

State of New Jersey

Sandy Integrated Recovery Operations and Management System (SIROMS)

Developed by CGI in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), SIROMS represents a suite of interconnected modules providing a variety of functions in support of Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts for New Jersey.

The challenge

In April 2013, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) sought a partner with demonstrated experience in disaster recovery projects to rapidly operate and manage an information technology system, the Sandy Integrated Recovery Operations and Management System (SIROMS).

SIROMS would enable the State to effectively and efficiently implement its Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, manage the flow of CDBG-DR funds and provide the tracking and oversight to meet CDBG-DR requirements.

The State needed a robust system to be operating quickly, to ensure that the disbursement of large amounts of federal dollars was distributed properly to the people and projects recovering and rebuilding from this disaster.

The solution

In May 2013, NJDCA chose CGI to develop and operate SIROMS, which represents a suite of interconnected modules providing a variety of functions. Using agile development, CGI was able to stand up the initial system in just weeks. The modular approach allowed new functions to be added and scaled easily, and also allowed for unexpected changes to be quickly implemented.

CGI provided NJDCA and its partners a shared technology infrastructure, software, IT, financial and Community Development Block Grants-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) services expertise to support the State in its disaster recovery operations. CGI's cloud hosted software solutions provide a comprehensive platform to support the State's disaster recovery efforts following Superstorm Sandy.

SIROMS provides financial management through direct systems integration with the State Treasury system and a full lifecycle grant management system that allows the State to track an application from intake through closeout. CGI also developed the www.newjerseyrebuild.org transparency portal which provides CDBG-DR program updates to New Jersey citizens. All of the SIROMS modules are built with traceability and accountability in mind.

CASE STUDY

GOVERNMENT

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

The SIROMS solution has received consistent high praise from federal, state and third-party auditors for its traceability and clarity of use. NJDCA has publicly recognized the success of the SIROMS project and SIROMS IT system.

"The development and implementation of SIROMS IT system has been a resounding success.

SIROMS enabled the State to effectively: (1) implement its Action Plan; (2) disburse vital CDBG-DR funds to individuals and communities in New Jersey in desperate need of aid; (3) manage the flow of CDBG-DR funds; and (4) provide necessary monitoring and oversight as required by HUD.

Notably, HUD has repeatedly recognized the high-level of functionality and effectiveness that the SIROMS IT system provides.

Additionally, HUD noted that SIROMS offers an efficient electronic filing system which 'plays a valuable role in demonstrating DCA's financial management and provides a clear audit trail for CDBG-DR funds that are drawn.'

Indeed, the State understands that HUD has pointed to the SIROMS IT system as a model for other states to consider when implementing complex disaster relief programs."

Key functions of SIROMS include:

- Financial management integrated with the State Treasury system
- A full lifecycle grant management system allowing the State to track an application from intake through closeout
- Comprehensive, ad hoc and pre-built reporting to support Sandy recovery programs
- A single virtual file for tracking and managing all data for an application, ensuring consistent records for auditing and reporting purposes
- A collaboration portal allowing other state contractors and departments receiving CDBG-DR grants and other disaster recovery funding to provide reports necessary to accomplish and fund their projects

Additional functions provided in SIROMS include document management, business intelligence reporting, geospatial integration, business process management, system-to-system integration engine and data warehouse. It is hosted on a secure cloud infrastructure, providing scalability.

CGI also provided IT, financial and CDBG-DR services and expertise to support the disaster recovery operations.

The results

To date, the SIROMS solution has:

- Processed the disbursement of more than \$1.8 billion in recovery funds
- Facilitated delivery of 52,000 checks to New Jersey residents through various Sandy recovery programs
- Enabled the traceable disbursement of more than \$750 million to date in direct funding to homeowners, helping thousands of residents get back in their homes
- Delivered over 1,000 program critical reports to quickly answer pressing delivery questions from the programs, the auditors, and the Governor's office
- Assisted NJDCA in successfully passing audits from multiple distinct organizations including HUD and HUD-OIG

LOOKING AHEAD

While this solution was built to support the long-term recovery needs of Superstorm Sandy, it can be leveraged and applied to any similar case where grant applications and financial transactions/payments require management and integration with robust workflow to support transparency.

ABOUT CGI

Founded in 1976, CGI is one of the largest IT and business process services providers in the world, delivering high-quality business consulting, systems integration and managed services. With a deep commitment to providing innovative services and solutions, CGI has an industry-leading track record of delivering 95% of projects on time and within budget, aligning our teams with clients' business strategies to achieve top-to-bottom line results.