

City of Providence Department of Planning & Development
Housing & Community Development Division
Notice of Funding Availability
February 1, 2023

I. OVERVIEW

The Department of Planning and Development hereby notifies interested Applicants of the availability of funds allocated from the federal **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Programs**. The availability and use of these funds is subject to federal regulations, and is further subject to the City of Providence's policies and program requirements.

In releasing this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), the goal is to make available financial resources to community-based organizations to enable direct essential service delivery and housing to low- and moderate- income populations.

II. AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AWARD

Approximately \$4.32 million in CDBG, \$1,000,000 in HOME, and \$1,000,000 in HOPWA is estimated to be available for this round, pending receipt of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding agreements for 2023.

III. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants seeking to apply as subrecipients under any of the HUD programs must be qualified 501(c) organizations in good standing with the Rhode Island Secretary of State. Housing developers may be for- or non-profit. Any applicants who are debarred or otherwise prohibited from receiving federal funding should not apply. Active entity registration with www.sam.gov is a requirement to receive any federally-funded contract.

All applicants must register and submit applications for funding through the City's online grants management system, WebGrants (<http://grants.providenceri.com>).

Application forms and associated instructions for each “Funding Opportunity” will be open and available on WebGrants starting **February 1, 2023**.

IV. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

There are five main application categories (“Funding Opportunities”):

2023-2024 CDBG Public Services & Community Centers: direct service programs, such as community centers, food pantries, domestic violence prevention, youth programs, senior services, and more. Services must be provided directly to low/moderate income clients or on a drop-in basis in a predominately low/moderate income neighborhood.

2023-2024 CDBG Construction & Improvement Projects: Activities falling into this category include improvements to physical structures that are open to the public and provide services to low- and moderate-income residents of Providence. Eligible activities may include (but are not limited to) capital improvements at neighborhood or community facilities, acquisition of property, handicapped accessibility projects, facility energy efficiency projects, improvements to streets, sidewalks, schools, and improvements to neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

2023-2024 Affordable Housing Development: Applicants may apply for CDBG or HOME funds (or both) under this application form. Applicants may apply for funding for a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership, and operation of downpayment assistance or rental assistance programs.

2023-2024 CDBG Economic Development Projects: This category represents programs that support the growth and development of businesses and can include grants, loans, capacity building programs, and technical assistance programs. Activities must meet the National Objective of benefiting low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons. All Economic Development activities will require the documentation of job creation or retention for LMI persons, with the exception of microenterprise development.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to the following: acquiring, reconstructing, rehabilitating, or installing commercial or industrial buildings, structures, and other real property equipment and improvements; financing programs for private, for-profit businesses (via grants, loans, or loan guarantees); and activities designed to foster the development, support, and expansion of microenterprise businesses with five or fewer employees.

2023-2024 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS: HOPWA funds may be used for a wide range of housing, social services, program planning, and development costs to benefit individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families. These include, but are not limited to, the acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; and short-term payments to prevent homelessness among persons with HIV/AIDS.

An essential component in providing housing assistance for persons with HIV/AIDS is the coordination and delivery of support services. Consequently, HOPWA funds also may be used for services including (but not limited to) assessment and case management, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, nutritional services, job training and placement assistance, and assistance with daily living. Low-income persons, at or below 80 percent of area median income, that are medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families are eligible to receive HOPWA-funded assistance.

The following are eligible activities using HOPWA funds: Tenant-Based Rental Assistance; Facility-Based Housing Subsidy Assistance; Facility-Based Housing Capital Development; Permanent Housing Placement; Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance; Supportive Services; Housing Information Services; Resource Identification; and Administration.

V. APPLICATION WORKSHOP

An [Application Workshop & Public Information Session](#) will be held **February 10, 2023 from 10am-12pm** on Zoom for potential applicants wish to learn more about applying for CDBG and other HUD funds. Opportunity for Question & Answer and

public comment will be provided. Participation in this Workshop is highly recommended, but not mandatory.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESSING

Complete applications received by the application deadline (**11:59 PM on March 3, 2023**) will be screened to determine whether the Application meets minimum threshold eligibility requirements. City staff will evaluate each complete and eligible application according to the priorities identified herein.

Submitted applications determined to meet threshold and be eligible under the regulations will be further evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Number of Clients Directly Served
- Priority for Equity & Access
- Targeting Areas of Concentrated Poverty and Priority Populations
- Previous Awards/Past Performance/Compliance with Requirements
- Agency Capacity and Staff Expertise for Project
- Conformance with 5-Year Consolidated Plan Goals
- Evaluation of Cost Reasonableness & Effectiveness.

The City reserves the right to request additional information from applicants during the review process and to use other available information regarding an applicant's history, experience, and past performance as a City subgrantee or borrower as may be necessary when evaluating applications. Application reviews and awards are contingent upon applicants being current to the City on any loan, contractual, or tax obligation as due, or with any rule, regulation, or provision on existing or past City contracts.

The City reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this NOFA. Applications that meet all this NOFA's general guidelines and requirements may not necessarily receive an award. The City may fund a program for the full amount requested, or less than the full amount, or not at all. There are no requirements or expectations that the City must award all or any funds through the NOFA process.

The City reserves the right to postpone or cancel this NOFA, if it deems it to be in the best interests of the City to do so. The City reserves the right to waive any technical or formal errors or omissions, and to reject any and all proposals, or to award contracts, either in part or in whole, if deemed to be in the best interests of the City. The City shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of proposals or for any work performed in connection therein.

VII. APPLICATION AWARD AND NOTIFICATION

The draft and adopted Program Year 2023-2024 budget will be posted on the Division's website and the City's [Open Meetings Portal](#). The budget will be incorporated into the proposed Annual Action Plan, which will be posted for 30 days of public comment and a final public hearing held before the Plan is submitted to HUD. All applicants will be notified of final funding decisions in writing.

VIII. TIMEFRAME FOR COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF PROJECT

CDBG:

All CDBG funds must generally be expended and all development completed within eighteen (18) months of anticipated contract start date. "Completion" is defined as all construction activities being complete, all development funds expended, all close out procedures have taken place, and certificates of occupancy issued (if applicable).

CDBG Public Service activities must be completed on or before June 30, 2024.

HOME:

HOME housing development projects must be completed and occupied within 4 years of contract start date. HOME subrecipient awards for programs (such as tenant-based rental assistance or downpayment assistance programs) will be issued a 1-year contract.

HOPWA:

HOPWA awards must be fully expended within 36 months of contract start date.

IX. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the basic requirements previously outlined, a number of other federal, state, and local regulations must be adhered to in the course of administering HUD funds. The certifying official of the applicant is responsible for ensuring that the proposed program, activities, goals and timetables are in compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations, local ordinances and executive orders. The overarching administrative requirements for federal grants ([2 CFR 200](#)) apply to all awards. Applicants are required to have financial controls and systems in place to enable full compliance with 2 CFR 200.

Detailed requirements and procedures for grant implementation are further outlined in the associated Program Manuals located at:

<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/community-development/>.

For additional information regarding this Notice of Funding Availability, please contact Emily Freedman, Director – Housing & Community Development Division at (401) 680- 8400 or efreedman@providenceri.gov.