

Tribal HUD-VASH Expansion NOFO: Frequently Asked Questions

12/28/2021

For any questions, please contact: TribalHUDVASH@hud.gov

Section I. A. Program Description

Q1: What is the definition of “homeless or at risk of homelessness?”

A1: “Homeless or at risk of homelessness” is defined under the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, and can be found at <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/tribalhudvashguide.pdf>.

Q2: Has the definition of “veteran” eligible to receive assistance under the Tribal HUD VASH program recently changed?

A2: Yes. As stated in the Tribal HUD-VASH Consolidation Notice, the VA determines the initial eligibility of the veteran. The eligibility requirements for VA health care changed on January 1, 2021, under the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Public Law 116-283. The term “veteran” is now defined as “a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom,” excluding anyone who received a dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces or was discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial. 38 USC § 2002 (b).

Previously, there were certain time of service requirements. This is a much broader definition and should help applicants to generally identify all of their Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, rather than having to try to determine VHA eligibility status.

The NOFO, FR-6400-N-73, was amended and published on Grants.gov on Dec. 23, 2021, to update the “Veteran” definition and also extend the deadline for receiving applications from 01/18/2022 to 01/24/2022.

Section II.A. Available Funds

Q1: Are existing Tribal HUD-VASH program participants eligible to apply for these competitive funds?

A1: Yes, existing Tribal HUD-VASH program participants are eligible to apply. According to the “Available Funds” section of the NOFO, “HUD intends to award up to \$1 million to Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) currently participating in the Tribal HUD-VASH program that have continued to demonstrate administrative capacity and need based on the criteria described in this NOFO” (p. 9). For more information regarding eligibility, also see the “Eligible Applicants” section on p. 10-11 of the NOFO.

Section II.C. Minimum/Maximum Award Information

Q1: Is there a minimum number of units a current Tribal HUD-VASH participant must request when submitting a grant application?

A1: There is no minimum number of units a current Tribal HUD-VASH participant must request. Applicants that have not previously received a Tribal HUD-VASH grant are required to request at least 15 units.

Section III.A. Eligible Applicants

Q1: Who is eligible to apply?

A1: Eligible applicants are Indian Tribes as defined in section 4(13) of NAHASDA and Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) authorized by one or more Tribes pursuant to section 4(22) of NAHASDA, who have ever been allocated formula funding. An Indian Tribe that authorizes a TDHE to apply on its behalf may not also submit its own application for funding.

Section III. B. Ineligible Applicants

Q1: If a Tribally Designation Housing Entity or Tribe applied for Round I of FR-6400-N-73 and was not awarded, can they apply for Round II?

A1: Yes. Only applicants awarded in Round I are not eligible to apply for Round II.

Section III.D. Threshold Eligibility Requirements

Q1: Do applicants need to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs before applying to the program?

A1: Yes. The applicant must include an official letter of support from its local VA Medical Center or VA Healthcare System's Director with its application. The letter must affirm that the Tribe or TDHE has consulted with its local VA facility about its interest in establishing or expanding its own Tribal HUD-VASH program and that the VA commits to providing case management services for eligible Veterans, should the applicant succeed in receiving a Tribal HUD-VASH award. A sample letter is posted on the ONAP Codetalk website, and as part of the application package on grants.gov.

Q2: Is there a minimum application score required?

A2: Applicants must receive minimum scores of 20 points for Rating Factor 1, Capacity of the Applicant and 35 points for Rating Factor 3, Capacity to Administer the Program. Applicants must also score a minimum of 75 points overall in order to be eligible to receive a grant.

Q3: Can Formula Current Assisted Stock (FCAS) units be used for the program?

A3: FCAS units can be used to house Tribal HUD-VASH Veterans. However, if FCAS units are used for this purpose, then these units will not be counted in the IHBG recipient's FCAS formula count during the period that Veterans are housed in these units.

Section IV.B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Q1: Does the applicant's application submission package need a Tribal Resolution or a Tribal Certification to successfully meet the requirements of a complete application package?

A1: If an application is submitted by a TDHE on behalf of a Tribe where the Tribe has not previously participated in the Tribal HUD-VASH program, a tribal resolution or tribal certification must be submitted authorizing the TDHE to submit the application under this program.

Current Tribal HUD-VASH participants must provide a statement whether the original tribal resolution for participation in the Tribal HUD-VASH program is in effect and applicable. If the original tribal resolution is no longer in effect and applicable, then the grantee must submit a new resolution or tribal certification. See Section IV.B.2.g. of the NOFO.

Q2: Is a Board Resolution needed, or is just a Tribal Resolution sufficient?

A2: A Board Resolution is not needed for Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement FR-6400-N-73. Per Section IV.B.2.g of this NOFO, a Tribal Resolution or Tribal Certification is required.

Q3: If I am using a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, do I need to state the amount in the Cost Summary section of a HUD-53246 on line 5B? If so, where can I find a HUD-53246?

A3: HUD Form 53246 is not a required submission for the Tribal HUD-VASH Expansion NOFO. If the applicant is using a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, then the application must clearly state the approved rate and distribution base in the **Detailed Budget**. The applicant must also include a letter stating the approved rate and distribution base or other documentation from the cognizant agency showing the approved rate.

Q4: What is the page limit for the Workplan Narrative?

A4: There is no page limit for the Workplan Narrative.

Section V. A. Application Review Information

Subfactor 1.4 – Timely Reporting

Q1: The NOFO states “HUD will award maximum points to those who have submitted all reports by the submission deadlines (which includes any granted extensions) for all HUD-ONAP grants during the one-year period immediately preceding the date that this NOFO is published.”

What are the rating periods being evaluated for HUD programs to ensure maximum points are achieved?

A1: If an applicant would like to achieve maximum points for Rating Factor 1.4, an applicant must have timely submitted reports beginning October 29, 2020 to October 29, 2021.

Subfactor 1.5 – Expenditures

Q1: The introductory paragraph of Subfactor 1.5 states “In assessing an applicant's undisbursed funds, HUD will neither consider the IHBG formula funds awarded in FY 2020 nor the IHBG funds awarded under the Coronavirus, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act since Indian Tribes and TDHEs would have recently been awarded this funding.” The NOFO goes on to state under category #2 “applicants not approved to invest formula IHBG funds will be evaluated on the expenditure of IHBG formula funding received in the last three federal fiscal years (2018-2020) in comparison with the amount of undisbursed IHBG funds remaining in LOCCS on the date this NOFO is published.”

Will IHBG formula funds awarded in FY 2020 be considered in the calculation for category #2 applicants?

A1: Yes, FY 2020 IHBG formula funds will be considered. The introductory paragraph for Subfactor 1.5 should state “In assessing an applicant's undisbursed funds, HUD will neither consider the IHBG formula funds **awarded in FY 2021** nor the IHBG funds awarded under the Coronavirus, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act since Indian Tribes and TDHEs would have recently been awarded this funding.”

Subfactor 3.2 Availability of Housing Stock

Q1: For Subfactor 3.2, Category 2 for tenant-based rental assistance, do all the proposed units have to be new to get full points?

A1: No. For Subfactor 3.2, Category 2 for tenant-based rental assistance, if the **majority** (50% or more) of units that an applicant proposes to use were **newly constructed, acquired, or rehabbed 12 months or less prior** to the application deadline of this NOFO, the applicant may receive the maximum number of points.

Q2: What happens if there is low housing stock on the reservation or high demand of rentals in an area? Can an applicant approve a veteran's unit above FMR?

A1: If a tribe/TDHE deems it necessary to charge more than 110 percent of FMR (or to place a veteran in a privately-owned unit with a rent that exceeds 110 percent of FMR), it must obtain HUD's prior approval to do so. For example, a Tribe/TDHE may find it necessary to request such approval in order to address a request for a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities or in instances where rental market conditions render it difficult to find rent at 110 percent of FMR.

Section V. B. Review and Selection Process

Q1: How will applicants be notified of curable deficiencies and pre-award requirements?

A1: Although the NOFO states "HUD will notify applicants by email, facsimile, or via the U.S. Postal Service, return receipt requested", HUD will only make notification via email to the Authorized Organization Representative listed on the SF-424 due to the current pandemic.