

**HUD Office of Native American Programs
Indian Community Development Block Grant
FY2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity
Frequently Asked Questions
Published 9/12/23**

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been provided to assist applicants to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Section I – Funding Opportunity Description

Section III – Eligibility Information

- 1. Q: May a *draft* Tribal Resolution be submitted by a tribal organization on behalf of an Indian tribe, at the time of submission, and a fully executed Tribal Resolution be submitted after the application due date?**

A: No. If a tribal organization defined in 24 CFR 1003.5(b) will submit on behalf of the Indian tribe, an official (fully executed), current Tribal Resolution authorizing a tribal organization to submit on behalf of the Tribe must be submitted with the application. Omission of that item is not a curable deficiency. See NOFO, Section IV.B.1.f, page 27.

- 2. Q: If a tribe has a reservation but no official wider service area, can ICDBG funds be used off the reservation, for example for eligible activities related to homes of tribal members who do not live on the reservation?**

A: Yes.

- 3. Q: In Section III, Eligibility Information, were the words “deadline date” replaced with “submission date”?**

A: Yes. See NOFO, Section III.A, page 17. Applicants must be eligible as a tribe or tribal organization by the application submission date.

- 4. Q: If the applicant does not submit a Tribal Resolution stating the citizen participation requirements were followed in accordance with 24 CFR 1003.604 for the proposed project, is that curable?**

A: No. In Section IV.B.1.d. of the NOFO, page 27, the citizen participation requirement is not listed as a curable deficiency, and the ICDBG regulations state “prior to submission of the application to HUD, the applicant shall certify by an official Tribal resolution...” (See 24 CFR 1003.604(b)). Therefore, a current tribal resolution stating that citizen participation requirements were followed in accordance with 24 CFR 1003.604 must be submitted with the application.

5. Q: Can you submit a combined Citizen Participation Resolution and Tribal Resolution?

A: Yes. The combined resolution must state that citizen participation requirements were followed in accordance with 24 CFR 1003.604 and must include all resolution requirements for Tribal Organizations as listed in Section IV.B.1.f, page 27 of the NOFO.

6. Q: Are State Recognized Tribes eligible to apply for the ICDBG NOFO and the Imminent Threat Grant?

A: A very limited number of State Recognized Tribes are eligible under the terms of the eligibility requirements described in the NOFO. Please contact your Area Office of Native American Programs (AONAP) if you would like to confirm your Tribe's eligibility status. Area ONAP contact information can be found in the NOFO, and on the HUD website: <https://www.hud.gov/codetalk>.

7. Q: When was the FY2023 NOFO released? What is the deadline for the application?

A: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the FY2023 ICDBG NOFO on June 22, 2023. The submission deadline is October 5, 2023.

8. Q: Can a Tribe apply for both the Single Purpose Grant and the Imminent Threat Grant?

A: Yes. The ICDBG NOFO announces the application process for the ICDBG Single Purpose grant. For the ICDBG Imminent Threat grant, please see [ONAP Program Guidance 2018-04](#), "Imminent Threat Grants" and the requirements in [24 CFR part 1003 subpart E](#).

9. Q: If my Tribe wants to apply only for an ICDBG Imminent Threat grant, do we have to submit the entire application required for single purpose grants or a different application?

A: Imminent Threat application procedures are different from the application procedures for single purpose grants. The application procedures for the ICDBG Imminent Threat grants can be found in [ONAP Program Guidance 2018-04](#), "Imminent Threat Grants" and [24 CFR part 1003 Subpart E](#). Imminent Threat funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the amount set aside for the fiscal year is fully awarded. The Imminent Threat request must be submitted to your local AONAP, in accordance with the Guidance cited above.

10. Q: Regarding the letter that is required from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or Indian Health Service (IHS), does this only apply to tribal organizations? How can we find out if HUD has this letter?

A: Yes, the letter is only required for tribal organization applicants. See Section III.A. of the NOFO, which states that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or the Indian Health Service (IHS), must provide a letter that states that the tribal organization is eligible under Title I of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. A copy of this letter must be included in your application submission, unless your organization has already provided such a letter in previous years approved by HUD and the status of your tribal organization has not changed.” Please contact your AONAP *prior* to the application deadline to verify whether this letter is on record. In addition, a tribal resolution authorizing a tribal organization to submit on behalf of a Tribe must be submitted with the application.

11. Q: Can nonprofit organizations apply? If so, can they submit their own application or are they required to partner with a Tribe?

A: According to 24 CFR 1003.5(b), tribal organizations which are eligible under Title I of the Indian Self- Determination and Education Assistance Act may apply on behalf of any Indian Tribe, band, group, nation, or Alaska Native village eligible under that Act for funds under this NOFO when one or more of these entities have authorized the tribal organization to do so through concurring resolutions. HUD will not review an application submitted by a tribal organization on behalf of a specific Tribe if the Tribe itself submits an application for the same funding round (See NOFO, page. 17).

12. Q: If the Tribe applies for an ICDBG single purpose grant and they are not successful, can a tribal organization also apply or does the tribal organization application get disqualified?

A: Either the Tribe or the tribal organization can apply, but not both. HUD will not review an application submitted by a tribal organization on behalf of a specific Tribe if the Tribe itself submits an application for the same funding round.

13. Q: Is the repair of an airport runway an eligible activity for the ICDBG NOFO?

A: No. The repair of an airport runway would be an ineligible operating and maintenance expense. But for a few exceptions, ICDBG regulations provide that any expense associated with repairing, operating, or maintaining public facilities, improvements, and services is **ineligible**. See 24 CFR 1003.207(b)(2)(i), which states that examples of ineligible operating and maintenance expenses are “maintenance and repair of streets, parks, playgrounds, water and sewer facilities, neighborhood facilities, senior centers, centers for persons with disability, parking, and similar public facilities.”

14. Q: There is very little specific information in the NOFO about the types of economic development projects that might qualify. Is there somewhere other than the NOFO that has more information about the kinds of projects allowable under the program? What might be considered allowable costs for these projects under the grant?

A: The NOFO does not include specific examples of ICDBG-assisted economic development projects; however, there have been grocery stores, marinas, travel centers,

fish processing plants, to name a few, funded with ICDBG. To view activities funded by activity type or region, visit the Best Practices section on Codetalk. Also, see 24 CFR part 1003 Subpart C and 24 CFR 1003.302(c) for additional information regarding eligible activities and economic development projects.

15. Q: How do I determine if ICDBG funds can be used for equipment, inventory, working capital and training when creating a grocery store?

A: Please see the regulations at 24 CFR 1003.201 (basic eligible activities), 24 CFR 1003.203 (special economic development activities), and 24 CFR 1003.207 (ineligible activities). Equipment, furnishings, and operating and maintenance expenses are generally not eligible. However, 24 CFR 1003.203(b) provides that assistance to a for-profit business, including technical assistance, is allowable for any activity where the assistance is necessary or appropriate to carry out an economic development project. For more assistance, please contact your ONAP Area Office to discuss specific details about your project.

16. Q: We are hoping to purchase a back-up generator to provide support to water treatment plants in the event of a loss of power. Per the ICDBG funding announcement, we read that equipment is not an eligible purchase, but we are wondering whether this project falls under the equipment category.

A: As stated in 1003.207(b)(1), the purchase of equipment with ICDBG funds is generally ineligible. While there are certain types of equipment that are eligible, the purchase of a back-up generator is ineligible.

17. Q: This question is regarding Public Service activity requirements. If we apply as a tribal organization that has not received funds, but the Tribe has, can we propose a "quantifiable increase" or would we only qualify if the service was new?

A: Per 24 CFR 1003.201(e), to be eligible for ICDBG assistance, a public service must be either a new service, or a quantifiable increase in the level of an existing service above that which has been provided by or on behalf of the grantee through funds raised by the grantee or received by the grantee from the Federal government in the twelve calendar months before the submission of the application for ICDBG assistance. (An exception to this requirement may be made if HUD determines that any decrease in the level of a service was the result of events not within the control of the grantee.) So, as a tribal organization applying on behalf of a Tribe, you could propose a quantifiable increase of a public service that was carried out when the Tribe itself was the recipient of the funds.

18. Q: Can ICDBG be used to fund property acquisition for a new single family housing construction project, where ICDBG funds will not be used for the construction costs?

A: Yes. Under 24 CFR 1003.201(a), acquisition is an eligible use of ICDBG. Acquisition in whole or in part by the grantee, or other public or private nonprofit

entity, by purchase, long-term lease, donation, or otherwise, of real property (including air rights, water rights, rights-of-way, easements, and other interests therein) for any public purpose, subject to the limitations of 24 CFR [1003.207](#).

19. Q: Can funds be used to install solar arrays on low-income houses?

A: Yes. Per 24 CFR 1003.202, funds can be used for rehabilitation services on low-income public housing and other publicly owned residential buildings and improvements. In addition, per 24 CFR 1003.202(b)(4), ICDBG funds can be used for improvements to increase the efficient use of energy in structures through such means as installation of storm windows and doors, siding, wall and attic insulation, and conversion, modification, or replacement of heating and cooling equipment, including the use of solar energy equipment.

20. Q: If funded for an infrastructure project would the organization be allowed to charge a small entry fee? For example, for qualifying individuals there would be no fee, however those that do not meet the income guidelines may have to pay a small fee for use.

A: Yes. Per 24 CFR 1003.201(c)(2), *fees for use of facilities*, reasonable fees may be charged for the use of the facilities assisted with ICDBG funds, but charges such as excessive membership fees, which will have the effect of precluding low- and moderate-income persons from using the facilities, are not permitted.

21. Q: Can ICDBG funds be used to rehab NAHASDA units whose occupants were income eligible at the time of move-in, but are not low-income currently?

A: No. When determining income eligibility, the occupant must be income eligible for the improvements or benefit from the ICDBG funds at the time the ICDBG funds are expended (See 24 CFR 1003.208(c)(2)).

22. Q: Does a social services building, police station, or court building count as public facilities? Clarification is needed because crime prevention and social services count as public services.

A: Buildings that are used for the general conduct of government are ineligible. However, some buildings may be eligible based on the location and who is mainly being served (e.g., Police Substation). Under 24 CFR 1003.4, *Buildings for the general conduct of government* mean office buildings and other facilities in which the legislative, judicial or general administrative affairs of the government are conducted. **This term does not include** such facilities as neighborhood service centers or special purpose buildings located in low- and moderate-income areas that house various non-legislative functions or services provided by the government at decentralized locations. It is important to identify if the project will use funds to assist the public facility building or provide a direct public service. It is best to talk to your Grants Management Specialist to help you determine if the proposed building would be eligible. (See 24 CFR 1003.201, 24 CFR 1003.207(a)(1), and 24 CFR 1003.4, definition of “Buildings for the general conduct of government”).

Section IV – Application and Submission Information

23. Q: Please provide additional clarification on what is meant by “must principally benefit Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI)” and “70% of the grant funds must be used for activities that benefit LMI persons.” Do either of those requirements mean that funds may be used for other than LMI households?

A: Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (the Act) establishes as its primary objective the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. Consistent with this objective, not less than 70 percent of the expenditures of each single purpose grant shall be for activities which meet the criteria set forth in [paragraphs \(a\), \(b\), \(c\) and \(d\) of 24 CFR 1003.208](#).

24. Q: Are Housing Rehabilitation Projects and New Housing Construction Projects subject to certain Threshold Requirements, as is the case for Economic Development?

A: Yes, Housing Rehabilitation Projects and New Housing Construction Projects are subject to threshold requirements laid out in Section IV.B.1.i. and j, respectively, on page 28 of the NOFO.

25. Q: Is the rehabilitation of a private home eligible for ICDBG if the resident is LMI?

A: Yes. ICDBG funds may be used for the rehabilitation of privately owned buildings and for improvements for residential purposes. However, the homeowner must be LMI at the time of assistance. See 24 CFR 1003.202(a)(1).

26. Q: What is a CBDO and what is the criteria to qualify as a CBDO?

A: A CBDO is a Community-Based Development Organization. The regulation at 24 CFR 1003.204 describes the characteristics of eligible CBDOs and the special activities that CBDOs can carry out, including new housing construction and other special activities that carry out a neighborhood revitalization, community economic development, or energy conservation project. Applications for new housing construction must demonstrate that the new housing construction will be carried out by a CBDO. This is a threshold requirement in the NOFO (Section IV.B.1.j., page 28). Contact your ONAP Area Office to find out if your organization has been previously approved as a CBDO. Refer to [24 CFR 1003.204\(c\)](#) for information about qualifying CBDOs; applicants or subrecipients may qualify as a CBDO under any of the options listed. TDHEs or other tribal organizations may find they qualify under 1003.204(c)(2)(iv), as a tribal-based nonprofit organization. Such organizations are associations or corporations duly organized to promote and undertake community development activities on a not-for-profit basis within an identified service area.

27. Q: Is there an example of how the Implementation Schedule and Implementation Schedule Narrative should interact?

A: An applicant must submit an Implementation Schedule (form HUD-4125) and can include a narrative description of the Implementation Schedule in the Workplan Narrative. Together, the Implementation Schedule and narrative description of the Implementation Schedule in the Workplan Narrative must include a detailed breakdown of the tasks needed to complete the project, as described in subfactor 3.3. Keep in mind that there is a 30-page maximum length for the Workplan Narrative. See NOFO, Subfactor 3.3.

Example of Narrative Description of Implementation Schedule:

Project Implementation Plan

Please see the attached HUD-4125 Project Implementation Schedule (attachment D) for a breakdown of the tasks needed to complete this project. The project assumes a start date of XXX and anticipates a close date of XXX. Project staff will present progress updates to the Executive Director, not less than monthly, to ensure the day-to-day work performance will result in a timely completion of the project. Once the grant funds are received, the project team will proceed according to the Implementation Schedule:

- *Upon receipt of the Notification of Award Letter, any pre-award or special conditions will be addressed including environmental review per 24 CFR part 58.*
- *By XXXX, the design plans will be finalized and any adjustments requiring HUD notification will be submitted to HUD.*
- *Phases of rehab will be conducted on the noted units between XXXX and XXXX.*
- *Quarterly and annual financial and progress reporting will be submitted to HUD on the dates noted.*
- *Final walk-through inspections will be completed by XXXX.*
- *Grant Closeout will start by XXX and be completed by XXXX.*

Note that for applications proposing multiple projects, applicants must submit a separate Implementation Schedule for each project (See NOFO Section IV.B.1).

28. Q: Is the Budget Narrative included within the Workplan Narrative, or as an attachment?

A: Applicants must include a Budget Narrative. The Budget Narrative may be included as a separate attachment from the Workplan Narrative and does not count towards the 30-page limit for narratives. Please see that the Budget Narrative includes a breakdown and description for each budget line, including all sources and uses of funding for the proposed project(s). See NOFO, Section IV.B.1.c, pages 26 and 27 for more information on the Budget Narrative.

29. Q: The Budget Narrative calls for details on indirect costs. What more should be included aside from the amount?

A: Please refer to Section IV.B.1.q of the NOFO for detailed instruction regarding indirect costs. Also refer to the description of the Budget Narrative submission at Section IV.B.1.c. Finally, ensure you are including the details on indirect costs that affect your score at Subfactor 3.2 Budget (see NOFO, pages 52 to 54).

30. Q: If we use excel, does the Budget Narrative have to be 12-point font, and double spaced?

A: No. The NOFO states that Narratives and other attachments must be no more than 30 pages in length, and must be double-spaced, 12-point Times Roman font with at least 1-inch margins on all sides (See NOFO, page 30). However, the NOFO states that the Budget Narrative does not count towards the 30-page limit for narratives, and Excel spreadsheets and photographs do not need to follow the spacing or font requirement.

31. Q: Do applicants need to provide a narrative addressing Advancing Racial Equity (section III.F, page 21)?

A: No. This narrative is optional.

Section V – Application Review Criteria
Rating Factor 1

31. Q: In Rating Factor 1, Subfactor 1.1, how would we go about discussing contractors if our contractors have not been determined prior to submission?

A: Contractors’ expertise would only need to be described if the contractors are key staff in planning, managing, and implementing projects in accordance with the implementation schedule for which funding is being requested. Knowledge and experience will be judged in terms of recent, relevant, and successful experience for each key staff. Additionally, the applicant must either provide an assessment and plan for addressing identified gaps in capacity for managing and implementing the proposed project or confirm there were no gaps in staff capacity for managing and implementing the proposed project (See NOFO, Section V, RF1, Subfactor 1.1). So, if a contractor is a key staff that has not yet been determined, that discussion should take place as part of the analysis on gaps in capacity.

32. Q: In Rating Factor 1, Subfactor 1.1, can you define “key staff”?

A: Key Staff are determined by the applicant. Key Staff means experienced, professional and/or technical personnel who will have major responsibilities under the contract and/or provide unusual or unique expertise essential for successful completion of the work performed. Key Staff responsibilities include general oversight of the project, day-to-day project management, financial management and reporting. Depending on the nature of the project, key Staff could also include technical experts such as architects or engineers.

33. Q: What does “unmodified opinion” mean in Subfactor 1.3?

A: An auditor’s *unmodified* opinion means that the auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

34. Q: In Rating Factor 1, Subfactor 1.4, there is a range of 2 CFR 200.318-327 regulatory requirements. Do Tribes have to address all those requirements?

A: Applicants should clearly describe how they implement their procurement and contract management policies and procedures in accordance with each of the following:

- General procurement standards at 2 CFR 200.318-327 (excluding 200.322 and except that 200.326 shall only apply under the terms of 24 CFR 1003.501(a)(8))
- Indian and tribal preference at 24 CFR 1003.510; and
- Conflict of interest at 24 CFR 1003.606.

Note that the ICDBG regulations do not exclude Tribes from complying with 2 CFR 200.323, but the regulation 2 CFR 200.323 does not apply to Tribes – it only applies to state agencies or an agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors. Therefore, ONAP will not reduce an applicant’s score if 2 CFR 200.323 is not addressed.

See page 43 of the NOFO for additional detail.

Rating Factor 2

35. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.1, what does “housing cost burden” mean?

A: A household is said to be cost-burdened when it pays more than 30 percent of its income toward housing expenses and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Note that the Needs Table for subfactor 2.2.c. uses the IHBG definition of cost burden (housing cost greater than 50% of annual income). Either standard may be used if you choose to include this information in 2.1.

36. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.2, is an infrastructure project that supports new housing considered a housing project? In other words, will the demographic requirements be needed?

A: This project would be categorized as an infrastructure project and would be evaluated under Subfactor 2.2.a. Demographic information is required (HUD data, your own data, or information that the project will serve a limited clientele).

37. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.2, can an applicant use their own 2017 and 2018 surveys?

A: Yes, for specific project types. Applicants who are proposing Public Facilities and Infrastructure Projects or Economic Development Projects can use their own data to demonstrate the percentage of LMI persons who will benefit from the project. Note the criteria in 2.2, “Using Your Own Data,” on page 47-48 of the NOFO. Your survey and application must include all of the listed components and cannot be older than 2015.

38. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.2.a, are applicants required to demonstrate that proposed project(s) will exclusively serve a limited clientele?

A: Not necessarily. In 2.2.a, the applicant can rely on Census data, choose to provide its own data, or demonstrate that the proposed project will serve a limited clientele. Limited clientele activities are described in [1003.208\(b\)](#). Note that in order for your project to qualify as limited clientele under 1003.208(b)(1)(i), it must exclusively serve that clientele group (i.e., abused children, battered spouses, elderly, homeless, etc.).

39. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.2.a, can you apply if none of the 3 HUDUSER data options meet the 70% threshold, and you don’t have an independent survey?

A: In order to be rated and receive funding consideration, all applicants must demonstrate that at least 70 percent of the grant funds will be used for activities that benefit LMI persons in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 1003.208. If you can meet that threshold requirement, your project can be rated under 2.2.

40. Q: What is the Needs Table referenced in Rating Subfactor 2.2c? How do I find it and how is it used?

A: The Needs table is located in the zip file with the Application Instructions for the ICDBG program. In Grants.gov, click the package tab, click preview, then click Download Instructions. A zip file that includes the Needs Table will download. You can also find the needs table on Codetalk here: [FY 2023 ICDBG Needs Table](#). The Needs Table is used to score Subfactor 2.2.c. (housing projects).

SYNOPSIS
VERSION HISTORY
RELATED DOCUMENTS
PACKAGE

[Print Package List](#)

Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!
 If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you **MUST** have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. [Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.](#)

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:						
CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
14.862	FR-6700-N-23	Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages	PKG00282278	06/22/2023	10/05/2023	Preview Apply

41. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.2.c, what data source is used to determine “need”? Can a Tribe /TDHE use other data or its own data?

A: The Factor 2 Needs Table is used to award points in subfactor 2.2.c. The needs table is prepared by HUD based on data gathered under the IHBG formula program. More information on the data in the table is in the NOFO on page 49. Applicants with housing projects can provide their own data in 2.1, but in 2.2.c. such projects will be awarded points based on the needs table.

42. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.3, how do you make preparing youth the “main purpose” of the project?

A: For full points, applicants must demonstrate that the main purpose of the proposed project and/or activities is to prepare youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency and further the interests of their Tribal community, and the project must have a clear and direct connection to Tribal youth.

Examples: Projects that house or provide dedicated space for youth, such as homeless shelters for families, youth counseling facilities, gymnasiums, classrooms, student housing, and recreational centers; or projects that incorporate youth into the actual design and construction portion of the project, such as training of youth for building trades and related on-the-job training.

43. Q: In Rating Factor 2, Subfactor 2.4, points are provided to applicants who have not received an ICDBG award. Does this apply to any applicant for a Tribe, whether a Tribal Organization or the Tribe itself?

A: Yes. This subfactor applies to Tribes and tribal organizations applying on their behalf. For example, if a Tribe received an ICDBG award in any of the 2018-2022 competitions, and a tribal organization is applying this year on behalf of that Tribe, the Tribal organization would receive 0 points in 2.4.

44. Q: In Rating Factor 2, was Subfactor 2.5 removed?

A: Yes. The subfactor was removed. The opportunity to address Climate Change is in the Preference Point section of the NOFO on page 65.

Rating Factor 3

45. Q: In Rating Factor 3, subfactor 3.1, what would be the best way to show cost effectiveness?

A: Because of the variety of projects allowed under the ICDBG NOFO, the best way to show cost effectiveness would depend on the proposed project. For example, for some projects cost effectiveness can be shown by describing and providing cost savings in percentage or dollar amounts resulting from building design or construction methods, or energy efficiency measures that will be realized in future years.

46. Q: In Rating Factor 3, subfactor 3.1, how do you address the component about Indian Preference?

A: The NOFO requires that you describe how you will comply with Indian Preference requirements, which are at 24 CFR [1003.510](#). This regulation requires that to the greatest extent feasible, preference for Indians and Indian organizations be provided in contracting and employment. You can describe how you will comply with this requirement by discussing whether you have procedures and policies on Indian Preference in place, and how you ensure they are followed.

47. Q: In Rating Factor 3, subfactor 3.1, Land for Future Housing projects, the NOFO indicates that the application must establish that there is a reasonable ratio between the number of usable acres to be acquired and the number of LMI households to benefit from the project. Please explain what is considered to be a reasonable ratio.

A: The NOFO asks the applicant to establish reasonableness. That said, in reviewing this subfactor, no more than 1 acre per home will be considered reasonable. Other ways to establish reasonableness could be how the proposed density compares with average density in a particular area/community, or how the land cost affects total project costs.

48. Q: In Rating Factor 3, subfactor 3.2, is the budget preparer and the cost estimator the same person, as referenced under this subfactor?

A: Yes. The descriptive paragraph in 3.2 references “the individual(s) that prepared the budget.” The point criteria reference “the person who prepared the cost estimates” and the “cost estimator.” Ensure you follow the points’ criteria and describe the qualifications and the experience of the person who prepared the cost estimates and cost estimator.

49. Q: In Rating Factor 3, subfactor 3.2, if your project is something that doesn't exist in and around the area, does that impact the points received for cost comparison for the budget section?

A: Subfactor 3.2 asks for cost comparisons to one or more similar types of projects in the area. A cost comparison should be provided even if it's not for a local project, to demonstrate that your budget is reasonable. You should expand the area used to find a cost comparison.

50. Q: Does the requested grant amount and the amount of the project have to be below the grant ceiling?

A: Your ICDBG request (line 18a of the SF-424) cannot exceed the grant ceiling for your region per Section II.a.2 of the NOFO, page 14. There is no limit to the overall amount for your project.

51. Q: In Rating Factor 3, subfactor 3.4.a, if an infrastructure project will be operated by a utility provider who is not the applicant, do you need to provide an O&M plan and funding commitment from the utility provider to get the full points for this section?

A: Subfactor 3.4.a. requires a funding commitment to operate and maintain the project (O&M plan). This commitment can be provided by the tribe or by the entity who will be responsible for maintaining the project.

52. Q: Is the analysis for public benefit requested in Subfactor 3.4.b a separate report, or is it to be included in the Workplan Narrative?

A: HUD will accept the analysis in the Workplan Narrative or as a separate report. The analysis is typically prepared by a qualified third party and makes sense as a separate attachment to the application.

Rating Factor 4

53. Q: Should Public Service costs be included before calculating the percentage of leverage funds?

A: Yes, Public Service costs should be included when calculating the percentage of leverage funds. Instructions and an example for calculating the percentage of leverage costs is provided for you on page 62 of the NOFO.

54. Q: Can the land valuation for leverage be provided by the applicant or does it need to be provided by a third party?

A: Page 61-62 of the NOFO provides the methods that can be used to establish land value. This information can be provided by the applicant or a third party.

55. Q: Can you use land that was previously funded for an ICDBG infrastructure project as leverage for an ICDBG housing construction project?

A: No, land that has been used as leverage towards other ONAP competitions cannot be used. See NOFO, Section V, Rating Factor 4.

56. Q: Can you give an example of a "Realtor Value Guide"?

A: Applicants should contact a Certified Realtor to obtain land value information.

57. Q: Can Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds be leveraged with ICDBG funds?

A: Yes. Treasury has confirmed that ERA funds can be used for leverage, [via a published FAQ](#). To satisfy the ICDBG NOFO requirement to submit a statement from the federal agency approving the amount of funds to be committed for leveraging, the applicant needs to submit their last submitted ARPA-SLFRF report to demonstrate their spending plan.

58. Q: If the leveraged funds are from IHBG for an upcoming application to IHBG for FY2023, what is required for the leverage rating factor?

A: If future IHBG funds will be used, then the application must identify the program

year and the dollar amount of IHBG funds that will be used (See NOFO, Section V, Rating Factor 4 Chart).

59. Q: Is it possible to use ICDBG funds for the remaining of a single-family housing construction project that was funded with IHBG, and for the IHBG funds to count as leverage?

A: ICDBG funds may be used for the remainder of the project, but the IHBG funds may not count towards leverage. With the exception of the value of land acquisition and direct costs of submitting a proposal, funds that have been expended on the project prior to the Period of Performance start date will not be counted as leverage. Additionally, leverage resources must be for the same project that is proposed and incurred within the same timeframe/Period of Performance as the proposed project. (See NOFO, Section V, Rating Factor 4).

60. Q: Can ICDBG-ARP and IHBG-ARP funds be leveraged with ICDBG?

A: Yes. Both ICDBG-ARP and IHBG-ARP can be leveraged.

61. Q: In Rating Factor 4, Type of Leverage Resource chart, was additional information added in the Federal Resources column?

A: Yes. A note was added to address leveraging federal (Treasury) funds. (See NOFO, page 61).

62. Q: If items owned by the Tribe are used as leverage resources, does the method of valuation need to be included in the application?

A: Yes. If using Tribal resources as in-kind funds, a method of valuation detailing the dollars used must be included. See NOFO, page 60.

63. Q: Can the cost of an environmental review be used as leverage if paid by a different entity?

A: Yes. Cost paid by another entity such as a TDHE or someone else can be used as leverage.

64. Q: Can you define the difference between administrative costs and indirect costs? Does the NOFO say you can use proposal costs covered by non-ICDBG as leverage? If so, is that considered a direct cost, not program administration?

A: Administrative costs are described in the ICDBG regulation at 24 CFR 1003.206 and indirect costs are defined in the regulation at 2 CFR 200.1. Indirect costs are incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. Per the NOFO and ICDBG regulations, no more than 20 percent of the sum of any grant plus program income received can be expended for program administration costs and planning activities described in 24 CFR

1003.206 and 24 CFR 1003.205. Both the indirect costs for the applicant and any other direct administrative expenses would fall under the 20% cap, except this cap does not apply to staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out activities eligible under 24 CFR 1003.201 through 1003.204.

In Rating Factor 4, the NOFO states that leveraged resources do not include indirect costs. It also states that proposal costs can be acceptable leverage. Please ensure you are familiar with how indirect costs are charged to the grant, so that your application aligns with it and the applicable requirements in the NOFO. If grant proposal expenses are not charged to the grant as indirect costs, the cost of developing the proposal can be charged to the grant as a direct administrative cost, per 24 CFR 1003.206(d).

Rating Factor 5

65. Q: In Rating Factor 5, Subfactor 5.1, is the text correct? It appears to be calling for applicants to identify and describe how they plan to coordinate and work on the project with organizations that will not be providing leveraged funds to the project.

A: Yes, this language is correct. An applicant receives points for leverage in Rating Factor 4. Although you may also coordinate the project with entities providing leveraged funds/resources, the language in Rating Factor 5 is looking for a well thought out strategy with community support and coordination in planning, needs determination, and other aspects of the work in the project. Activities and actions described in Rating Subfactor 5.1 discuss the alignment of the project with policy goals and strategic plans of the community the applicant will be serving. The Indian Housing Plan (IHP), prepared annually and found in compliance by the AONAP, is an example of a strategic plan. Coordination with other Tribal Departments counts as coordination with other organizations. The methods/process used to engage the community in the project to meet the Citizen Participation requirements of 24 CFR 1003.604 must also be described.

66. Q: In Rating Factor 5, Subfactor 5.2, does including outputs and outcomes mean providing actual numbers and percentages?

A: Yes, the applicant must provide actual numbers and percentages to obtain points for this subfactor. These should be quantifiable measures or indicators that identify the change in the community, people's lives, economic status, etc.

Section VI – Award Administration Information

67. Q: In Section VI, Program-Specific Reporting Requirements, was the descriptive language changed under Annual Status and Evaluation Report (ASER)?

A. Yes. A portion of the sentence was replaced with the words “created each year” instead of “paid each year”. See NOFO, Section VI.C.4.b., page 75.

68. Q: In Section VI, ICDBG Post-Award Reporting Requirements, is the within 30 days timeframe for submitting a Federal Financial Report (SF-425) incorrect?

A: Yes, the correct timeframe for submitting a Federal Financial Report (SF-425) is **90 days** after the end of the program year, not 30 days as stated in the NOFO (page 75). See [PIH Notice 2022-15](#) for SF-425 reporting due dates.

69. Q: In Section VI, Program-Specific Reporting Requirements, was the descriptive language changed under Close-Out Reports?

A: Yes. A portion of the sentence was replaced with the words “of the date determined that the criteria” instead of “completion of grant activity”. See NOFO, Section VI.C.4.d., page 75.

General ICDBG questions

70. Q: Where can I find the training slides or a recording of the FY 2023 ICDBG NOFO Training?

A: The [FY 2023 ICDBG Training Slides](#) and a [recording of the FY 2023 ICDBG Grantee NOFO Training](#), among other ICDBG resources, are available on ONAP’s Codetalk website on the ICDBG page. https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/icdbg

71. Q: Is there a way to confirm that HUD has received my Code of Conduct?

A: Yes. Applicants can check the [Code of Conduct Requirements and e-library link](#) located on page 76 of the NOFO, to confirm that HUD has received their Code of Conduct. If your organization is not listed in the [Code of Conduct e-library](#), please submit it with your application.

72. Q: Is there a limit on how old an Environmental Review can be?

A: HUD policy is to recommend a new environmental review every five years, or sooner if/when environmental conditions change.

73. Q: Can grant funds be used to complete the Environmental Review?

A: Yes. The cost of environmental reviews, including costs incurred in complying with any of the related laws, is eligible to the extent allowable under the HUD assistance program regulations. See 24 CFR 58.23. The ICDBG NOFO discusses environmental review costs as an eligible cost/activity in several places.

74. Q: On pages 23 and 78 of the NOFO, is the contact person for Southwest ONAP correct?

A: No, the new contact person is Shane.T.Begay@hud.gov. Contact information for all the area ONAPs can be found on Codetalk: <https://www.hud.gov/codetalk>.

75. When assessing applicant risk, is a Tribe's (applicant) performance of managing federal funds evaluated separately from the performance of the tribe's TDHE?

A: Yes, the NOFO is referencing the applicant. Therefore, HUD will evaluate the performance of whomever is considered to be the applicant. (See NOFO, page 67).

76. Q: Previously, a Tribe was limited to the number of open ICDBG awards at any given time. Is there a limit in this NOFO?

A: The NOFO does not limit the number of open ICDBG awards that a recipient could have at a given time.