**HUD Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)**

**Indian Community Development Block Grant Imminent Threat**

**American Rescue Plan Act (ICDBG-ARP)**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the Indian Community Development Block Grant Imminent Threat funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ICDBG-ARP) have been provided to assist Tribes and TDHEs to apply for and implement these COVID-19 emergency relief funds.

Please note that subsequently issued PIH Notices will supersede this posted guidance. In order for HUD staff to address all questions in a timely manner, please send all communications about ICDBG-ARP to ICDBGARP@hud.gov. Questions regarding other ONAP grants can be sent to codetalk@hud.gov.

**ICDBG-ARP –**

1. **Q: Where can the ICDBG-ARP Implementation Training slides be found?**

**A:** The [ONAP ARP](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/ONAP-ARP_Act_2021) site lists key resources for ICDBG-ARP including the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Training Slides](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/ICDBG%20ARP%20Implementation%20National%20ONAP%20Grantee%20Training%208.18.2021%20revised.pdf), a recording of the [August 18, 2021 WebEx ICDBG-ARP Implementation training](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo8V3D5qoiA), and [Sample Tribal Resolution Language](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/ICDBG-ARP%20SAMPLE%20TRIBAL%20RESOLUTION%20LANGUAGE.pdf) for Citizen Participation Certification and Delegation of Authority by a Tribe to a Tribal Organization. [PIH Notice 2021-22](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf): ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice can also be found there.

1. **Q: What is the CFDA or Announcement Opportunity Number for ICDBG-ARP?**

**A:** The CFDA number is 14.862 and the ICDBG-ARP Implementation notice is [PIH Notice PIH 2021-22](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf).

1. **Q: Can a Tribe apply for ICDBG-ARP funding for the same project under different phases?**

**A:** Applicants can apply under either Phase One or Phase Two, but not both. Only those listed on the Phase One Priority List may apply to Phase One. This means any applicant that is not listed on the Phase One Priority List may apply to Phase Two.

If ICDBG-ARP funds remain after Phases One and Two are funded, HUD will review any applications submitted after October 18, 2021 at 6PM ET, the date the Phase Two application period closes, on a first come first-served basis in Phase Three. However, based on the number of applications awarded in Phase One and Phase Two, HUD may set-aside funds or limit eligibility for Phase Three to those who have not yet been awarded ICDBG-ARP grants.

1. **Q:** [**PIH Notice 2021-22**](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) **includes new construction as an eligible activity. This is usually not eligible with ICDBG. Can you confirm that a Tribe/TDHE/Tribal Organization can apply for ICDBG-ARP for the new construction of homes?**

**A**: As stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf), Section 10: Waivers and Alternative Requirements Applicable to ICDBG-ARP Funding, on page 25: “HUD is waiving and modifying Section 105 of the HCD Act and 24 CFR § 1003.207(b)(3) to the extent necessary to provide for the following alternative requirement: Indian tribes and Tribal organizations may use ICDBG-ARP funds to carry out new housing construction when such construction is carried out to reduce overcrowding, or to otherwise prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19.” In addition, the project would need to be completed expeditiously, and would be subject to Section 504 Accessibility Requirements.

1. **Q: Are ICDBG-ARP grant funds subject to the usual 15 percent cap on public services?**

**A:** No. In accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act, ICDBG-ARP grantees may use up to 100 percent of their ICDBG-ARP grant on public services activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Examples of public services include up to 6-months of emergency rental and utility assistance, meal delivery services to vulnerable populations, and similar activities.

1. **Q: What is the due date to submit a Phase One application?**

**A:** Area ONAPs have sent a Phase One Priority Notification and Instruction Letter to each of the Phase One Applicants. The letter indicates all the required documents of the application package and a due date to submit the application directly to the AONAP. This date is 30 days from the date of the letter.

1. **Q: Can Phase One ICDBG-ARP applicants apply for a new project or would they be required to apply only for the project originally proposed in their ICDBG-CARES application?**

**A:** Phase One applicants have the choice to apply for the same project proposed in ICDBG-CARES or a new project. This is discussed in the Phase One Priority Notification and Instruction Letter that has been sent to each of the Phase One Applicants. All ICDBG-ARP applications must meet all of the requirements of [PIH Notice 2021-22](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf), including demonstrating how the project prevents, prepares for, or responds to COVID-19.

1. **Q: If an applicant is in Phase One and receives ICDBG-ARP funds, can they then apply for additional funding for the same project or for a different project in Phase Three?**

**A:** HUD will decide on whether such grantees may apply for additional funding under Phase Three at a later date. As provided in PIH Notice 2021-22, “Based on the number of applications awarded in Phase One and Phase Two, HUD may set-aside funds or limit eligibility for Phase Three to those who have not yet been awarded ICDBG-ARP grants.”

Applicants are reminded that the Phase Three application should not be submitted prior to the Phase Two application period close date of October 18, 2021 at 6PM ET, because it would be considered a Phase Two Application.

1. **Q: Will Phase Two, Second Tier applications only be reviewed after all Phase Two, First Tier applications have been funded?**

**A:** As stated in [PIH Notice 2021-22](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf), HUD will consider and award Phase Two applications first by tier, then by date and time received. HUD will fund all eligible First Tier applications on a first come, first served basis. If funds remain, HUD will then fund eligible Second Tier applications on a first come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

1. **Q: Is the Phase Three application open date the same day as the Phase Two application close date?**

**A:** Yes. As stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) at Section 6: Application Submissions and Review, on page 13, October 18, 2021 at 6PM ET is both the close date for Phase Two applications and the open date for Phase Three applications. Any applications received after 6pm ET on October 18, 2021 will not be considered in Phase Two and will be considered in Phase Three if funds remain.

1. **Q: If a Tribe applied for and received an ICDBG-CARES grant, can the Tribe’s TDHE apply instead of the Tribe?**

**A:** Yes, as stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) at Section 6: Application Submission and Review, on page 12, if a Tribe was fully funded under ICDBG-CARES, they would qualify as an ICDBG-ARP Phase Two, Second Tier applicant. ICDBG-ARP is a different, distinct funding opportunity so either the Tribe or TDHE may apply, assuming the TDHE meets the definition of an eligible “tribal organization” as specified in the Notice.

Please note that the Phase One Priority was extended to ICDBG-CARES applicants that were not fully funded due to limited appropriations, so that same applicant, named on the [Phase One Priority List](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/ICDBG-ARP_Phase_One_Priority_List.pdf), Appendix B of the ICDBG ARP Implementation Notice, must apply to Phase One.

1. **Q: If a Tribe applies for ICDBG-ARP in Phase One and then again in Phase Three, would the grant ceilings apply to each application separately or would the Tribe be limited to applying for the grant ceiling as a total of both applications?**

**A:** The ICDBG-ARP grant ceilings would apply to each application separately. Meaning, if an applicant is eligible to apply for a grant in Phase One or Phase Two, and HUD determines that ICDBG-ARP grantees that already were awarded an ICDBG-ARP grant may also apply and receive another grant under Phase Three, the applicant may request the full grant ceiling again in the Phase Three application.

1. **Q: Is a wet signature required on the SF-424 for ICDBG-ARP?**

**A:** No, wet signatures are not required. As stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) at Section 7: Approved Applications, on page 14, the ICDBG-ARP applications must be submitted by email so the SF-424 can be signed electronically or printed, signed, scanned for emailing.

1. **Q: Will ICDBG-ARP applicants get notification that their application was received?**

**A:** Yes, all Phase One applications submitted to the Area ONAPs will receive a confirmation of receipt email from the Area ONAP Grants Management Director.

All Phase Two applications must be sent to ICDBGARP@hud.gov and will receive a confirmation of receipt email indicating that their application was received and indicating the date and time received in the ICDBGARP@hud.gov mailbox.

1. **Q: When will ICDBG-ARP applicants be notified if they are funded?**

**A:** ONAP anticipates awarding Phase One by mid-November and Phase Two by mid-December. These dates can be used as the proposed project start dates on applicants’ Implementation Schedule, HUD-4125.

1. **Q: Where should ICDBG-ARP applications be submitted? Is there a size limit for attachments?**

**A:** As stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) at Section 6: Application Submission and Review, page 12, applications for Phase Two and Phase Three **must** be sent via email to ICDBGARP@hud.gov. Applications may not be sent via postal mail given that HUD is operating under telework at the present time. As a result, Phase Two applications sent via regular mail or grants.gov, or anywhere besides ICDBGARP@hud.gov will not be considered.

Phase One applications must be submitted directly to the Area ONAP Grants Management Director, per the Phase One Priority Notification and Instructions letter each Phase One Priority List applicant received from their Area ONAP.

The attachment size limit on HUD email is 5 MB but an applicant may have a smaller size limit on their email.

1. **Q: What are the grant ceilings for the ICDBG-ARP grants?**

**A:** The grant ceilings for the ICDBG-ARP grants are listed in Section 4: Funding Criteria Requirements, starting on page 6 of the [PIH Notice 2021-22](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf): ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice and are based on the IHBG-ARP Formula Allocations.

To determine the applicant’s grant ceiling, refer to the chart of [IHBG-ARP Formula Allocations](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/IHBG-ARP_for_Codetalk3.24.21.pdf) for the IHBG-ARP award amount then determine the applicable ICDBG-ARP grant ceiling as shown in this chart below. These grant ceilings are applicable to all Phases of

the ICDBG-ARP grants.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **IHBG-ARP Formula Allocation Award**   | **ICDBG-ARP Grant Ceiling**   |
| $4,500,000 or more |  $3,450,000 |
| More than $1,625,000 but less than $4,500,000   |  $1,725,000    |
| $1,625,000 or less    |  $1,035,000  |

For those Phase One Priority Applicants whose ICDBG-CARES applications were partially funded due to limited appropriations, their Phase One ICDBG-ARP application grant ceiling would be reduced by the amount of ICDBG-CARES grant funding received. Consult your Area ONAP if you have additional questions regarding partial funding.

1. **Q: For the project description summary requirement, must we submit separate documents for the written description, written statement and narrative description?**

**A:** As stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) at Section 5: Content of Application, starting on page 8, the Project Description Summary must include a written description of activities, a written statement describing how the funded activities will be carried out successfully within the proposed timeline, and in compliance with program requirements, and a narrative description of the implementation timeline. The three components do not have to be separate documents but must be included in your Project Description Summary document or application section, for the application to be considered complete.

1. **Q: Can an applicant use IHBG funds to operate and maintain emergency housing or quarantine housing developed with ICDBG-ARP funds?**

**A**: Yes, Grantees can use their annual formula IHBG funds to maintain and operate units developed or acquired using ICDBG-CARES or ARP funds. In addition, once these units are no longer needed for emergency purposes, the units can be added to the applicant’s NAHASDA Units, and operated and maintained with IHBG funds, and included in the IHP/APR. All IHBG requirements would be applicable to these units including useful life and low-income requirements.

1. **Q: Is the repair of Tribal roads to ensure emergency medical services access to our Village an eligible activity under ICDBG-ARP?**

**A:** Yes, road repairs to ensure access by emergency medical services is an eligible activity under ICDBG-ARP as it responds to COVID-19.

1. **Q: Is a water truck an eligible activity under ICDBG-ARP?**

**A**: Yes, the purchase of water tank trucks and other water distribution equipment, supplies, and facilities to support families without access to water are eligible activities if it prevents, prepares for, or responds to COVID-19.

1. **Q: Can ICDBG-ARP funding be used to cover the salaries and expenses of staff hired to carry out upgrades to Information Technology (IT) to promote working from home both for the Tribal community and Tribal Staff?**

**A**: Yes, ICDBG-ARP funds may be used to hire new Tribal Housing IT staff to implement emergency connectivity and network upgrades or expansions to enable more Tribal Housing staff and Tribal Community members to work remotely in response to COVID-19. However, if the IT position, improvements, and hardware serve other Tribal departments or programs, those costs must be prorated and covered by other applicable funds.

In addition, the ICDBG-ARP funds are emergency COVID-19 relief funds, not annual funding, so the applicant must plan to use other funds to cover the cost of the IT staff once the ICDBG-ARP funds are expended. The 20% cap on Planning and Administrative costs applies to ICDBG-ARP funds.

1. **Q: What is the time limit to expend the ICDBG-ARP funds?**

**A:** ICDBG-ARP funds are available for HUD to obligate until September 30, 2025. However, to ensure that funds are used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, applicants should ensure the expeditious expenditure of awarded ICDBG-ARP, ideally within a 12-month timeframe on the project’s implementation schedule.

1. **Q: Can we apply for an ICDBG-ARP project that would include service outside our service area?**

**A:** This would depend on where and whom you were serving. If an applicant proposed to extend benefits to Tribal members living off the reservation or outside its service area, some projects or programs may be eligible. Contact your Area ONAP to discuss the specifics of a proposed project or program that would involve the use of ICDBG-ARP funds to prevent, prepare for or respond to COVID-19 outside your service area to Tribal members.

1. **Q: Does the 20% cap on Planning and Administration mean that Tribes with a higher Indirect Cost Rate must limit their IDC request to 20%?**

**A:** As stated in the [ICDBG-ARP Implementation Notice](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-22.pdf) at Section 4: Funding Criteria and Requirements, on page 6, Planning and Administration costs are capped at 20% of the total project budget. An applicant’s Indirect Cost Rate would be considered as part of, not in addition to, Planning and Administration costs. Also refer to [Appendix VII to Part 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5#ap2.1.200_1521.vii) for guidance on Indirect Cost Rates.

1. **Q: Will the FY 2021 regular ICDBG NOFO application period overlap with Phase Two of ICDBG-ARP?**

**A**: Yes, the application due date for regular FY 2021 ICDBG is October 25, 2021, a week after the Phase Two close date and Phase Three open date of October 18, 2021 at 6pm ET. HUD encourages applicants to plan accordingly and to apply for all available funding opportunities.