



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

EnVision Center Federal Register Notice FAQ

What is an EnVision Center? If these are meant to be bricks-and-mortar sites, must a community already have one to apply, or are they supposed to develop one?

The purpose of the EnVision Center Pilot Demonstration is to explore the potential of a new service-delivery mechanism to provide low-income households the ability to benefit from life-changing opportunities that the advancement of the four pillars affords. The EnVision Centers Pilot Demonstration is premised on the notion that financial support alone is insufficient to solve the problem of poverty. Intentional and collective efforts across a diverse set of organizations are needed to implement a holistic approach to foster long-lasting self-sufficiency. HUD is soliciting comment and interest in participation in a demonstration designed to test the effectiveness of collaborative efforts by the private sector, government, industry, and nonprofit organizations. The goal of this collaboration is to accelerate economic mobility for low-income households in communities that include HUD-assisted housing through EnVision Centers, centralized hubs for supportive services focusing on the following four pillars:

- (1) The Economic Empowerment pillar is designed to improve the economic sustainability of individuals residing in HUD-assisted housing by empowering them with opportunities to improve their economic outlook.
- (2) The Educational Advancement pillar seeks to bring educational opportunities directly to HUD-assisted housing and includes partnering with public and private organizations that approach education in non-traditional ways on nontraditional platforms.
- (3) The Health and Wellness pillar is designed to improve access to health outcomes of low-income individuals and families.
- (4) The Character and Leadership pillar is designed to enable all low-income individuals and families, especially young people, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens by encouraging participation in volunteer and mentoring opportunities.

HUD's focus on the four pillars is based on the belief that they serve as foundations to link or drive collaboration between communities, the private sector, and the federal government to improve the quality of life and empower low-income households to become self-sufficient.

Residents will be able to engage with EnVision Center services in three ways:

1. Brick and Mortar EnVision Center

This is a physical location within or near public housing. The location may be repurposed space in public housing or space provided by a Community Partner. These facilities should be used to co-locate the local public and private resources and programs that low-income residents can access and benefit from.

2. Mobile Application

Accessibility to local and national resources has been identified as needed to connect low-income households to available programs. HUD has developed a mobile app that is available to download for iPhone and android users. Users will have access to: jobs searching features, local health care resources, federal benefits information, etc.

3. EnVision Network

EnVision Network organizations share the common goals of helping more Americans lead self-sufficient lives and commit to improving outcomes in the four pillars. Throughout the nation, there are outstanding groups in local communities doing great work to help Americans lead self-sufficient lives. In many cases, these organizations need technical assistance and resources to take their operations to a higher level of success. These organizations are invited to submit their programs to become a part of the EnVision Network.

How long do communities have to express interest in hosting an EnVision Center? It seems that the Federal Register notice will be open for 60 days, but is that related at all to the selection timeline?

The Public comment period is open for 60 days. HUD's selection of participating communities is open & on a first-come, first-served basis until at least 10 eligible sites are selected for participation in the Pilot Demonstration. The Secretary would like to see EnVision Centers in communities across the country.

For Tribal communities, how can they apply since place-based programs listed in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice do not necessarily apply to them?

The list given in the Federal Register notice is not meant to be exclusive. If a community interested in participating in the EnVision Center Demonstration can show that it is participating in any Federal Place Based initiative, it will be considered. As per the Federal Register notice, "These criteria are meant to create optimal conditions to accelerate the adoption and use of the EnVision Center model. However, the criteria may be applied with reasonable flexibility to ensure that a diverse set of communities are considered for participation in this demonstration."

How long is the demonstration program taking place? Is this an open-ended commitment? Will there be future solicitations, or will HUD use this solicitation to select any future EnVision Center sites?

The Pilot Demonstration is anticipated to last between 3-5 years, enrolling additional communities on an annual basis. It is expected that participating Communities will commit to host the EnVision Center for at least 5 years.

What entities qualify as eligible "communities" under the FEDERAL REGISTER notice? Is it only PHAs and TDHEs, or does this include community organizations (including those funded by CDBG) and Resident Advisory Boards? How do they express interest / apply?

Approximately 10 communities, selected from across the country, are anticipated to participate in the demonstration. Eligible communities are those that meet the criteria described in the Federal Notice. Any entity or combination of entities meeting these criteria are deemed to be eligible communities. Eligible Communities seeking to participate in this demonstration must submit the following information to EnVisionCenterDemonstration@hud.gov.

HUD will use the following selection criteria to assess communities that have expressed an interest in participating in the demonstration:

(1) The mayor or equivalent executive elected official of the community, and the PHA's or TDHE's executive leader, must formally announce a commitment to enhance economic mobility and in so doing identify skills

gaps that exist in their community among distinct neighborhoods and demographics, the resolution of which will support long-term, sustainable employment that places individuals and families in HUD-assisted housing on track to become self-sufficient.

(2) Communities should commit to developing and implementing a plan to promote and expand economic mobility. The development of this plan will serve as a vehicle for bringing various stakeholders together and providing them with a tangible path for achieving the goals of the demonstration. As an example, the plan could specify and formalize the participation of community stakeholders, describe gaps in current service delivery models, identify a physical location(s) which can act as a shared services site to house the EnVision Center, and/or outline specific benchmarks and goals for the EnVision center. Communities' participation plans will be expected to describe the goals of the community's participation in the demonstration and provide, to the extent possible, objective goals regarding the number of partnerships established with state and local government, non-profits, faith based organizations, and private and philanthropic organizations.

(3) To ensure the presence of local support and leverage HUD infrastructure for implementation of this demonstration, communities should be currently participating in one or more Federal place-based initiatives, such as: the Promise Zones program; PHAs participating in the Moving to Work Demonstration, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program; the Strong Cities, Strong Communities program; the JobsPlus program; the Family Self-Sufficiency program and the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program; the ConnectHome program; existing Neighborhood Networks sites; existing Family Investment sites; the ROSS for Education Program; the Energy and Economic Development program (SEED); or the Building Neighborhood Capacity program.

(4) Communities should be broadly committed to realizing the Office of American Innovation vision, especially, developing "workforce of the future" programs, modernizing government services and information technology, improving services to veterans, creating transformational infrastructure projects, implementing regulatory and process reforms, creating manufacturing jobs, and addressing the drug and opioid epidemic.

What are some of the benefits to communities that apply to host an EnVision Center?

HUD believes that communities participating in the EnVision Center demonstration will benefit from the collaboration made possible under this demonstration through results-driven partnerships with federal, state and local governments, community based organizations, non-profit mission based organizations, faith based organizations, private corporations, public housing authorities (PHAs), tribal designated housing entities (TDHEs) and housing finance agencies. EnVision Centers will leverage public and private resources for the benefit of individuals and families living in low-income and HUD-assisted housing that will develop economic self-sufficiency and, ultimately, greater economic mobility for those most in need within these communities. As part of this demonstration, HUD will provide technical assistance, evaluation and monitoring, access to online resources such as the EnVision Center mobile application, access to stakeholder offerings made available to participating communities and a network of support from HUD's departments to ensure that all relevant HUD knowledge resources are made available to participating communities.

What specific partners and programs do we have in place to support each of the four pillars?

HUD's goal is to identify a sample of diverse communities from different areas and of varying sizes that have the capacity to effectively and expediently implement the demonstration to serve low-income and HUD-assisted families. HUD seeks the interest of communities where local leadership has already taken steps to support the goals of the demonstration, as measured by both the community's participation in other complementary Federal initiatives supporting economic mobility, as well as local plans and strategies for addressing the four pillars. Participation in the demonstration by these communities will build upon existing efforts already underway to expand economic mobility, thereby building the comprehensive and

coordinated set of resources that will result in long-term, sustainable employment that places individuals and families on track to become self-sufficient.

Business Roundtables

Engaging the business community is critical. EnVision centers will rely on the private enterprises being engaged to identify relevant training and employment opportunities for residents. Business Roundtables will be held throughout demonstration communities to identify partners. The roundtables should have a wide range of participants including Section 3, HUBZones and Fortune 500 Companies.

Anchor Partners

HUD may partner with an existing entity that has a national organizational presence sufficient to provide a strong coordinating function across communities, government, and the private and nonprofit sectors. The entity should have significant expertise in community services, economic mobility and the four pillars. It should possess strong existing relationships with industry, foundations, universities, and nonprofit and non-governmental agencies. Finally, it should have community project experience, including educational and outreach activities in underserved populations.

Stakeholders

To achieve the goals of the EnVision Center collaboration with cross-sector stakeholders that may include foundations, health service providers, career counselors, mentors, and educators, among others will be promoted. Each EnVision Center will have a number of Stakeholders that could be national or local non-profits or for-profit organizations who will provide their services and offerings in the EnVision Centers in one or more of the four pillars.

Government Stakeholders

These are federal, state and municipal stakeholders whose services will be offered at EnVision Centers and via the mobile app. Government Stakeholders' offerings will leverage one another to bring maximum benefit to low-income communities.