

Special Attention of:

Public Housing Agencies, Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, Multifamily Property Owners, Public Housing Directors, and Regional Public Housing Directors

Notice PIH 2025-23

Issued: July 18, 2025

Expires: This notice remains in effect until amended, superseded, or rescinded.

Subject: Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency Rapid Response Program Funding Notification and Application Process

I. BASIC INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issues this Funding Notification to invite applications from eligible entities for the program and purpose described in this notice. This document provides guidance to eligible entities on how to apply for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Rapid Response Program (RRP), an expedited funding component of the ROSS program. This notice includes a description of available funding, criteria for applications, and an explanation of eligible applicants. This guidance applies only to the RRP, not the annual ROSS Service Coordinator Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ROSS is a place-based grant program that targets an entire resident community and aims to address economic and housing self-sufficiency needs at both the community and individual levels. ROSS primarily achieves this by providing targeted resources and referrals to supportive services, thus empowering residents to address educational, professional, and health challenges. ROSS is authorized under Section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z(6)) (the "1937 Act").

HUD typically provides ROSS grant funding through an annual NOFO, enabling eligible applicants to hire service coordinators who help residents achieve self-sufficiency. ROSS grants are currently awarded in three-year renewal cohorts. The RRP minimizes requirements to those in existing ROSS statute to streamline and expedite the disbursement of grant funds. The RRP complements the annual ROSS NOFO with a one-time off-cycle award to grantees and is not a replacement for the NOFO.

RRP awards provide one-time assistance via a cost-reimbursable grant for service coordination and limited direct services for residents of HUD-assisted housing. The RRP utilizes a simplified application process to promote local leadership and flexibility in addressing urgent social needs caused by unanticipated emergencies. Examples of these emergencies can include but are not limited to:

- Natural disasters (e.g., wildfires or hurricanes)
- Public health crises (e.g., gun violence, community-level contamination or environmental hazards)
- Economic disruptions (e.g., closure of a major employment center that employs residents at the target site)

A. Criteria for Awards

Funds provided through the RRP can only be used to address challenges that require immediate attention and/or new or expanded service provision to help HUD-assisted residents affected by an urgent event. Applications must meet the following criteria:

- 1. *Unanticipated and Urgent* Applications must respond to an unanticipated event that requires urgent human services.
- People-Centered Applications must focus on providing service coordination and facilitating direct services (on a limited basis) for residents of HUD-assisted housing (see <u>Section III</u>). The approach should empower residents and promote local leadership.
- 3. *Immediate Impact* Applications must demonstrate the capacity and ability to use RRP funds to rapidly respond to community needs and provide residents with needed resources and services.

Funding will be provided only for activities authorized by Section 34 of the 1937 Act. Funding will <u>not</u> be provided for:

- Capital or infrastructure improvements
- Previously planned, ongoing, and existing program support
- Any activity not directly related to social service provision or referrals
- Any activity not eligible under the annual ROSS NOFO

B. Grant Awards, Limits, and Terms

1. Application Review

RRP applications are reviewed and awarded on a rolling, as-needed basis until all available funds are exhausted. Applying to the RRP does not limit or affect your eligibility to apply to the annual ROSS NOFO.

2. Grant Award Limits

The table below indicates the maximum amount to be awarded based on the number of people the recipient plans to serve.

Anticipated Number of People Served	Maximum Grant Awarded
50-249	\$150,000
250-499	\$200,000
500 or more	\$250,000

3. Grant Term

The term for the RRP grant is two years. The grant term will start on the effective date of the grant agreement. This is one-time funding and not a continuation grant. If you are awarded RRP funds, you will not be eligible to apply for additional RRP funds for the following two fiscal years.

III. ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for the RRP, you must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Be a current or former ROSS grantee that has received ROSS funding since 2017
- 2. Currently maintain your status as one of the following entities:
 - a. Public housing authority (PHA) or Indian housing authority
 - b. Nonprofit, including a PHA affiliate or instrumentality, with or without a 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than an institution of higher education
 - c. Resident associations (RA) with either locally incorporated nonprofit status, (usually designated by the State) or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit status
 - d. Multifamily owner
 - e. Native American tribal government (federally recognized)
 - f. Indian tribe as defined in Section 4(13) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4103)
 - g. Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) as defined in section 4(22) of NAHASDA
 - h. Faith-based organization
 - i. Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at 24 CFR 5.109, and subject to the protections and requirements of 42 U.S.C. 2000(bb) et seq. HUD will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate against an organization based on the organization's religious character, affiliation, or exercise.
 - ii. A faith-based organization that participates in this program will retain its independence and may continue to carry out its mission consistent with religious freedom and conscience protections in Federal law, including the Free Speech and Free Exercise Clauses of the Constitution, 42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq., 42 U.S.C. 238n, 42 U.S.C. 18113, 42 U.S.C. 2000e-1(a) and 2000e-2(e), 42 U.S.C. 12113(d), and the Weldon Amendment, among others. Religious accommodation may also be sought under many of these religious freedom and conscience protection laws, particularly under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
 - iii. A faith-based organization may not use direct financial assistance from HUD to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities except where consistent with the Establishment Clause and any other applicable requirements. Such an organization also

may not, in providing services funded by HUD, discriminate against a beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion, religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

- 3. Serve eligible participants:
 - a. You must only serve eligible participants who are public housing, RAD PBRA, RAD Project-Based Voucher (PBV), or NAHASDA rental assistance residents.
 - b. RAD PBRA and RAD PBV residents must live in a former public housing project that was converted under the RAD program and was previously served by a ROSS service coordinator.
- 4. Remain eligible under the ROSS NOFO

B. Ineligible Applicants

- 1. Any applicant that is not a PHA, nonprofit, RA, tribe, TDHE, or Multifamily owner and/or does not meet the eligibility requirements in <u>Section III.A.</u>
- 2. Individuals
- 3. For-profit entities, unless they are an eligible Multifamily owner
- 4. Any entity that is not eligible under the ROSS NOFO

HUD will not fund ineligible applicants.

C. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters

You must resolve any outstanding civil rights matters before applying for RRP funding. If you have unresolved civil rights matters at the time of submission, your application will be deemed ineligible for funding.

D. Eligible Uses of Funding

Funds under this notice may only be used for the activities authorized under the current ROSS NOFO. These activities include:

- 1. *Salary and Fringe Benefits* Funds awarded for salaries and fringe benefits to grantees under this notice shall only be used to pay the salary and fringe benefits of the service coordinators. These funds may not be used for any other personnel or purpose.
- 2. *Training and Travel Related to Professional and/or Program Development* Funds may be requested to pay for training and travel costs only if related to the professional and/or program development of the service coordinator(s). Note: The HUD field office or Area Office of Native American Programs must approve all training and associated travel prior to incurring expenses.
- 3. *Administrative and Direct Service Costs* Administrative costs and limited direct services are eligible but must meet the following conditions:
 - a. Administrative costs cannot exceed 10 percent of the total award and must only support the RRP. A grantee's Central Office Cost Center may not use RRP administrative funds to cover other grantee costs.

b. Direct service costs cannot exceed 20 percent of the total award and must be approved by HUD's ROSS program office.

E. Ineligible Uses of Funding

- 1. Any activities other than the salary and fringe benefits of service coordinators, related administrative costs, direct services, and the training and travel activities for the service coordinators
- 2. The salary of a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) coordinator; the funding for FSS program coordinators is made available through a separate NOFO
- 3. The cost of a Contract Administrator
- 4. Capital or infrastructure improvements
- 5. Previously planned, ongoing, and existing program support
- 6. Any activity not directly related to social service provision or referrals
- 7. Any activity not eligible under the annual ROSS NOFO

If, upon review, HUD determines that funds have been used for ineligible activities, the grantee will be required to repay those funds, and the remaining grant funds may be recaptured.

F. Compliance with HUD Requirements

Please note that the <u>General Administrative</u>, <u>National</u>, and <u>Departmental Policy</u> <u>Requirements and Terms for HUD's Financial Assistance Programs</u> and the <u>General</u> <u>Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility for HUD's Financial</u> <u>Assistance Programs</u> for fiscal year 2025 are posted on <u>HUD's Policies and Regulations</u> <u>webpage</u>. You must adhere to all applicable requirements at the time of application. You must also adhere to the applicable requirements for the life of any award to remain eligible for the award.

IV. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

To apply, you must complete the following steps. These steps can take time to process, so please complete them at your earliest convenience to avoid delays in your ability to apply for, receive, or access an award.

A. Pre-Application Requirements

- 1. System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) You must have a valid <u>SAM</u> registration and active UEI in SAM. You must renew your UEI annually to keep it active. You cannot apply for funding, and we cannot issue you an award if your SAM registration or UEI are inactive.
- 2. GrantSolutions

You must have an active Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) in <u>GrantSolutions</u>. If you do not already have an AOR, do not know who your AOR is, or if they are no longer part of your organization, submit a <u>Grant Recipient</u> <u>User Account Request Form</u> to GrantSolutions, copying <u>ROSS-PIH@hud.gov</u>, so

that we can assign your organization an AOR. You must have an AOR to apply for funding or accept any award.

3. Application Questions

To apply for the RRP, you must submit responses to the questions below, in a single PDF document, and all requested attachments via the RRP posting on GrantSolutions.

	Question	Description	Word Limit (maximum)
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1.	Narrative Statement (5 points)	 Provide a clear written summary describing the urgent challenge impacting your community. The summary should specify the type of challenge, including whether it is related to: a natural disaster or emergency (e.g., extreme heat, flooding, wildfires, or catastrophic weather events); major economic challenges (e.g., closure of a major employment site or another economic event); public health-related challenges (e.g., widespread traumatic events, community-level contamination/environmental hazards, or other public health events); some other urgent event that has had a widespread impact on your HUD-assisted community. 	500 words
2.	Capacity to Address Challenge and Meet Program Requirements (5 points)	Describe the relevant experience, capacity, and organizational resources necessary for your organization to successfully respond to urgent local challenges. Include a description of your organization's experience and resources (including sources of anticipated match) to effectively address the needs of your communities.	250 words
3.	Response to Challenge (5 points)	Describe your plans to respond to the challenge, including all activities (e.g., coordination, direct services, or referrals) that this funding will support. Include your plan to ensure marketing and outreach of the program will reach those that would be unlikely or least likely to be aware of the benefits offered through the RRP program.	250 words

Forms/Assurances/		
Certifications	Notes/Description	Requirement
Standard Form 424	Available at:	Required
(SF-424) Application	https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/readonly/SF4	
for Federal Assistance	<u>24_4_0-V4.0.pdf</u>	
Applicant/Recipient	Available at:	Required
Disclosure/Update	https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/readonly/HU	
Report (HUD-2880)	D_DisclosureUpdateReport_4_0-V4.0.pdf	
Applicant and	Available at:	Required
Recipient Assurances	https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/readonly/HU	
and Certifications	<u>D_424B-V1.0.pdf</u>	
(HUD-424-B)		
ROSS Service	Available at:	Required
Coordinator Funding	https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/readonly/HU	
(HUD-52768)	D_52768_4_1-V4.1.pdf	
Disclosure of	Available at:	If applicable,
Lobbying Activities	https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLL	required
(SF-LLL)	<u>L_1_2_P-V1.2.pdf</u>	
ROSS Service	One certification is required from each RA applying	Required for
Coordinator Funding:	or submitting a letter of support to a nonprofit	RA applicants
Certification of	applicant. If RA applicants are submitting a joint	and nonprofit
Resident Council	application, one is needed for each RA. HUD may	applicants
Board of Election	contact an applicant to clarify any items on this form.	supported by
(HUD-52753)		an RA only
	Available at:	
	https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents	
	<u>/52753.pdf</u>	

B. Application Review

Once all application materials are submitted, the ROSS program office will confirm receipt of your application within five business days. Applications received will be reviewed to assess whether they meet the eligibility criteria of this notice.

You can receive a maximum of 15 points, 5 points for each question 1-3. Applicants will be ranked on the total number of points allocated for each question.

If you do not submit all required documents your application will not be considered for funding.

C. Application Response

All applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and you can expect a decision from HUD's ROSS program office within 60 business days of submission.

If no funds are available at the time of submission, your application will remain in the queue for six months. If additional RRP funds are made available, applications will be funded in the order they are received. If after six months no additional funding is

available, you will be notified that your application will not be considered for funding and will be dropped from the queue.

If you do not receive RRP funds, you will have an opportunity to debrief your application with ROSS program staff. You can reapply for RRP Funds if not selected.

HUD reserves the right to make all final funding determinations under the RRP program, including the authority to award less than the amount requested.

V. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

After receiving a notice of the award, you must commit to fulfilling all post-award conditions including the following:

A. Match Requirements

RRP requires a match of 25 percent of the total amount awarded. The purpose of the match is to ensure the grantee's program includes committed partners who can address the needs of residents. The match may be provided as cash or in-kind donation. Eligible sources include but are not limited to:

- 1. Resources or in-kind services provided to the applicant
- 2. Funds from Federal sources that by statute allow those funds to be used for matching purposes (e.g., Community Development Block Grant or Indian Housing Block Grant funds)
- 3. Funds from any State or local government sources
- 4. Funds from private contributions

ROSS, public housing, and Housing Assistance Payment contract funds cannot be used to satisfy the match requirement. The 25 percent match is a non-curable threshold requirement. See <u>2 CFR 200.306</u> for more information about matching requirements.

B. Reporting Requirements

Awards will be subject to the post-award reporting requirements reflected in <u>Appendix</u> XII to 2 CFR part 200, Award Terms and Conditions for Recipient Integrity and <u>Performance Matters</u>. You will report your performance data through HUD's <u>Standard</u> for <u>Success framework</u>. The reporting framework for RRP grants will focus on measuring the timely response provided to a local urgent event. Metrics will include:

- 1. Number of residents served
- 2. Number of direct services provided
- 3. Number of residents referred to service partners
- 4. Effectiveness of your response/recovery efforts and your ongoing community engagement strategies

Two reports will be due: 12 months after the grant is awarded and 120 days after the grant term is complete. Further guidance on reporting will be provided.

VI. QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Email questions to <u>ROSS-PIH@hud.gov</u>.

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Benjamin Hobbs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Public and Indian Housing