.

The Formula

Using the estimated rate of loans in foreclosure or delinquent, HUD identified the 20 percent of neighborhoods likely to be most distressed. This equates to an estimated serious delinquency rate (90 days delinquent or in foreclosure) of greater than 17.8 percent. Using the methodology described above, the national rate was estimated at 8.9 percent.¹

For each place and balance of county in the United States we add up only from the 20 percent of neighborhoods with the greatest need the greater of the estimated number of homes that either have started the foreclosure process or become REO between 2007 and 2010 and separately the number units 90 days or more vacant in March 2010.

This “jurisdiction level” file is then used to run a formula to allocate the funds available, \$969,700,000. Sixty percent of these funds are allocated based on each jurisdiction’s share of foreclosures and 40 percent of the funds are allocated based on each jurisdiction’s share of vacancies.

¹ This is less than the Mortgage Bankers Association National Delinquency Survey rate of 9.54 percent for March 2010 and slightly more than the McDash Analytics rate of 8.39 percent as of July 2010.

Minimum Grant Threshold

If a place gets less than HUD's established minimum grant threshold of \$1 million, its grant is rolled up into the county grant. If the county grant is less than the minimum grant threshold of \$1 million, its grant is rolled up into the state grant.

State Minimum Grant of \$5 million

For any state government that would receive less than \$5 million, its grant is increased to \$5 million with all grant amounts above the minimum grant threshold reduced on a pro-rata basis to only allocate the amounts available.

Note 1: Identifying Census Tracts with High Rates of Foreclosures, Delinquencies, and Subprime Loans

To estimate which neighborhoods are likely to have high rates of foreclosures, delinquencies, and subprime loans, HUD used a July 2010 extract of county level serious delinquency rates from McDash Analytics to develop a predictive model using public data that was available for every Census Tract in the United States. The predictive model, which was weighted on number of mortgages in each county, was able to predict most of the variance between counties in their serious delinquency rate (R-square of 0.821). The model used is as follows:

0.523 (intercept)
+0.476 Unemployment Change 3/2005 to 3/2010 (BLS LAUS)
-0.176 Rate of low cost high leverage loans 2004 to 2007 (HMDA)
+0.521 Rate of high cost high leverage loans 2004 to 2007 (HMDA)
+0.090 Rate of high cost low leverage loans 2004 to 2007 (HMDA)
-0.188 Fall in Home Value Since Peak (FHFA Metro and Non-Metro Area)

The predictive rate of seriously delinquent mortgages was multiplied times the number of loans made between 2004 and 2007 (from HMDA) in a Census Tract to estimate the number of seriously delinquent loans in a Census Tract.

Note 2: Calculating Number of Foreclosures at the Neighborhood Level

To estimate the number of homes in a neighborhood that have completed, or are at risk of becoming Real Estate Owned in a Census Tract, was done by allocating the statewide total of the greater of the sum of all foreclosure completions between January 2007 and June 2010 (from RealtyTrac) or the sum of all foreclosure starts between January 2007 and March 2010 (from the Mortgage Bankers Association) based on each Tracts share of a states estimated number of seriously delinquent loans. The estimated number of seriously delinquent loans was calculated by multiplying the estimated rate of seriously delinquent loans times the number of mortgages made between 2004 and 2007 (from Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data).