

Immunodeficiency Syndrome Research Loan Repayment Program; 93.187, Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 19, 2025.

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Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2025-18464 Filed 9-23-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

New Functionality Pertaining to Electronic Refunds in the Automated Commercial Environment

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is making the availability of electronic refunds via Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) more accessible by deploying a new functionality, the ACH Refund Authorization tab, in the Automated Commercial Environment Secure Data Portal (ACE Portal).

DATES: The new functionality in the ACE Portal will become operational on September 30, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this notice may be submitted at any time to Nate DeRosa at fn-achrefundsupport@cbp.dhs.gov with a subject line identifier reading, "ACH Refund."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nate DeRosa, Revenue Division, Office of Finance, at (317) 298-1042 or fn-achrefundsupport@cbp.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Currently, to receive certain electronic refunds from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), each importer or person, business firm, or other organization that is entitled to receive such refunds or other disbursements from CBP must submit an Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) Refunds Enrollment Form via an email message to CBP's Revenue Division. Once CBP receives and manually processes the enrollment form, refunds are deposited electronically in the importer's bank account.

With this notice, CBP is announcing that it is making the availability of electronic refunds via ACH more accessible by deploying a new functionality, the ACH Refund

Authorization tab, in the Automated Commercial Environment Secure Data Portal (ACE Portal). CBP developed the ACH Refund Authorization tab in the ACE Portal for faster processing of applications for electronic refunds via ACH (ACH Refund). This new tab in the ACE Portal is now the primary method for applying for ACH Refund for importers or similar parties that are entitled to receive refunds or disbursements from CBP and that are able to obtain an ACE Portal account, replacing the more manual email process. If an individual or entity is not able to obtain an ACE Portal account or otherwise cannot access the ACE Refund Authorization tab in the ACE Portal, the individual or entity may submit an ACH Refunds Enrollment Form for manual processing.

An importer or other party that is entitled to receive refunds or disbursements from CBP must have an ACE Portal account before applying for ACH Refund.¹ The ACE Portal account application process allows CBP to validate that the applicant is a person authorized to act on behalf of the importer or other party that is entitled to receive refunds or disbursements from CBP. Once the ACE Portal account is established, the account owner may log in, set up the account, and create user profiles and sub-accounts. Only individuals with the designated account owner role in the ACE Portal will be able to perform certain functions, including applying for ACH Refund. CBP is developing a new ACE Portal account user permission that will give account owners the ability to grant access to the ACH Refund Authorization tab to other trade account users. CBP will announce this new development at a later date.

To apply for ACH Refund, the importer or other party with an account owner role in the ACE Portal that is entitled to receive refunds or disbursements from CBP must navigate to the ACH Refund Authorization tab within the ACE Portal and provide information for the U.S. bank account designated to receive electronic refunds. Once this bank account information is successfully submitted and approved in the ACE Portal, all future refunds owed to the importer or other party that is entitled to receive refunds or disbursements from CBP will be issued electronically to the designated bank account.²

¹ The application for an ACE Portal account and instructions on how to apply are found at <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated/getting-started/portal-applying>.

² An importer or broker who created an ACE Portal account will be able to view the Refund ACE

An importer may designate a third party, such as a licensed customs broker, to receive a refund check on behalf of the importer. To accomplish this, the importer must fill out and submit CBP Form 4811 (Special Address Notification) via an email message to the importer's assigned Center of Excellence and Expertise (Center) or the Center that most closely aligns with the tariff number of the importer's highest valued commodity, designating the third party as the recipient of the refund. At this time, third parties designated by an importer on a processed and approved CBP Form 4811 will continue to receive refunds via paper check until CBP transitions the refund process for designated third parties to electronic payment. CBP will announce any further requirements or expansions of the availability of electronic refunds, such as for designated third parties, in a separate document published in the **Federal Register**.

CBP encourages importers and other parties entitled to receive refunds or disbursements from CBP to apply for access to an ACE Portal account and utilize the new ACH Refund Authorization tab to receive refunds electronically and take advantage of the benefits associated with electronic refunds. This enhancement provides operational and functional benefits to both the trade community and CBP. Electronic refunds can be processed and deposited in the designated bank account in one to two business days, whereas the mailing of a traditional paper check takes much longer, in addition to the time it takes to deposit the check in the refund recipient's bank account. Electronic refunds also provide security benefits over paper checks as they are less likely to have post-payment issues, such as claims of missing or misdelivered payments or check fraud. For CBP, electronic refunds reduce the printing and mailing costs associated with paper checks and save resources that currently go towards supporting check fraud investigations, including the tracking, researching, and reissuing of check refunds.

Additionally, while third party refund recipients designated on a CBP Form 4811 will still receive paper checks at this time, CBP encourages these designated third parties to apply for

Report, which includes a summary of the total number of outstanding refunds requested, the total dollar amount requested in all outstanding refunds, and a consolidated table of all outstanding refunds and relevant data for the ACE account user's own refunds. The deployment and availability of the Refund ACE Report was announced in a **Federal Register** notice published on August 11, 2022 (87 FR 49600).

access to an ACE Portal account and sign up for ACH Refund in order to be ready to receive refunds electronically when CBP announces that functionality. CBP will provide any support needed for setting up an ACE Portal account and applying for ACH Refund.

Jeffrey Caine,

Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

[FR Doc. 2025–18470 Filed 9–23–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–14–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–6559–N–01]

Waivers and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG–MIT) Grantee

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice governs Community Development Block Grant mitigation (CDBG–MIT) funds awarded under the appropriations acts identified in the Table of Contents. Specifically, this notice includes waivers and alternative requirements for the State of Texas' CDBG–MIT grants.

DATES: Applicability Date: September 29, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gerilee Bennett, Acting Director, Office of Disaster Recovery, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7282, Washington, DC 20410, telephone number 202–708–3587 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>. Email inquiries may be sent to disaster_recovery@hud.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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- I. Authority To Grant Waivers
- II. Public Law 115–123 and Public Law 116–20 Waivers and Alternative Requirements

I. Authority To Grant Waivers

The appropriations acts cited in the Table of Contents (Pub. L. 115–123 and Pub. L. 116–20) authorize the Secretary to waive or specify alternative

requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation the Secretary administers. This includes requirements in connection with the obligation by the Secretary, or use by the recipient, of grant funds, except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment. HUD may also exercise its regulatory waiver authority under 24 CFR 5.110, 91.600, and 570.5.

All waivers and alternative requirements authorized in this notice are based upon a determination by the Secretary that good cause exists and the waiver or alternative requirement is not inconsistent with the overall purposes of title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 *et seq.*) (HCDA). The basis for the waiver and alternative requirement is summarized in this notice.

II. Public Law 115–123 and Public Law 116–20 Waivers and Alternative Requirements

II.A. Waiver and Alternative Requirement To Remove Citizen Advisory Committee Requirements (State of Texas Only)

The Department received a request and justification of good cause from the State of Texas to waive the alternative requirement in the second paragraph of Section V.A.3.c of the notice published in 84 FR 45838 on August 30, 2019 (“the August 2019 Notice”), which requires CDBG–MIT grantees to form one or more citizen advisory committees. These committees are required to meet at least twice a year and solicit and respond to public comments, serving a function to provide increased transparency to the public on the use of the CDBG–MIT allocation. This waiver, as further described below, applies to the following grants allocated to the State: CDBG–MIT for disasters occurring in 2015 to 2017 funded by Public Law 115–123 and subject to the requirements in the August 2019 Notice, as modified by the noticed published in 85 FR 60821 on September 28, 2020 (“the September 2020 Notice”), and CDBG–MIT for disasters occurring in 2018 funded by Public Law 116–20 and subject to the requirements in 86 FR 561 on January 6, 2021 (“the January 2021 Notice”) and the August 2019 Notice and September 2020 Notice. This waiver request aligns with HUD’s requirements included in the notice titled, *Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice*, published on January 8, 2025, at 90 FR 1754, as amended by

Memorandums 2025–02¹ and 2025–03² (“The Universal Notice”). Section III.A.6.a of the Universal Notice does not require the use of citizen advisory committees but instead encourages their use as a means to gather feedback and recommendations from the public at least annually.

The August 2019 Notice requires that following HUD’s approval of the action plan, each grantee must form one or more citizen advisory committees to meet in an open forum, at least twice a year. The primary function of these groups is to provide increased transparency to the public on use of the CDBG–MIT funds by soliciting and responding to public comments and serving as an on-going public forum to continuously provide input into the CDBG–MIT funded projects and programs. Citizen advisory committees could also be a part of the process to prepare the initial CDBG–MIT action plan submitted to HUD, although not expressly required.

The State of Texas reports that despite their efforts to engage and support the citizen advisory committees, member participation and engagement have significantly decreased over the last four years, and these groups no longer serve their intended purpose. The State of Texas describes its good faith attempts to create and maintain citizen advisory committees to include: soliciting membership applications from the public and non-profit sectors across different geographic regions in the state; creating two committees, with leadership positions within the committee, to allow for more stakeholder representation; and holding regularly scheduled meetings to maximize committee turnout.

Despite these efforts, the State reports that citizen advisory committees have become increasingly ineffective due to several challenges, including: a low response during the initial committee

¹ Memorandum 25–02, “Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 1754) and Clarifications to the Allocations for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Implementation of the CDBG–DR Consolidated Waivers and Alternative Requirements Notice Published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 4759),” published on March 19, 2025. Found at <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CPDUniversalNotice.pdf>.

² Memorandum 25–03, “Revisions made to the Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees: The Universal Notice published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 1754),” published on March 31, 2025. Found at <https://www.hud.gov/sites/default/files/CPD/documents/CDBG-DR/3-31-2025UniversalNoticeChangesMemo.pdf>.