

City of Providence Department of Planning & Development
Housing & Community Development Division
Notice of Funding Availability
February 3, 2020

I. OVERVIEW

The Department of Planning and Development hereby notifies interested Applicants of the availability of funds allocated from the **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 essential service delivery to low- and moderate- income populations.

II. AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AWARD

Approximately \$4.0 million in CDBG, \$900,000 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 2020. 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.

III. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants may be for- or non-profit; however, no profit may be earned from grant-funded activities. Applicants who are debarred or otherwise prohibited from receiving federal funding should not apply.

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

IV. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

There are five main application categories:

2020-2021 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.

2020-2021 CDBG Construction & Improvement Projects: Activities falling into this category include improvements to physical structures that are generally open to the public and provide services to low- and moderate-income residents of Providence. Eligible activities may include (but are not limited to) improvements to neighborhood or community facilities, acquisition of property, façade handicapped accessibility projects, energy efficiency projects, improvements to streets, sidewalks, school and fire stations, and improvements to neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

2020-2021 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, providing purchase assistance, or providing direct rental assistance to low-income individuals.

2020-2021 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. 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 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.

2020-2021 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 will be held **February 10, 2020** from **10am-12pm** at 444 Westminster Street (1st Floor) for potential applicants wish to learn more about applying for CDBG and other HUD funds. Attendance at this Workshop is recommended, but not mandatory.

VI. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Complete applications received by the application deadline (**11:59 PM on February 28, 2020**) will be screened to determine whether the Application meets the minimum NOFA eligibility requirements. Housing & Community Development Division staff will evaluate each complete and eligible application according to the priorities identified herein.

VII. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The City has a well-established, web-based application system for its competitive pools of HUD funding. Submitted applications determined to be eligible under the regulations will be further evaluated based on the following criteria:

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

VIII. APPLICATION AWARD AND NOTIFICATION

The adopted Program Year 2020 budget will be posted on the Division's website. 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 final Plan is submitted to HUD. All applicants will be notified of final funding decisions in writing.

IX. 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 by June 30, 2021; contract extensions will not be granted.

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.

X. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the basic rules 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 and executive orders. Detailed requirements are 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.