***Housing-related Hazards & Lead-based Paint Capital Fund NOFO***

***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

***Opportunity Number: FR-6600-N-68***

***Application Due Date: April 13, 2023***

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**How to Apply**

1. ***How is this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) different from past versions of the NOFO?***

*This NOFO combines two previously stand-alone NOFOs, the Housing-related Hazards Capital Fund Program (HRHCF) and the Lead-based Paint Capital Fund Program (LBPCF), under one announcement. Applicants can apply for HRHCF, LBPCF, or both. Scoring for each program will be done independently of each other and applicants may receive funding for one, both or neither of the programs. Additional changes include: (1) an increase in the maximum grant amount to $5 million per program, (2) expanded eligibility to units that have an approved demolition or disposition plan that will remain in in the public housing inventory, and (3) exclusion of the “other category” under the HRHCF program.*

1. ***Where can I find the published NOFO?***

*The published NOFO is available at:* [*FY 2022 Housing-related Hazard & Lead-based Paint Capital Fund  | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/HRHCF_LBPCF) *You may also search for the NOFO on* [*View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV*](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345380)

1. ***What is the maximum grant award?***

*A PHA* *may receive a maximum award of $5 million per program. An applicant may be considered for a maximum combined grant amount of $10 million, whereas each individual grant request does not exceed the maximum grant amount of $5 million.*

1. ***Is there a minimum grant award?***

*The minimum grant award amount is $10,000 per program. If the applicant is requesting funds for both HRHCF and LBPCF, each request must be at least $10,000.*

1. ***How many applications can an applicant submit?***

*It depends. Applicants can submit two applications in grants.gov (one per program) or can request funding under both programs (HRHCF and LBPCF) in one submission in grants.gov. In either case, the applicant must submit documentation that fully meets the requirements of each grant program separately, even if applying for funding for both grant programs with one submission entry. An applicant is allowed one request per program per PHA, but each request can include multiple public housing projects or hazards.*

1. ***Where can applicants find the required forms needed to apply?***

*The required forms for the application package can be found at:* [*View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV*](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345380)

1. ***When I download the application from Grants.gov, will it include form HUD-50075.1 Parts I and II, Annual Statement?***

*The HUD form can be created in HUD’s Energy and Performance Information Center (EPIC) or found by visiting the Forms Library in HUD’s Client Information Policy System (HUDCLIPS) at* [*https://www.hud.gov/hudclips*](https://www.hud.gov/hudclips)*. If using EPIC, you can print to PDF and upload a copy. Use of EPIC will save a step if awarded, as the Annual Statement/Budget must be submitted in EPIC. Only authorized users have access to EPIC.*

1. ***Will the application require an additional narrative to the form HUD-50075.1?***

*An additional narrative is required when responding to “Rating Factor 1: Need” under the HRHCF program and when describing Section 3 activities in “Rating Factor 2: Soundness of Approach” for both the HRHCF and LBPCF programs. A narrative cannot exceed 5 pages double-spaced (including photos). Information provided beyond the 5-page limit will not be reviewed. Narratives submitted for any items other than those described above will not be reviewed.*

1. ***How is EPIC used when applying? How can I use EPIC to fill out form HUD-50075.1?***

*Form HUD-50075.1 Parts I and II Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report, Capital Fund Program must be completed as part of the application. This form may be prepared in HUD's Energy and Performance Information Center (EPIC) by authorized PHA users, printed or saved to PDF and included in the application. It should be noted though that EPIC will only allow PHAs to add work activities from an approved 5 Year Action Plan to be included on the Form HUD-50075.1 Parts I and II Annual Statement/ Performance and Evaluation Report. If the activities to be completed under the proposed HRHCF grant are not currently in an approved 5 Year Action Plan in EPIC, the PHA will either have to revise its 5 Year Action Plan in EPIC to include the activities and get the Plan approved or alternatively use the Form HUD50075.1 from HUDCLIPS. After award, PHAs may need to update their submissions in EPIC and will need approval from HUD before work can commence.*

1. ***As an outside consultant, am I allowed to access EPIC to complete the form HUD-50075.1 on behalf of the PHA? If so, does the PHA provide me with a username/password, or do I get that from HUD?***

*PHAs are responsible for deciding who should have access to EPIC on behalf of the PHA.*

*PHAs are responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted in EPIC. Obtaining EPIC access is a multi-step process that also requires a HUD Secure Systems account. Instructions for obtaining access are available at:* [*https://portalapps.hud.gov/app\_epic/*](https://portalapps.hud.gov/app_epic/)*. HUD cannot guarantee that new access will be completed before the NOFO deadline. PHAs should note that the application deadline will not be extended based on an inability to timely obtain EPIC access for a staff members or consultants. PHAs may create their 50075.1 on paper in lieu of creating this document in EPIC.*

1. ***If a PHA proposes activities with costs exceeding the maximum grant amount of $5 million but will use other funds to make up the difference between the maximum grant amount and the total cost, how should it be recorded on form SF-424?***

*In this case, the applicant should list $5 million on line 18a of the SF-424, and any other funds on*

*lines 18b-18f.*

1. ***Can I apply for just a portion of properties in an AMP?***

*Applications are scored based on the entire IMS/PIC Development(s)/AMP(s) identified in the application, but funds can be targeted for specific buildings or units.*

1. ***Can I apply for a grant for scattered site projects? If so, how is the average construction date calculated?***

*Applications are scored based on the entire IMS/PIC Development(s)/AMP(s) identified in the application, but funds can be targeted for specific buildings or units. The weighted average of construction dates of all properties in the IMS/PIC Development/AMP(s) proposed for award is used for Rating Factor 1, Need, under the LBPCF program.*

1. ***Does form HUD-2880, Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report, need to identify all projects where grant funds will be used?***

*No. Applicants should identify all projects where grant funds will be used on Part II of form HUD-50075.1.*

1. ***Can there be more than hazard in the application? If I include multiple hazards, do I submit a narrative for each hazard?***

*The narrative response to Rating Factor 2 may not exceed 5 pages and must cover all hazards listed in the application.*

1. ***We would like to request the maximum amount of $5 million. Would HUD approve a lesser amount if funds are not available, or should we submit a lower amount?***

*Applications will be ranked in order of total score and funded in order of rank. Per the NOFO, HUD reserves the right to partially fund applications based on funding availability. Therefore, the last applicant to be funded based on the ranking may receive only a portion of the requested amount, based on remaining funds available.*

1. ***Are there any fair housing forms required as part of the submission?***

*The required forms are identified in Section IV.B.1 of the NOFO.*

**Applicant Eligibility/Threshold**

1. ***I’m a PHA under a federal monitorship. Am I still eligible for this grant?***

*Yes. PHAs that are under federal monitorship are eligible. This NOFO does not include a restriction for use of funds for PHAs under receivership or the oversight of a federal monitor. PHAs that are designated as Troubled are eligible for funding if the agency is in compliance with any current Memorandum of Agreement or Recovery Agreement.*

1. ***Can a PHA that only administers Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), Project-based Rental Assistance (PBRA), or Project-based Vouchers (PBV) apply for funds under this NOFO?***

*No. The funds provided under this NOFO are designated for evaluating and reducing housing-related hazards and lead-based paint in public housing only (i.e., units assisted pursuant to Section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937).*

1. ***Can individuals, nonprofit organizations, resident associations, tribes, or tribally designated housing entities apply for this grant?***

*No. Only PHAs are eligible.*

1. ***Can applications be submitted for properties with senior residents who are regularly visited by grandchildren under the age of six?***

*Children must be included on the form HUD-50058, Family Report, to be counted as eligible.*

1. ***Is a PHA eligible for a grant if it already has been awarded a HRHCF or LBPCF grant in the past?***

*Yes, provided the requested funds are not for activities funded in a prior application. See section VI.A, Adjustments to Funding, in the NOFO.*

1. ***Are projects that have converted under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) eligible for this grant?***

*No. Properties that have been converted under RAD are no longer considered public housing, as*

*they have converted to the project-based voucher (PBV) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA) program. Further, funds provided under this NOFO may not be used at properties that will be converting to another federal housing assistance program, such as Streamlined Voluntary Conversion (SVC) or Section 18 demolition or disposition.*

1. ***Is a PHA still eligible to receive a grant award for a building that is under a Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payment (CHAP) since the time of submission?***

*No. Funds cannot be used for projects with an active CHAP. If an applicant is awarded grant funds and also has an active CHAP, the applicant will be required to withdraw the CHAP or refuse the grant award. Applicants that are awarded may be required to periodically certify to HUD that funded work is not occurring in an IMS/PIC development subject to a CHAP. For compliance with this provision, HUD will assume all units in the property with a CHAP are included, even if the CHAP has phases where certain units are not covered. If a CHAP, SVC approval, or a Section 18 demolition or disposition approval where the property will convert to PBV assistance or other non-public housing uses is issued after funds are awarded under this NOFO, the AMP will no longer be eligible for this program and remaining funds will need to be returned. HUD will determine if all grant funds should be returned.*

1. ***The guidance says funds may not be used at projects under a CHAP. Is it possible to apply for a project that we intend to place under a CHAP in the future – as long as the work is completed before the CHAP is in place?***

*It is allowable to use these funds on public housing properties that are not yet under a CHAP. Applicants that are awarded may be required to periodically certify to HUD that funded work is not occurring in an IMS/PIC development subject to a CHAP. For compliance with this provision, HUD will assume all units in the property with a CHAP are included, even if the CHAP has phases where certain units are not covered.*

1. ***Is a PHA still eligible to receive a grant award for a building that is approved for demo/dispo at the time of submission?***

*It depends. Projects with a Section 18 demolition or disposition approval to redevelop public housing at the site or other uses under a Declaration of Trust (DOT) or Declaration of Restrictive Covenant (DORC) are eligible for funding under this program. Funds provided under this NOFO may not be used at properties that will be sold to a third party under a Section 18 disposition application unless public housing will be developed onsite. Funds provided under this NOFO may not be used at properties that will be converting to another federal housing assistance program, including Section 18 demolition or disposition where a PHA’s approved plan is to convert Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) to Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs) at that site.*

1. ***Can funds be used for work at multiple projects?***

*Yes. Funds can be used for work at multiple projects. Each project must be identified in Part II of form HUD-50075.1. All projects must meet the eligibility requirements in accordance with the NOFO and all submitted forms must include the IMS/PIC Development(s)/AMP(s) name and number. An applicant can only submit one request per program per PHA but can include multiple projects in the application. The application must include the IMS/PIC development/AMP(s) name and number as it is identified in the IMS/PIC system. We will not review applications that indicate "all projects" or "PHA-wide" instead of listing each individual project name and number as it appears in PIC.*

1. ***Can a PHA submit an application for funding inspections that have already started?***

*No. A PHA may not apply for a grant to reimburse themselves for work already performed*.

1. ***Will receiving a Lead-based Paint Capital Fund grant or Housing-related Hazards Capital Fund grant impact the PHA’s eligibility to receive a Capital Fund Emergency grant?***

*It depends. If a PHA is awarded a grant under this NOFO, it may not receive an emergency grant for the same work (i.e., no duplicate funding).*

**Application Evaluation**

1. ***Where do we provide the information for Rating Factor 2, Description of Plan to Implement the Grant?***

*Rating Factor 2, Description of the Plan to Implement the Grant, will be scored based on the content of form HUD-50075.1, Annual Statement (Parts I & II). Applicants may not provide supplemental information to the form and must comply with the character limitations.*

1. ***Will an audit finding due to segregation of duties impact my score? I’m the only person in my office, so it is difficult to segregate duties.***

*Possibly. Scoring for Rating Factor 3 is based on any OIG and/or IPA Audit findings in FY2021.*

1. ***Where can I find assistance for writing an application?***

*PHAs may choose to use private consultants to assist them in the application process, but it is not required. Grant writing consultants cannot be funded with these grant awards or participate in the contracting for work stemming from these grants. Access to additional materials are posted to the PIH Capital Fund website at* [*https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/public\_indian\_housing/programs/ph/capfund.*](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund.)

1. ***Can I attach photos to demonstrate my mold problem for Rating Factor 1 or will this count against the 5-page narrative limit?***

*Photos can be attached to the HRHCF application, but they count towards the 5-page narrative limit. Photos should not be included in the LBPCF application because a narrative will not be reviewed, with the exception of the Section 3 component of Rating Factor 2.*

1. ***What does it mean to have outstanding Civil Rights matters?***

*Outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before the application deadline. Applicants who are found to have unresolved civil rights matters will be ineligible and applications will no longer be reviewed, rated, ranked, or receive funding. Further description of Civil Rights matters can be found in Section III.D.1 of the NOFO.*

1. ***How will HUD confirm that properties are occupied by at least one family with a child under the age of six?***

*It is not required that there be a child under six in every unit. HUD will award points under “LBPCF Rating Factor 1: Need” based on the portion or percentage of units occupied by families with young children in the properties identified in the application as of the application due date. The Office of Capital Improvements (OCI) will post construction and occupancy information on its website in advance of the application due date for review.*

1. **How can PHAs ensure that their IMS/PIC construction date information is accurate?**

*HUD will score average property age based on the construction dates at the building-entrance level for IMS/PIC development(s)/AMPS identified in the application. HUD will pull the information as of the application deadline. Applicants should ensure that construction date records are accurate in IMS/PIC prior to application deadline. Applicants with incomplete, missing, or inaccurate construction dates should work with the assigned HUD Field Office to update IMS/PIC prior to the application closing.* *PHAs should note that the application deadline will not be extended to allow time to update IMS/PIC. The Office of Capital Improvements (OCI) will post construction and occupancy information on its website in advance of the application due date for review.*

1. ***What should I submit to receive a point for Section 3 activities?***

*To earn the maximum 1 point, applicants must identify, in the narrative, at least one activity listed in section V.A of the NOFO is incorporated in the PHAs Section 3 Plan.*

1. ***Can we presume lead-based paint hazards exist due to construction dates or does the PHA have to do a lead-based paint risk assessment done prior to application?***

*HUD regulations at 24 CFR 35.120 allow PHAs the option to presume that lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards or both are present throughout a residential property built before 1978. There is no requirement to have a lead-based paint evaluation or risk assessment prior to applying for these funds. Once awarded, the PHA should use available funds to perform lead evaluations so that hazard control is directed to priority areas.*

1. ***Will an application be more competitive if only applying to one of the two grant programs (HRHCF or LBPCF) described in this NOFO?***

*No. PHAs may apply for one or both of these programs. Applying to both programs will not impact the competitiveness of either application. Please note that this NOFO includes the application process for two separate grant programs — Lead-based Paint Capital Fund (LBPCF) and Housing Related Hazards Capital Fund (HRHCF). PHAs submitting applications for LBPCF grants will be scored based on rating factors that are different from PHAs submitting applications for HRHCF grants. PHAs applying for both LBPCF grants and HRHCF grants must submit a separate Form HUD-50075.1 for each program request.*

1. ***Will a small PHA be competitive under this NOFO? Is it worth it for a small PHA to go through the application process?***

*Yes. The size of the PHA is not a factor in the rating criteria. Further, scoring for Rating Factor 1 under the LBPCF program is based on a weighted average of all properties in the IMS/PIC Development/AMP proposed for award.*

**Eligible Activities**

1. ***What are the eligible activities under this NOFO?***

*This program provides competitive grants to PHAs to evaluate and reduce housing-related hazards in public housing, including lead-based paint, carbon monoxide, mold, radon, fire safety, and asbestos. Funds must be used for eligible Capital Fund activities identified in 24 CFR 905 and meet the following additional limitations: (1) HRHCF funds can only be used for the activities associated with housing-related hazard(s) identified in this NOFO and the submitted application, (2) LBPCF funds can only be used for the activities of lead-based paint risk assessments, inspections, abatement, interim controls, clearance examinations and relocation, and (3) other work at the property, including work to prepare for lead hazard control (e.g., repairs to the substrate, fixing leaks or other renovations) shall be funded by other sources.*

1. ***Are applications for Carbon Monoxide detectors eligible under this NOFO?***

*No. Applications for Carbon Monoxide detectors are not eligible. Per Notice PIH 2022-01, all PHAs must be in compliance with the International Fire Code (IFC) 2018 Standards on the installation of Carbon Monoxide alarms or detectors by December 27, 2022.*

1. ***If Carbon Monoxide detectors are not eligible, what are examples of eligible activities under the Carbon Monoxide hazard?***

*An example of an eligible grant activity for addressing carbon monoxide hazards includes, but is not limited to, installing ventilation hoods over existing gas stoves.*

1. **Can HRHCF or LBPCF grant funds be used to cover relocation costs?**

*Yes, if it is directly related to the hazard work being performed with the funding. Temporary relocation of residents must be carried out in compliance with all applicable programmatic requirements including applicable Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA). Applicants should consider the scope and duration of the work and whether the expenses for temporary relocation are necessary. If lead-based paint will be disturbed, follow Chapter 8 of the* [*HUD Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-based Paint Hazards in Housing.*](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/lbp/hudguidelines) *More resources on the URA are available at* [*www.hud.gov.relocation*](http://www.hud.gov.relocation/)*.*

1. ***Can HRHCF or LBPCF grant funds be used to purchase equipment?***

*LBPCF and HRHCF grant funds can be used to purchase equipment but cannot be used for additional ongoing costs such as user training, periodic state or EPA certifications, or registration and licenses necessary for possessing and using radioactive material contained in X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) devices and lead-paint analyzers(if applicable). Those additional ongoing expenses must be paid for with Operating Funds or another eligible source.*

1. ***Can grant funds be used to hire extra maintenance or administrative personnel to do the grant activities?***

*Grant funds can only be used for eligible housing-related hazard and lead-based paint activities and not for any additional administrative or maintenance salaries or benefits for PHA staff. Any extra work, whether administrative or modernization labor, such as work in the property to prepare for the hazard control shall be funded by other sources such as annual Capital Fund grants. Please see section IV.F, Funding Restrictions, in the NOFO. However, a PHA may use force account labor, pursuant to its personnel policy to perform work, rather than procuring a contractor to perform certain activities. A PHA can use force account labor if it is in the 5-Year Action plan, the force account labor is cost-effective, the PHA has the capacity to serve as its own contractor, and the employee’s regular duties are not compromised.*

1. ***Can funds from this NOFO be used to replace hazardous materials with non-hazardous materials? For example, can I replace asbestos pipe shielding with fiberglass shielding? Or can I only test and remove?***

*The methodology for each abatement activity in the application must be justified by the narrative. Intact asbestos-containing materials are not a hazard; they should be monitored for damage or deterioration and isolated if possible. See Appendix A of the NOFO for more information.*

1. ***If I’m applying under the fire sprinkler hazard, can I use grant funds to update fire panels and fire alarm systems?***

*All work activities must be clearly supported by the narrative. Individual smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are not eligible under this NOFO.*

1. ***Can funds be used for lead-based paint testing?***

*Yes, evaluation and control of lead-based paint hazards is an eligible use of funds.*

1. ***Can LBPCF grant funds be used for lead components other than lead based paint such as lead pipes or lead floor coatings?***

*These funds are only for lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards as defined in 24 CFR 35.110.*

1. ***Can LBPCF grant funds be used to test or mitigate lead in soil or water?***

*No. Water sampling is generally not performed in a routine risk assessment unless there is a specific risk identified by the Risk Assessor. The funds for this program are designated for the evaluation and control of lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards. These funds cannot be used to mitigate a water hazard (ex. replacement of pipes and/or fixtures). Lead in soil is included in the definition of lead-based paint hazard at 24 CFR 35.110.*

1. ***Does a lead risk assessor need to be EPA certified?***

*The answer varies by state. All persons performing lead-based paint evaluations or hazard control must be currently certified for the work they do in the state where the work will be performed. Most states have an EPA-authorized lead-based paint activities certification program covering individuals conducting lead-based paint activities, typically, lead-based paint inspection, lead risk assessment, lead abatement worker, and lead abatement supervisor. Most states also require the firms that employ or hire the certified individuals that conduct the lead-based paint activity to be certified. In the remaining states, certification is obtained from the EPA Regional Office's lead program. For more information, see* [*www.epa.gov/lead*](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

1. ***Do risk assessments need to be conducted by a third party?***

*No. The NOFO only requires that clearance examinations be conducted by a third-party organization. Lead evaluations and clearance examinations must be performed by persons or entities independent of the lead hazard control firm, unless the PHA uses in-house employees certified as lead inspectors and then uses certified risk assessors to conduct the evaluations or clearance.*

1. ***Is LBP screening related equipment such as cameras and air quality meters allowable costs under this NOFO?***

*No. Lead-based paint evaluations as described in* [*the HUD Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-based Paint Hazards in Housing*](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/lbp/hudguidelines) *Chapter 5 (Risk Assessment) and Chapter 7 (Inspection) do not include the use of cameras and air quality meters.*