



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Policy Development and Research

HUDRD - Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Research Center of Excellence

FR-6600-N-29G

05/18/2023

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**Program Office:**

Policy Development and Research

**Funding Opportunity Title:**

HUDRD - Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Research Center of Excellence

**Funding Opportunity Number:**

FR-6600-N-29G

**Assistance Listing Number (formerly CFDA Number):**

14.536

**Due Date for Applications:**

05/18/2023

**OVERVIEW**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issues this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to invite applications from eligible applicants for the program and purpose described within this NOFO. You, as a prospective applicant, should carefully read all instructions in all sections to avoid sending an incomplete or ineligible application. HUD funding is highly competitive. Failure to respond accurately to any submission requirement could result in an incomplete or noncompetitive proposal.

In accordance with [Title 24 part 4, subpart B](#) of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), during the selection process (which includes HUD’s NOFO development and publication and concludes with the award of assistance), HUD is prohibited from disclosing covered selection information. Examples of impermissible disclosures include: 1) information regarding any applicant’s relative standing; 2) the amount of assistance requested by any applicant; and 3) any information contained in the application. Prior to the application deadline, HUD may not disclose the identity of any applicant or the number of applicants that have applied for assistance.

For further information regarding this NOFO, direct questions regarding the specific requirements of this NOFO to the agency contact identified in section VII.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement.** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501- 3520) (PRA), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements in this NOFO. HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless the collection displays a valid OMB control number. This NOFO identifies its applicable OMB control number, unless its collection of information is excluded from these requirements under [5 CFR part 1320](#).

**OMB Approval Number(s):**

2528-0299

**I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**A. Program Description**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this grant is to conduct research projects on multiple topics of strategic interest to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD’s 2022-26 Learning Agenda (<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/HUD-Learning-Agenda.pdf>) identifies

HUD's priority learning and research questions, consistent with the Departmental objectives and goals described in the 2022-26 Strategic Plan (<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/FY2022-2026HUDStrategicPlan.pdf>).

Research on topics highlighted in the Learning Agenda will enable the establishment of up to three Hispanic Serving Institution(s) Centers of Excellence (COE). Pursuant to 20 U.S.C.1101a (a)(5) a Hispanic-Serving Institution "means an institution of higher education that (A) is an eligible institution; and (B) has enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application." <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2020-title20/pdf/USCODE-2020-title20-chap28-subchapV-partA-sec1101a.pdf>. All applicants must be institutions of higher education granting two-or four-year degrees that are fully accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions are not required to be on the list of eligible HSIs prepared by the U.S. Department of Education. However, an institution that is not on the list is required to provide a statement in the application that the institution meets the U.S. Department of Education's statutory definition of an HSI as cited above. If an applicant is one of several campuses of the same institution, the applicant may apply separately from the other campuses if the campus has a separate DUNS/UEI number, administrative structure, and budget, and meets the enrollment requirements outlined above.

In addition to the topics listed in the Learning Agenda, applicants are invited to submit research proposals on other topics that address issues or challenges that impact housing, community and economic development, and the built environment in and for underserved communities. The following list of topics is not intended to be exhaustive: equity issues in local housing markets, broadly defined to include production and preservation, rental and homeownership, tenant protections, zoning and land use, property appraisals, property taxation, and other topics; building codes, standards, and construction technologies (including offsite/factory-built housing); "green" or energy-efficient practices in housing and carbon reduction strategies; disaster preparedness, and climate resilient planning and construction, and disaster recovery; innovative solutions that allow residents of HUD-assisted rental housing and other low-income renters to access economic opportunities, quality education, affordable transportation, health care, essential services, green-space and cultural amenities; and, housing and community planning that addresses the needs of and engages underserved communities.

The research projects are intended to initiate an ongoing series of reports focused on housing, community and economic development, and the built environment in underserved communities that can serve as national, local, or regional benchmarks and assist in support of COE(s) that expand the housing and community development research efforts at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Applicants are encouraged to consider the work of other university-based housing research centers, such as the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University; Depaul University Institute for Housing Studies; Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies; the Housing Initiative at Penn; New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy; the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida; and the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California Berkeley, that sometimes focus on national issues, but largely focus on local or regional housing and community

development issues. Applicants are also encouraged to consider the Centers of Excellence at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), funded through past HUD grants. [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_21\\_153](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_153). The research projects, proposed by the awardee, will focus on topics of interest to the Department and in serving underserved communities from the unique perspective of institutions that are often located in, and serve the residents of underserved communities.

The COE should take a multidisciplinary approach to housing, community, and economic development research, and through innovative methods study the social and economic factors that create healthy communities. Ultimately, the purpose of the COE should be to support evidence-based policy at the local, state, and national levels, using the research it undertakes to identify and evaluate innovative approaches to housing and community and economic development.

In addition to identifying research projects, the awardee will be required to develop and submit a detailed plan for the development and long-term sustainment (beyond 5 years) of a Center of Excellence to carry on the work of the initial reports and to serve as a focus of thought leadership and alternative analysis of the issues related to underserved communities. The COE will serve as a platform for the formulation, analysis, and dissemination of innovative, evidence-based solutions to address problems confronting underserved communities. The COE will perform academic research, hold expert convenings, and conduct related activities designed to advance understanding of economic and social factors that affect communities, including housing, economic and workforce development, health and health care, education, civic engagement, public safety, and other dimensions of community health. Through academic programs, research projects and thought leadership, the COE will help leaders across all levels of government, as well as the business and civic sectors, address critical issues that impact the social and economic well-being of the families and individuals who reside in underserved communities.

This program intends to fund a series of research reports that will apply new and context-specific approaches and methods to studying challenges faced by urban and rural communities. The findings of these reports will impact policy relevant research at HUD. The Department seeks HSIs with demonstrated capacity to conduct complex research and devise actionable policy recommendations. At the same time, HUD encourages applicants to propose building on their demonstrated experience to do something new and innovative. HUD encourages the submission of proposals that draw on novel research approaches, including big data analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence; community-engaged and participatory research; and novel partnerships such as academic consortia, and collaboration with private entities or other federal agencies. Competitive applications will include action and sustainability plans, creative partnerships and collaboration models, multidisciplinary and holistic methodologies, and new or enhanced theory of change models designed to achieve transformative outcomes.

The funds made available under this NOFO will make awards for recipients to undertake multiple research projects. This opportunity will allow the COE(s) to use this work to leverage other streams of revenue, including from private enterprise and private philanthropic organizations, to support ongoing and sustainable operations and activities.

As noted in the Presidential Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, HUD is particularly interested in research to better understand the disparities in our laws and public policies, and in our public and private institutions, that may deny equal housing and community building opportunities to individuals in underserved communities. HUD seeks policy prescriptions that might address these disparities, the results of which would widely be available for application in the field. As such, proposals should address barriers to improving the quality of life and creating a pathway to economic success in underserved communities. The research should take the view of both short- and long-term strategies. Research must be framed toward a long-term goal (e.g., improving minority homeownership).

### **Eligible Activities**

In support of the objectives listed in the section above, applicants are being asked to conduct multiple research projects on topics described in this NOFA that will assist in the creation of a sustainable Center(s) of Excellence for research which can undertake a variety of future research activities, including articulating research questions and establishing and implementing appropriate data analysis, communicating research findings, and producing informational tools and resources that improve practice and policy for a variety of issues confronting underserved communities. Funds may be used to hire staff for center research and administration only.

Rental and maintenance of office space is allowed only under the following conditions: 1) the lease must be for existing facilities not requiring rehabilitation or construction except for minimal alterations to make the facilities accessible for a person with disabilities; 2) no repairs or renovations of the property may be undertaken with funds provided under this NOFO; 3) properties in the Coastal Barrier Resources System designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501) cannot be leased or rented with federal funds. Funds may not be used for construction or other construction related activities or for the purchase of real property, equipment or furnishings.

### **Deliverables**

At a minimum, HUD expects each award recipient to produce the following deliverables for the 36-month performance period:

Research Policy Papers including, but not limited to multiple research projects on the subjects listed above: and develop a detailed plan for the establishment, sustainability and ongoing financial stability of the center with particular emphasis on the elements of Rating Factors 2 and 4 below.

The Government Technical Representative (GTR) and/or other HUD staff as assigned by the GTR will have substantial involvement in this grant and work closely with the awardee on defining these deliverables. HUD expects to have an opportunity to review and comment on these deliverables to ensure that they meet the project objectives.

Management and Work Plan (MWP): The MWP shall outline the overall strategy for completing the research within the budget and timeframe allotted. It will describe activities to be undertaken, assign staff, and provide a schedule of key tasks. A draft MWP must be submitted with the

application. After award, HUD will provide comments to the awardee and a final MWP must be submitted to HUD within two weeks of the receipt of HUD comments. A revised final budget may also be required with the final MWP.

1. Research Design (RD): The RD will describe and explain the methodology that will be used to complete the proposed effort including how you will collect, manage, and analyze the information and data. If appropriate, describe the plan for testing and data analysis, specifically relating those actions to the existing codes, standards, and protocols. After award, HUD will provide feedback and a final RD must be submitted to HUD within four weeks of the receipt of HUD comments.

2. Quality Control Plan (QCP): A draft QCP, which addresses all potential points of a Quality Control Lapse, shall be delivered within two weeks after grant award and the final QCP shall be submitted for GTR approval within six weeks of grant award. A comprehensive QCP shall be submitted to the GTR within five working days when changes are made thereafter. The awardee shall receive the GTR's acceptance in writing of any proposed change to its QCP.

3. Quarterly Progress Reports: Quarterly Progress Reports will document activities completed in the most recent reporting period, planned activities for the upcoming reporting period, and budget expenditures by line item (including hours worked for specific staff). Progress reports must be submitted quarterly and shall be aligned with the submission of draw down requests.

4. Draft Final Report - Applicants will also be required to submit a draft final report which summarizes the entire work, achievements, and findings conducted under award. This draft report will address the specific outcomes described in the applicant's proposal, the cooperative agreement award, achievement of project goals and metrics, and the management plan. The report format and style requirements are provided at [PD&R Style Guide for Reports \(huduser.gov\)](http://huduser.gov)

HUD will have 4 weeks to review the draft final report and return comments to the grantee.

5. Final Report - Applicants shall submit a final report that adequately addresses HUD's comments. This report is expected to be submitted just before the conclusion of the grant.

## **2. HUD and Program-Specific Goals and Objectives**

This NOFO supports [HUD's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years \(FY\) 2022-2026](#) to accomplish HUD's mission and vision. Each of the five goals in the [Strategic Plan](#) include what HUD hopes to accomplish, the strategies to accomplish those objectives, and the indicators of success. However, of the five goals only those applicable to this NOFO are identified below.

You are expected to align your application to the applicable strategic goals and objectives below. Use the information in this section to describe in your application the specific goals, objectives, and measures that your project is expected to help accomplish. If your project is selected for funding, you are also expected to establish a plan to track progress related to those goals, objectives, and measures. HUD will monitor compliance with the goals, objectives, and measures in your project.

### **Applicable Goals and Objectives from HUD's Strategic Plan**



### **1. Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities**

Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.

#### **2. 1A: Advance Housing Justice**

Fortify support for vulnerable populations, underserved communities, and Fair Housing enforcement.

#### **3. 1B: Reduce Homelessness**

Strengthen Federal, State, Tribal, and community implementation of the Housing First approach to reducing the prevalence of homelessness, with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness.

#### **4. 1C: Invest in the Success of Communities**

Promote equitable community development that generates wealth-building for underserved communities, particularly for communities of color.

### **5. Strategic Goal 2: Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing**

Ensure housing demand is matched by adequate production of new homes and equitable access to housing opportunities for all people.

#### **6. 2A: Increase the Supply of Housing**

Enhance HUD's programs that increase the production and supply of housing across the country.

### **7. Strategic Goal 3: Promote Homeownership**

Promote homeownership opportunities, equitable access to credit for purchase and improvements, and wealth-building in underserved communities.

#### **8. 3A: Advance Sustainable Homeownership**

Advance the deployment of tools and capital that put sustainable homeownership within reach.

### **9. 3A – Major Initiative: Expand Homeownership Opportunities**

Promote financing for innovative ownership models to increase the availability of affordable housing.

#### **10. 3B: Create a More Accessible and Inclusive Housing Finance System**

Advance new policy, programs, and modernization initiatives that support a more equitable housing finance system. Promote the preservation and creation of affordable housing stock.

### **11. Strategic Goal 4: Advance Sustainable Communities**

Advance sustainable communities by strengthening climate resilience and energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice, and recognizing housing's role as essential to health.

#### **12. 4A: Guide Investment in Climate Resilience**

Invest in climate resilience, energy efficiency, and renewable energy across HUD programs.

#### **13. 4B: Strengthen Environmental Justice**

Reduce exposure to health risks, environmental hazards, and substandard housing, especially for low-income households and communities of color.

#### **14. 4C: Integrate Health and Housing**

Advance policies that recognize housing's role as essential to health.

## **3. Changes from Previous NOFO**

This is a new NOFO. An upcoming version in Spanish will be available in Grants.gov February 2nd, 2023. All proposals in response to this NOFO must be in English and as required with the instructions given in this NOFO.

## **4. Definitions**

### **a. Standard Definitions**

**Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)** means taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination to overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics. Specifically, affirmatively furthering fair housing means taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunities, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws. The duty to affirmatively further fair housing extends to all program participant's activities and programs relating to housing and urban development.

**Assistance Listing number** refers to the unique number assigned to each Federal assistance program publicly available in the Assistance Listing, which is managed and administered by the General Services Administration. The Assistance Listing number was formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number.

**Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)** is a person authorized to legally bind your organization and submit applications via Grants.gov. The AOR is authorized by the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) in the System for Award Management (see E-Biz POC definition). An AOR may include an Expanded AOR and/or a Standard AOR.

*Expanded Authorized Organization Representative* is a user in Grants.gov who is authorized by the E-Biz POC to perform the functions of a Standard AOR, initiate and submit applications on behalf of your organization, and is allowed to modify organization-level settings and certifications in Grants.gov.

*Standard Authorized Organization Representative* is a user in Grants.gov who is authorized by the E-Biz POC to initiate and submit applications in Grants.gov. A Grants.gov user with the Standard AOR role can only submit applications when they are a Participant for that workspace.

**Consolidated Plan** is the document submitted to HUD that serves as the comprehensive housing affordability strategy, community development plan, and submission for funding under any of the Community Planning and Development formula grant programs (e.g., CDBG, ESG, HOME, and HOPWA). This Plan is prepared in accordance with the process described in [24 CFR part 91](#). This plan is completed by engaging in a participatory process to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions with funding from formula grant programs. (See [24 CFR part 91](#) for HUD's requirements regarding the Consolidated Plan and related Action Plan).

**Contract** means, for the purpose of Federal financial assistance, a legal instrument by which a recipient or subrecipient purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. For additional information on contractor and subrecipient determinations, see [2 CFR 200.331](#).

**Contractor** means an entity that receives a contract as defined above and in [2 CFR 200.1](#).

**Cooperative agreement** has the same meaning defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

**Deficiency**, with respect to the making of an application for funding, is information missing or omitted within a submitted application. Examples of deficiencies include missing documents,

missing or incomplete information on a form, or some other type of unsatisfied information requirement. Depending on specific criteria, a deficiency may be either Curable or Non-Curable.

***A Curable Deficiency*** is missing or incomplete application information that may be corrected by the applicant with timely action. To be curable, the deficiency must:

- Not be a threshold requirement, except for documentation of applicant eligibility;
- Not influence how an applicant is ranked or scored versus other applicants; and
- Be remedied within the time frame specified in the notice of deficiency.

***A Non-Curable Deficiency*** is missing or incomplete application information that cannot be corrected by an applicant after the submission deadline. A non-curable deficiency is a deficiency that is a threshold requirement, or a deficiency that, if corrected, would change an applicant's score or rank versus other applicants. If an application includes a non-curable deficiency, the application may receive an ineligible determination, or the non-curable deficiency may otherwise adversely affect the application's score and final funding determination.

**E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC)** is an organization applicant who is responsible for the administration and management of grant activities for his or her organization. The E-Biz POC is likely to be an organization's chief financial officer or authorizing official. The E-Biz POC authorizes representatives of their organization to apply on behalf of the organization (see Authorized Organization Representative definition). There can only be one E-Biz POC per unique entity identifier (see definition of Unique Entity Identifier below).

**Eligibility requirements** are mandatory requirements for an application to be eligible for funding.

**Environmental Justice** means investing in environmental improvements, remedying past environmental inequities, and otherwise developing, implementing, and enforcing laws and policies in a manner that advances environmental equity and provides meaningful involvement for people and communities that have been environmentally underserved or overburdened, such as Black and Brown communities, indigenous groups, and individuals with disabilities. This definition does not alter the requirements under HUD's regulations at [24 CFR 58.5\(j\)](#) and [24 CFR 50.4\(l\)](#) implementing [Executive Order 12898](#). E.O. 12898 requires a consideration of how federally assisted projects may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations. For additional information on environmental review compliance, refer to: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/environment\\_energy/regulations](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/environment_energy/regulations).

**Equity** has the meaning given to that term in Section 2(a) of Executive Order [13985](#) and means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

**Federal Award**, has the meaning, depending on the context, in either paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition:

(1)

(a) The Federal financial assistance that a recipient receives directly from a Federal awarding agency or a subrecipient receives indirectly from a pass-through entity, as described in [2 CFR 200.101](#); or

(b) The cost-reimbursement contract under the Federal Acquisition Regulations that a non-Federal entity receives directly from a federal awarding agency or indirectly from a pass-through entity, as described in [2 CFR 200.101](#).

(2) The instrument setting forth the terms and conditions. The instrument is the grant agreement, cooperative agreement, other agreement for assistance covered in paragraph (2) of the definitions of Federal financial assistance in [2 CFR 200.1](#), and this NOFO, or the cost-reimbursement contract awarded under the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

(3) Federal award does not include other contracts that a Federal agency uses to buy goods or services from a contractor or a contract to operate Federal Government owned, contractor operated facilities (GOCOs).

(4) See also definitions of Federal financial assistance, grant agreement, and cooperative agreement in [2 CFR 200.1](#).

**Federal Financial Assistance** has the same meaning defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

**Grants.gov** is the website serving as the Federal government's central portal for searching and applying for Federal financial assistance throughout the Federal government. Registration on Grants.gov is required for submission of applications to prospective agencies unless otherwise specified in this NOFO.

**Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)** are any historically Black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of Black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary of Education to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation. [A list of accredited HBCUs can be found at the U.S. Department of Education's website.](#)

**Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)** are

(1) a part B institution (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1601](#));

(2) a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1101a\(5\)](#));

(3) a Tribal College or University (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1059c](#));

(4) an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1059d\(b\)](#));

(5) a Predominantly Black Institution (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1059e](#));

(6) an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1059g](#)); or

(7) a Native American-serving nontribal institution (as defined in [20 U.S.C. 1059f](#)).

**Non-Federal Entity (NFE)** means a state, local government, Indian tribe, Institution of Higher Education (IHE), or non-profit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient.

**Primary Point of Contact (PPOC)** is the person who may be contacted with questions about the application submitted by the AOR. The PPOC is listed in item 8F on the SF-424.

**Racial Equity** is the elimination of racial disparities, and is achieved when race can no longer predict opportunities, distribution of resources, or outcomes – particularly for Black and Brown persons, which includes Black, Latino, indigenous, Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other persons of color.

**Recipient** means an entity, usually but not limited to non-Federal entities, that receives a federal award directly from HUD. The term recipient does not include subrecipients or individuals that are beneficiaries of the award.

**Resilience** is a community’s ability to minimize damage and recover quickly from extreme events and changing conditions.

**Small business** is defined as a privately-owned corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship that has fewer employees and less annual revenue than regular-sized business. The definition of “small”—in terms of being able to apply for government support and qualify for preferential tax policy—varies by country and industry. The U.S. Small Business Administration defines a small business according to a set of standards based on specific industries. See [13 CFR Part 121](#).

**Subaward** means an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

**Subrecipient** means an entity, usually but not limited to non-Federal entities, that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal award but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such award. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other federal awards directly from a federal awarding agency.

**System for Award Management (SAM)** is the Federal Repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. Registration with SAM is required for submission of applications via Grants.gov. You can access the website at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>. There is no cost to use SAM.

**Threshold Requirements** are eligibility requirements that must be met for an application to be reviewed, rated, and ranked. Threshold requirements are not curable, except for documentation of applicant eligibility, which are listed in Section III.D., Threshold Eligibility Requirements. Similarly, there are eligibility requirements under Section III.E., Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility.

**Underserved Communities** has the meaning given to that term in Section 2(b) of Executive Order [13985](#) and refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the definition of “equity” above.

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** means the identifier assigned by SAM to uniquely identify business entities. As of April 4, 2022, the Federal government has transitioned from the use of the DUNS Number to the use of UEI, as the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards government-wide.

b. Program Definitions.

**Program theory:** A program theory or logic model explains how the activities of an intervention are understood to contribute to a chain of results (short-term outputs, medium-term outcomes) that produce ultimate intended or actual impacts.

**Theory of Change:** Theory of Change is a comprehensive description and illustration of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context. It is focused in particular on mapping out or “filling in” what has been described as the “missing middle” between what a program or change initiative does (its activities or interventions) and how these lead to desired goals being achieved.

**Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)**, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1101a(a)(5), means an institution of higher education that, (A) is an eligible institution (see 20 U.S.C. § 1101a; and (B) has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic at the end of the year immediately preceding the date of the application.

## **B. Authority**

This program is authorized by Sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. §1701z-1 and §1701z-2) and funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103, approved March 15, 2022).

## **II. AWARD INFORMATION**

### **A. Available Funds**

Funding of approximately **\$5,500,000** is available through this NOFO.

Additional funds may become available for award under this NOFO consistent with Section VI.A.2.e., Adjustments to Funding. Use of these funds is subject to statutory constraints. All awards are subject to the funding restrictions contained in this NOFO.

HUD also reserves the right to award FY 2023 funds based on this NOFO competition pursuant to Section VI.A.2.e.

### **B. Number of Awards**

HUD expects to make approximately 3 awards from the funds available under this NOFO.

HUD intends to make up to three awards totaling \$5,500,000 (maximum \$4,000,000 and no less than \$1,500,000), to conduct research projects on multiple topics of strategic interest to HUD to assist in the establishment of Innovative Research Center(s) of Excellence (COE) at Hispanic Serving Institutions focused on housing, community, and economic development in underserved communities.

### C. Minimum/Maximum Award Information

Estimated Total Funding:

\$5,500,000

Minimum Award Amount:

\$1,500,000

Per Project Period

Maximum Award Amount:

\$4,000,000

Per Project Period

### D. Period of Performance

N/A

Estimated Project Start Date:

07/03/2023

Estimated Project End Date:

07/03/2026

Length of Project Periods:

36-month project period and budget period

Length of Periods Explanation of Other:

### E. Type of Funding Instrument

Funding Instrument Type:

CA (Cooperative Agreement).

## III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### A. Eligible Applicants

06 (Public and State controlled institutions of higher education)

20 (Private institutions of higher education)

#### Additional Information on Eligibility

A Hispanic-serving institution (A) is an eligible institution; and (B) has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application. (20 U.S.C. 1101), as amended. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2020-title20/pdf/USCODE-2020-title20-chap28-subchapV-partA-sec1101a.pdf>. All applicants must be institutions of higher education granting two- or four-year degrees that are fully accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions are not required to be on the list of eligible HSIs prepared by the U.S. Department of Education. However, an institution that is not on the list is required to provide a statement in the application that the institution meets the U.S. Department of Education's statutory definition of an HSI as cited above. If an applicant is one of several campuses of the same institution, the

applicant may apply separately from the other campuses if the campus has a separate UEI number, administrative structure, and budget, and meets the enrollment requirements outlined above.

## **B. Ineligible Applicants**

Any institution that does not meet the definition of a Hispanic Serving Institution is an ineligible applicant. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2020-title20/pdf/USCODE-2020-title20-chap28-subchapV-partA-sec1101a.pdf>

## **C. Cost Sharing or Matching**

This Program does not require cost sharing or matching.

N/A

## **D. Threshold Eligibility Requirements**

Applicants who fail to meet any of the following threshold eligibility requirements are deemed ineligible. Applications from ineligible applicants are not rated or ranked and will not receive HUD funding.

### **1. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters**

Outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before the application submission deadline. Applicants with unresolved civil rights matters at the application deadline are deemed ineligible. Applications from ineligible applicants are not rated or ranked and will not receive HUD funding.

a. An applicant is ineligible for funding if the applicant has any of the charges, cause determinations, lawsuits, or letters of findings referenced in subparagraphs (1) – (5) that are not resolved to HUD’s satisfaction before or on the application deadline date for this NOFO.

(1) Charges from HUD concerning a systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act or receipt of a cause determination from a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing agency concerning a systemic violation of a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing law proscribing discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), national origin, disability or familial status;

(2) Status as a defendant in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed by the United States alleging a pattern or practice of discrimination or denial of rights to a group of persons raising an issue of general public importance under 42 U.S.C. 3614(a);

(3) Status as a defendant in any other lawsuit filed or joined by the Department of Justice, or in which the Department of Justice has intervened, or filed an amicus brief or statement of interest, alleging a pattern or practice or systemic violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Violence Against Women Act, or a claim under the False Claims Act related to fair housing, non-discrimination, or civil rights generally including an alleged failure to affirmatively further fair housing;



(4) Receipt of a letter of findings identifying systemic non-compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; Violence Against Women Act; or the Americans with Disabilities Act; or

(5) Receipt of a cause determination from a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing agency concerning a systemic violation of provisions of a state or local law prohibiting discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or lawful source of income.

b. HUD will determine if actions to resolve the charge, cause determination, lawsuit, or letter of findings taken before the application deadline date will resolve the matter. Examples of actions that may be sufficient to resolve the matter include, but are not limited to:

(1) Current compliance with a voluntary compliance agreement signed by all the parties;

(2) Current compliance with a HUD-approved conciliation agreement signed by all the parties;

(3) Current compliance with a conciliation agreement signed by all the parties and approved by the state governmental or local administrative agency with jurisdiction over the matter;

(4) Current compliance with a consent order or consent decree;

(5) Current compliance with a final judicial ruling or administrative ruling or decision; or

(6) Dismissal of charges.

## **2. Timely Submission of Applications**

Applications submitted after the deadline stated within this NOFO that do not meet the requirements of the grace period policy are marked late. Late applications are ineligible and are not considered for funding. See Section IV. D. Application Submission Dates and Times.

## **E. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility**

### **Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Financial Assistance Programs**

The following requirements affect applicant eligibility. Detailed information on each requirement is found in the "Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Financial Assistance Programs" document on HUD's Funding Opportunities page.

- Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Requirements
- Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts
- Debarments or Suspensions, or both
- Mandatory Disclosure Requirement
- Pre-selection Review of Performance
- Sufficiency of Financial Management System
- False Statements
- Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities

In addition, each applicant under this NOFO must have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the Award Term in Appendix A of [24 CFR part 170](#) if the applicant receives an award, unless an exception applies as provided in [2 CFR 170.110](#).

## **F. Program-Specific Requirements**

N/A

### **Advancing Racial Equity**

In accordance with Executive Order [13985](#), *Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, and federal fair housing and civil rights laws, you must submit a narrative demonstrating the following:

- You analyzed the racial composition of the persons or households who are expected to benefit from your proposed grant activities;
- You identified any potential barriers to persons or communities of color equitably benefiting from your proposed grant activities;
- You detailed the steps you will take to prevent, reduce or eliminate these barriers; and
- You have measures in place to track your progress and evaluate the effectiveness of your efforts to advance racial equity in your grant activities.

Note that any actions taken in furtherance of this section must be consistent with federal nondiscrimination requirements.

### **Affirmative Marketing**

You must submit a narrative demonstrating that the housing, services, or other benefits provided under this grant will be affirmatively marketed broadly throughout the local area and nearby areas to any demographic groups that would be unlikely or least likely to apply absent such efforts. Such demographic groups may include, for example, Black and Brown persons or communities, individuals with limited English proficiency, individuals with disabilities, or families with children. Such activities may include outreach through community contacts or service providers or at community centers serving the target population; and marketing on websites, social media channels, television, radio, and print media serving local members of the targeted group. Documentation for this factor consists of a narrative describing the activities that will fulfill the factor requirements.

## **G. Criteria for Beneficiaries.**

N/A

## **IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### **A. Obtain an Application Package**

#### **Instructions for Applicants**

All application materials, including the Application Instructions and Application Package, are available through Grants.gov. You must access and review all available application materials. You must submit your application electronically via Grants.gov under the Funding Opportunity Number cited within this NOFO. Your application must list the applicable Funding Opportunity Number.

You can request a waiver from the requirement for electronic submission, if you demonstrate good cause. An example of good cause may include: a lack of available Internet access in the geographic area in which your business offices are located. However, lack of SAM registration

or valid UEI is not a good cause. If you cannot submit your application electronically, you must ask in writing for a waiver of the electronic grant submission requirements. HUD will not grant a waiver if you fail to submit to HUD in writing or via email a request for a waiver at least 15 calendar days before the application deadline. If HUD grants a waiver, a paper application must be received before the deadline for this NOFO. To request a waiver, you must contact:

Name:

Madlyn Wohlman R.

Email:

madlyn.wohlmanrodriguez@hud.gov

HUD Organization:

PD&R

Street:

451 7th Street, SW

City:

Washington

State:

DC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Zip:

20410

## **B. Content and Form of Application Submission**

You must verify that boxes 11, 12, and 13 on the SF-424 match the NOFO for which you are applying. If they do not match, you have downloaded the wrong Application Instruction and Application Package.

Submission of an application that is otherwise sufficient, under the wrong Assistance Listing and Funding Opportunity Number is a Non-Curable Deficiency, unless otherwise stated under the Threshold requirements section.

### **1. Content**

<b>Forms/Assurances/Certifications</b>	<b>Submission Requirement</b>	<b>Notes/Description</b>
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	Review section IV.G. of this NOFO for detailed submission requirements.	
Applicant and Recipient Assurances and Certifications (HUD 424-B)	Review section IV.G. of this NOFO for detailed	

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
	submission requirements.	
Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report (HUD 2880)	Review section IV.G. of this NOFO for detailed submission requirements	
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)		Federally recognized Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) established by federally recognized Indian tribes as a result of the exercise of the tribe's sovereign power are excluded from coverage of the Byrd Amendment, but state-recognized Indian tribes and TDHEs established only under state law shall comply with this requirement.
HUD 424 CBW	Forms Included in Instructions Zip	Include a total budget supporting cost justifications of up to four pages, which will cover all budget categories of the federal grant request.

Additionally, your complete application must include the following narratives and non-forms attachments.

**2. Format and Form**

Narratives and other attachments to your application must follow the following format guidelines. Do not submit password protected or encrypted files.

25 Pages maximum length of narratives

Double spaced 12-point (minimum) Times Roman font on letter sized paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches) with at least 1-inch margins on all sides

Application Abstract (two-page maximum, see par. 3, below for the page layout requirements). An abstract with the project title, the names and affiliations of all investigators; identification of partner organizations; a summary of the research objectives, study design, and expected results, and the total funds requested, must be included in the proposal. Information contained in the abstract will not be considered in the evaluation and scoring of your application and will not be

counted towards the 25-page maximum. Any information you wish to be considered in scoring of the application must be provided under the appropriate rating factor response.

- a. Response to Rating Factors (25-page limit). A project description/narrative statement addressing the rating factors for award, which are identified in section V.A.1. The narrative statement must be identified in accordance with each factor for award (Rating Factors 1 through 5). The full application must be formatted as per section IV.B.2. The project description or narrative must be included in the responses to the rating factors. Any description/narrative in excess of this 25-page limit will not be read. The points you receive for each rating factor will be based on the portion of your narrative statement that you submit in response to that particular factor, supplemented by any appendices that are referenced in your narrative response to the rating factor. Supporting materials that are not referenced or discussed in your responses to the individual rating factors will not be considered. Additional materials (e.g., appendices) can be submitted with your application. The footer on the pages of these materials should identify the rating factor that they are supporting.
- b. Supporting Materials. Include, as appendices the following materials that are needed to support your responses to the rating factors. These will not be counted towards the Rating Factors narrative 25-page limit:
  1. The resumes of the principal investigator and other key personnel. Each resume shall not exceed three pages and is limited to information that is relevant in assessing the qualifications and experience of key personnel to conduct and/or manage the proposed technical study.
  2. Organizational chart
  3. Letters of commitment
  4. List of references cited in your responses to the rating factors.
- c. Additional Information. The additional optional materials must not exceed 20 pages. Any pages in excess of this limit will not be read. Do not include additional narrative information that is an extension of or expands upon any of your rating factor responses. Such narrative will not be considered.
- d. Budget. Include a total budget using form HUD 424CBW, included in the Instructions download at Grants.gov with supporting cost justification of up to four pages, which will cover all budget categories of the federal grant request. This information will not be counted towards the Rating Factors narrative 25-page limit. Use the budget format discussed in Rating Factor (3), Section V.A.1.b below. In completing the budget forms and justification, you should address the following elements:
  1. Direct Labor costs, including all full- and part-time staff required for the planning and implementation phases of the project. These costs should be based on full time equivalent (FTE) or hours per year (hours/year) (i.e., one FTE equals 2,080 hours/year);
  2. Allowance for two trips to HUD Headquarters in Washington, DC, during the period of performance of your grant, planning each trip for 1-2 people, as needed. In planning your trips, you should assume one or two overnight stays depending on your location;
  3. A separate budget form and justification for each sub-recipient receiving more than 10 percent of the total federal budget request;

4. Supporting documentation for salaries and prices of materials and equipment, upon request.

## **C. System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**

### **1. SAM Registration Requirement**

You must register with <https://www.sam.gov/> before submitting their application. You must maintain current information in SAM on immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a federal contract or grant within the last three years, if applicable. Information in SAM must be current for all times during which you have an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.

### **2. UEI Requirement**

As of April 4, 2022, entities doing business with the federal government must use the UEI created in SAM.gov. Also, you must provide a valid UEI, registered and active at [www.sam.gov/](http://www.sam.gov/) in the application. For more information, see: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>.

### **3. Requirement to Register with Grants.gov**

Anyone planning to submit applications on behalf of an organization must register at Grants.gov and be approved by the E-Biz POC in SAM to submit applications for the organization. Registration for SAM and Grants.gov is a multi-step process and can take four (4) weeks or longer to complete if data issues arise. Applicants without a valid registration cannot apply through Grants.gov. Complete registration instructions and guidance are provided on Grants.gov.

## **D. Application Submission Dates and Times**

### **1. Application Due Date Explanation**

The application deadline is 11:59:59 PM Eastern time on

05/18/2023

Submit your application to Grants.gov unless a waiver has been issued allowing you to submit a paper application. Instructions for submitting your paper application will be contained in the waiver of electronic submission.

“Received by Grants.gov” means the applicant received a confirmation of receipt and an application tracking number from Grants.gov. Grants.gov then assigns an application tracking number and date-and timestamp each application upon successful receipt by the Grants.gov system. A submission attempt not resulting in confirmation of receipt and an application tracking number is not considered received by Grants.gov.

Applications received by Grants.gov must be validated by Grants.gov to be received by HUD.

“Validated by Grants.gov” means the application has been accepted and was not rejected with errors. You can track the status of your application by logging into Grants.gov, selecting “Applicants” from the top navigation, and selecting “Track my application” from the dropdown list. If the application status is “rejected with errors,” you must correct the error(s) and resubmit the application before the 24-hour grace period ends. Applications in “rejected with errors” status

after the 24-hour grace period expires will not be received by HUD. Visit Grants.gov for a complete description of processing steps after applying.

HUD strongly recommends you submit your applications at least **48 hours before the deadline** and during regular business hours to allow enough time to correct errors or overcome other problems.

## **2. Grants.gov Customer Support**

Grants.gov provides customer support information on its website at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>. If you have difficulty accessing the application and instructions or have technical problems, contact Grants.gov customer support center by calling (800) 518-GRANTS (this is a toll-free number) or by sending an email to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The customer support center is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, except Federal holidays. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech and other communication disabilities may use a relay service to reach Grants.gov Customer Support. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, visit the [webpage for Federal Communications Commission](#).

## **3. Grants.gov Application Submission**

You can verify the contents of your submitted application to confirm Grants.gov received everything you intended to submit. To verify the contents of your submitted application:

- Log in to Grants.gov.
- Click the Check Application Status link, which appears under the Grant Applications heading in the Applicant Center page. This will take you to the Check Application Status page.
- Enter search criteria and a date range to narrow your search results.
- Click the Search button. To review your search results in Microsoft Excel, click the Export Data button.
- Review the Status column. To view more detailed submission information, click the Details link in the Actions column.
- To download the submitted application, click the Download link in the Actions column.

Take note of the Grants.gov tracking number, as it is needed by the Grants.gov customer support center should you seek their assistance.

HUD may extend the application deadline for any program if Grants.gov is offline or not available to applicants for at least 24 hours immediately prior to the deadline date, or the system is down for 24 hours or longer and impacts the ability of applicants to cure a submission deficiency within the grace period.

HUD may also extend the application deadline upon request if there is a presidentially declared disaster in the applicant's area.

If these events occur, HUD will post a notice on its website establishing the new, extended deadline for the affected applicants. HUD will also publish the extension on Grants.gov.

In determining whether to grant a request for an extension based on a presidentially declared disaster, HUD will consider the totality of the circumstances including the date of an applicant's

extension request (how closely it followed the basis for the extension), whether other applicants in the geographic area are similarly affected by the disaster, and how quickly power or services are restored to enable the applicant to submit its application.

**NOTE:** Busy servers, slow processing, large file sizes, improper registration or password issues are not valid circumstances to extend the deadline dates or the grace period.

#### **4. Amending or Resubmitting an Application**

Before the submission deadline, you may amend a validated application through Grants.gov by resubmitting a revised application containing the new or changed material. The resubmitted application must be received and validated by Grants.gov by the applicable deadline.

If HUD receives an original and a revised application for a single proposal, HUD will evaluate only the last submission received by Grants.gov before the deadline.

#### **5. Grace Period for Grants.gov Submissions**

If your application is received by Grants.gov before the deadline, but is rejected with errors, you have a grace period of 24 hours after the application deadline to submit a corrected, received, and validated application through Grants.gov. The date and time stamp on the Grants.gov system determines the application receipt time. Any application submitted during the grace period but not received and validated by Grants.gov will not be considered for funding. There is no grace period for paper applications.

#### **6. Late Applications**

An application received after the NOFO deadline date that does not meet the Grace Period requirements will be marked late and will not be reviewed by HUD for funding consideration. Improper or expired registration and password issues are not sufficient causes to allow HUD to accept applications after the deadline date.

#### **7. Corrections to Deficient Applications**

HUD will not consider information from applicants after the application deadline except for curable deficiencies.

HUD will uniformly notify applicants of each curable deficiency. See curable deficiency definition in section I.A of this NOFO. Examples of curable (correctable) deficiencies include inconsistencies in the funding request and failure to submit required certifications. These examples are non-exhaustive.

When HUD identifies a curable deficiency, HUD will notify the authorized organization representative identified on the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance via email. This email is the official notification of a curable deficiency.

You must email corrections of Curable Deficiencies to [applicationsupport@hud.gov](mailto:applicationsupport@hud.gov) within the time limits specified in the notification. The time allowed to correct deficiencies will be no less than 48 hours and no more than 14 calendar days from the date of the email notification. The start of the cure period will be the date stamp on the email sent from HUD. If the deficiency cure deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, Federal holiday, or on a day when HUD's



Headquarters are closed, then the applicant's correction must be received on the next business day HUD Headquarters offices in Washington, DC are open.

The subject line of the email sent to [applicationsupport@hud.gov](mailto:applicationsupport@hud.gov) must state: Technical Cure and include the Grants.gov application tracking number or the GrantSolutions application number (e.g., Subject: Technical Cure - GRANT123456 or Technical Cure - XXXXXXXXXXXX). If this information is not included, HUD cannot match the response with the application under review and the application may be rejected due to the deficiency.

Corrections to a paper application must be sent in accordance with and to the address indicated in the notification of deficiency. HUD will treat a paper application submitted in accordance with a waiver of electronic application containing the wrong UEI as having a curable deficiency. Failure to correct the deficiency and meet the requirement to have a UEI and active registration in SAM will render the application ineligible for funding.

## **8. Authoritative Versions of HUD NOFOs**

The version of this NOFO posted on Grants.gov includes the official documents HUD uses to solicit applications.

## **9. Exemptions**

Parties that believe the requirements of the NOFO would impose a substantial burden on the exercise of their religion should seek an exemption under the [Religious Freedom Restoration Act](#) (RFRA).

## **E. Intergovernmental Review**

This program is not subject to [Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#).

## **F. Funding Restrictions**

HUD will determine whether the salary rates are reasonable, customary for the skill set provided and the task to be conducted and in accordance with federal legal requirements.

### **Indirect Cost Rate**

Normal indirect cost rules under [2 CFR part 200, subpart E](#) apply. If you intend to charge indirect costs to your award, your application must clearly state the rate and distribution base you intend to use. If you have a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate, your application must also include a letter or other documentation from the cognizant agency showing the approved rate. Successful applicants whose rate changes after the application deadline must submit the new rate and documentation to assure the award agreement incorporates the applicable rate.

Applicants other than state and local governments. If you have a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate, your application must clearly state the approved rate and distribution base and must include a letter or other documentation from the cognizant agency showing the approved rate. If your organization does not have a current negotiated rate (including provisional rate) and elects to use the de minimis rate, your application must clearly state you intend to use the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC), as defined at [2 CFR 200.1](#). Costs must be

consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both, as described in [2 CFR 200.403](#). Once elected, the de minimis rate must be applied consistently for all Federal awards until the organization chooses to negotiate a rate, which the organization may apply to do at any time. Documentation of the decision to use the de minimis rate must be retained on file for audit.

State and local governments. If your department or agency unit has a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate, your application must include that rate, the applicable distribution base, and a letter or other documentation from the cognizant agency showing the negotiated rate. If your department or agency unit receives more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding per year, you may not claim indirect costs until you receive a negotiated rate from your cognizant agency for indirect costs as provided in [Appendix VII to 2 CFR part 200](#).

If your department or agency unit receives no more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding per year and your department or agency unit has developed and maintains an indirect cost rate proposal and supporting documentation for audit in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200, Appendix VII](#), you may use the rate and distribution base specified in that indirect cost rate proposal.

Alternatively, if your department or agency unit receives no more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding per year and does not have a current negotiated rate (including provisional) rate, you may elect to use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC. As described in [2 CFR 200.403](#), costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. Once elected, the de minimis rate must be applied consistently for all Federal awards until your department or agency chooses to negotiate for a rate, which you may apply to do at any time. Documentation of the decision to use the de minimis rate must be retained on file for audit.

## **G. Other Submission Requirements**

### **1. Standard Application, Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures**

#### **Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Application for Federal Assistance**

The SF-424 is the government-wide form required to apply for Federal assistance programs, discretionary Federal grants, and other forms of financial assistance programs. You must complete and submit the form with the other required forms and information as directed in this NOFO.

By signing the forms in the SF-424 either through electronic submission or in paper copy submission (for those granted a waiver), you and the signing authorized organization representative affirm that you both have reviewed the certifications and assurances associated with the application for Federal assistance and (1) are aware the submission of the SF-424 is an assertion that the relevant certifications and assurances are established and (2) acknowledge that the truthfulness of the certifications and assurances are material representations upon which HUD will rely when making an award to the applicant. If it is later determined the signing authorized organization representative to the application made a false certification or assurance, caused the submission of a false certification or assurance, or did not have the authority to make a legally binding commitment for the applicant, the applicant and the individual who signed the application may be subject to administrative, civil, or criminal action. Additionally, HUD may terminate the award to the applicant organization or pursue other available remedies. Each

applicant is responsible for including the correct certifications and assurances with its application submission, including those applicable to all applicants, those applicable only to Federally recognized Indian tribes, or Alaskan native villages and those applicable to applicants other than Federally recognized Indian tribes, or Alaskan native villages.

### **Assurances (HUD 424-B)**

By submitting your application, you provide assurances that, if selected to receive an award, you will comply with U.S. statutory and other requirements, including, but not limited to civil rights requirements. All recipients and subrecipients of the award are required to submit assurances of compliance with federal civil rights requirements. *See, e.g.*, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Violence Against Women Act, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; *see also* [24 C.F.R. §§ 1.5; 3.115; 8.50; and 146.25](#). HUD accepts these assurances in the form of the HUD 424-B, which also require compliance with HUD Reform Act requirements and all general federal nondiscrimination requirements in the administration of the federal assistance award.

### **Applicant Disclosure Report Form 2880 (HUD 2880)**

The form HUD 2880 is required if you are applying for assistance within the jurisdiction of HUD to any project subject to Section 102(d) of the [HUD Reform Act](#). Assistance is provided directly by HUD to any person or entity, but not to subrecipients. It includes assistance for the acquisition, rehabilitation, operation, conversion, modernization, renovation, or demolition of any property containing five or more dwelling units that is to be used primarily for residential purposes. It includes assistance to independent group residences, board and care facilities, group homes and transitional housing but does not include primarily nonresidential facilities such as intermediate care facilities, nursing homes and hospitals. It also includes any change requested by a recipient in the amount of assistance previously provided, except changes resulting from annual adjustments in Section 8 rents under Section 8(c)(2)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 ([42 U.S.C. 1437f](#)). [See HUD Reform Act regulation for additional information.](#)

### **Code of Conduct**

Both you, as the award recipient, and all subrecipients must have a code of conduct (or written standards of conduct). The code of conduct must comply with the requirements included in the “Conducting Business in Accordance with Ethical Standards” section of the Administrative, National and Department Policy Requirements and Terms for HUD Financial Assistance Awards, as well as any program-specific requirements. These requirements include ethical standards related to conflicts of interest for procurements in [2 CFR 200.318\(c\)](#) and [2 CFR 200.317](#), as well as HUD-specific conflict of interest standards. HUD maintains a list of organizations that have previously submitted written standards of conduct on its [Code of Conduct for HUD Grant Programs webpage](#). But it is your responsibility to ensure that the standards are compliant with the noted requirements and that HUD has the latest version of the written standards. Updated written standards should be submitted with the application. Any updates to your written standards, after the application period, should be submitted as directed by the HUD program contact for this NOFO.

### **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing**

With some exceptions for Federally recognized Indian tribes and their instrumentalities, the application must discuss how the applicant will carry out the proposed activities in a manner that

affirmatively furthers fair housing in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and its implementing regulations, and how applicants will meet the requirements of the definition of AFFH at 24 CFR 5.151. Applicants may propose activities that are consistent with their jurisdiction’s Analysis of Impediments (AI), an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), or other means of fair housing planning that meaningfully supports their AFFH certification.

If the applicant will carry out proposed activities in a jurisdiction with an AFH, the proposed activities should be consistent with the AFH’s fair housing goals and with fair housing strategies specified in the jurisdiction’s Consolidated Plan or Public Housing Agency Plan.

**2. Other Program-Specific Requirements**

**V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

**A. Review Criteria**

**1. Rating Factors**

**Rating Factors**

<b>Rating Category</b>	<b>Rating Factor</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>25</b>	
Knowledge and Experience	15	
Past Performance	10	
<b>Scientific Aims and Vision</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>Soundness of Approach</b>	<b>35</b>	
Methodology	15	
Quality of Implementation Plan	20	
<b>Resources and Partnerships</b>	<b>25</b>	
Quality of Sustainment Plan	10	
Partnerships, Leveraged Funds and Collaborations	15	
<a href="#"><u>Preference Points</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>An applicant partnering with an MSI</u></a>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	

**Rating Factors**

Each of the four factors is weighted as indicated by the number of points that are assigned to it. The maximum score that can be attained is 102 points. Applicants should be certain that each of

these factors is adequately addressed in the project description and accompanying materials. To the extent feasible, include all of the needed information within your response to each rating factor. If your response to a particular rating factor cites information provided in your response to another rating factor, clearly indicate where the information is located so that the reviewer can easily locate it. Your response to the rating factors should be submitted on consecutively numbered pages. Applicant will be selected based on highest score. The minimum score for funding consideration is 75 points.

**Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Experience: Maximum Points = 25**

This factor addresses the extent to which the institution has the capacity to successfully implement the proposed three research projects in a timely manner.

a. Knowledge and Experience

1. Identify and describe the knowledge and experience of key project team members such as the proposed COE Director, participating faculty and key staff.
2. Describe the academic programs relevant to the institution's approach to implementing the research projects, and the research experience of key faculty involved (relevant to the proposed research projects, other research, or the COE approach).

b. Past Performance

1. Identify grants from HUD or other entities that were performed by key personnel who will be assigned to the COE research projects.

2. Identify up to five grants that demonstrate capacity in fields related to the institution's vision for the COE and proposed research projects. Provide dollar amount awarded and descriptions of the achievement of specific tasks, measurable objectives and specific outcomes.

3. List all HUD grants received in the last 10 years, including the dollar amount awarded and a description of the achievement of specific tasks, measurable objectives, and specific outcomes consistent with the work plan.

**Rating Factor 2: Scientific Aims and Vision: Maximum Points = 15**

This factor addresses the approach the applicant will take to achieve the vision of innovation in the proposed research.

1. Describe the factors that indicate community distress or health and how the proposed activities/research will advance racial equity and support underserved communities.
2. Describe how the proposed COE intends to approach the research of one or more those factors. Applications will be rated based on quality of approach, employment of effective program theory models or theory of change models, (see definitions p. 8), and research that identifies innovative, evidence-based solutions to address problems confronting underserved communities.

**Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach to Addressing the Research Studies:**

**Maximum Points = 35**

a. Methodology

Applicants should provide a clear discussion of how the research design will approach the problem of analyzing problems and issues identified in Rating Factor 1. Applicants will be assessed based on the extent to which the draft research design provides a methodologically sound and realistic approach for the proposed research.

1. List the proposed research questions and hypotheses
2. How the proposed research questions relate to the stated research objective(s).
3. Discussion of data sources required, the reliability and availability of those data sources, strategies for obtaining required data, and methods for analyzing the data to address the research questions and hypotheses. If the applicant proposes the collection of original data (such as surveys or interviews), the draft research design must discuss sampling strategy.

b. Quality of Implementation Plan

This factor addresses the quality and effectiveness of the proposed research implementation plan and the commitment of the institution to enable the research to spur the creation of the proposed Center of Excellence (COE). This factor will be evaluated based on the extent to which the proposed research implementation plan demonstrates the following:

1. How will the research strengthen the evidence base on innovative and effective approaches to meeting the housing and community development needs of underserved communities.
2. Describe how the multidisciplinary research activities will be continued after the three-year grant period.

**Rating Factor 4: Resources and Partnerships:**

**Maximum Points = 25**

This factor addresses the ability of the applicant to secure resources that can be combined with HUD's funds to achieve the grant's purpose and sustain the research effort over the long term. In evaluating this factor, HUD will consider how well the applicant has established partnerships with other entities to secure additional resources and capabilities to increase the effectiveness of the proposed research. Maximum points will only be awarded to applicants with high quality and realistic sustainment plan fully supported by firm commitments.

Resources may include funding or in-kind contributions, such as services or equipment allocated for the purpose of the proposed research. Generally, Federal sources are not allowed to be used as cost share or match unless otherwise permitted by a program's authorizing statute.

a. Quality of Sustainment plan

1. Describe the institution's long-term sustainment plan (beyond 5 years) for the research effort, including promotion, grant fund leveraging, philanthropic development and revenue generation.

2. Describe how the institution will further develop its long-term sustainment plan during the grant period.

Partnerships, Leveraged Funds, and Collaboration

List how funds have been and will be obtained including: creative in-kind contributions, facilities, faculty, and subject matter experts from the university, private philanthropic organizations, private enterprise, or other government agencies.

Provide Letters of Commitment including:

1. Name of the organization and authorizing official.
2. Amount of cash contributed or dollar value of the in-kind contribution.
3. Specific description of how each contribution will be used.
4. The date the contribution will be available and the duration of the contribution.
5. Any other terms or conditions affecting the contribution.
6. Include written commitment letters, memoranda of understanding or agreement that show the extent and firm commitment of resources.
7. Partnerships and Collaborations with other HSIs, and collaborations with other organizations and institutions.

1. Describe innovative collaborations, including but not limited to academic consortia and partnerships with other federal agencies or private entities. Provide up to six letters of commitment including the following information for each:

- a. Name of the organization and signatory of authorizing official.
- b. Nature of the partnership or collaboration
- c. Specific description of how each partnership contributes to the approach and objectives of the research efforts.
- d. The description of the partnership; assigned roles and responsibilities and the time period of the commitment.
- e. Any other terms or conditions affecting the partnership.

2. Include any memoranda of understanding or agreement that show the extent and firm commitment to the project.


**Maximum Points: 102**

## **2. Other Factors**

### **Preference Points**

This NOFO supports the following policy initiatives. If your application demonstrates the appropriate information for the policy initiative, your application will receive up to two (2) points for each initiative, and will receive no more than a total of four (4) points. These points are added to your application's overall score.

#### Minority-Serving Institutions (2 points)

You may choose to voluntarily commit to address policy initiatives in your application. Addressing these policy initiatives is not a requirement to apply for or receive an award. If you choose to address a voluntary policy initiative in your application, however, you will be required to adhere to the information submitted with your application should you receive an award. The proposed information will be included as a binding requirement of any federal award you receive as a term and condition of that award.

This program does not offer points for Climate Change

This program does not offer points for Environmental Justice.

### **Minority-Serving Institutions**

Pursuant to Executive Orders [13985](#), [14041](#), [14045](#), and [14031](#), you may receive up to two (2) preference points if you are an applicant designated as a minority-serving institution (MSI) or if your application proposes one or more partnerships with minority-serving educational institutions that have been historically underserved.

[An applicant partnering with an HBCU, Hispanic-Serving Institution, Tribal-controlled postsecondary institution](#), Alaskan Native-serving or Native-Hawaiian-serving institution, Predominantly Black Institution, [Asian and Pacific Islander-serving institution](#), or Native American-serving nontribal institution will receive up to two (2) Preference Points when the application includes a Letter of Commitment certifying that a partnership is in place and signed by an authorizing official of the MSI and documentation of the college or university's status as an [HBCU](#), [Hispanic-serving institution](#), [Tribal-controlled postsecondary institution](#), [Alaska Native-serving or Native-Hawaiian-serving institution](#), [Predominantly Black Institution](#), [Asian and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution](#), or Native American-serving nontribal institution.

This program does not offer Promise Zone preference points.

## **B. Review and Selection Process**

### **1. Past Performance**

In evaluating applications for funding, HUD will consider an applicant's past performance in managing funds. Items HUD will consider include, but are not limited to:

OMB-designated repositories of governmentwide data, as noted in [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)](#)

The ability to account for funds in compliance with applicable reporting and recordkeeping requirements



Timely use of funds received from HUD

Timely submission and quality of reports submitted to HUD

Meeting program requirements

Meeting performance targets as established in the grant agreement

The applicant's organizational capacity, including staffing structures and capabilities

HUD may reduce scores based on the past performance review, as specified under V.A. Review Criteria. Whenever possible, HUD will obtain and review past performance information. If this review results in an adverse finding related to integrity of performance, HUD reserves the right to take any of the remedies provided in the [Pre-Selection Review of Performance section of the Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD Financial Assistance Programs](#).

## **2. Assessing Applicant Risk**

In evaluating risks posed by applicants, HUD may use a risk-based approach and may consider any items such as the following:

- (1) Financial stability;
- (2) Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part;
- (3) History of performance. The applicant's record in managing Federal awards, if it is a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, failing to make significant progress in a timely manner, failing to meet planned activities in a timely manner, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards;
- (4) Reports and findings from audits performed under Subpart F—Audit Requirements of this part or the reports and findings of any other available audits; and
- (5) The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

## **3. Experience Promoting Racial Equity**

In evaluating applications for funding, HUD will consider the extent to which the application demonstrates that the applicant has the experience and the resources to effectively address the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities. This may include experience successfully working directly with such groups, experience designing or operating programs that equitably benefit such groups, or experience successfully advancing racial equity in other ways. This may also include experience soliciting, obtaining, and applying input from such groups when designing, planning, or implementing programs and activities.

# **VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

## **A. Award Notices**

Following the evaluation process, HUD will notify successful applicants of their selection for funding. HUD will also notify other applicants, whose applications were received by the deadline but were not chosen for award. Notifications will be sent by email to the person listed as the AOR in item 21 of the SF-424.

### **1. Final Grant**

After HUD has made selections, HUD will finalize specific terms of the award and budget in consultation with the selected applicant. If HUD and the selected applicant do not finalize the terms and conditions of the award in a timely manner, or the selected applicant fails to provide requested information, an award will not be made to that applicant. In this case, HUD may select another eligible applicant. HUD may also impose specific conditions on an award as provided under [2 CFR 200.208](#).

### **2. Adjustments to Funding**

To ensure the fair distribution of funds and enable the purposes or requirements of a specific program to be met, HUD reserves the right to fund less than the amount requested in an application.

- a. HUD may fund no portion of an application that:
  - (1) Is ineligible for funding under applicable statutory or regulatory requirements;
  - (2) Fails, in whole or in part, to meet the requirements of this notice;
  - (3) Duplicates activities funded by other federal awards; or
  - (4) Duplicates activities funded in a prior year.
- b. HUD may adjust the funding for an application to ensure funding diversity, geographic diversity, and alignment with HUD administrative priorities.
- c. If an applicant turns down an award offer, or if HUD and an applicant do not finalize the terms and conditions of the award in a timely manner, HUD may withdraw the award offer and make an offer of funding to another eligible application.
- d. If funds remain after all selections have been made, remaining funds may be made available within the current fiscal year for other competitions within the program area, or be held for future competitions (if allowable in accordance with the applicable appropriation or authorizing statute), or be used as otherwise provided by authorizing statute or appropriation.
- e. If, after announcement of awards made under the current NOFO, additional funds become available either through the current appropriations, a supplemental appropriation, other appropriations or recapture of funds, HUD may, in accordance with the appropriation, use the additional funds to provide additional funding to an applicant awarded less than the requested amount of funds to make the full award, and/or to fund additional applicants that were eligible to receive an award but for which there were no funds available.

### **3. Funding Errors**

If HUD commits an error that when corrected would cause selection of an applicant during the funding round of a Program NOFO, HUD may select that applicant for funding, subject to the availability of funds. If funding is not available to award in the current fiscal year, HUD may make an award to this applicant during the next fiscal year, if funding is available.

## **B. Administrative, National and Departmental Policy Requirements and Terms for HUD Applicants and Recipients of Financial Assistance Awards**

Unless otherwise specified, the following Administrative, National and Department Policy Requirements and Terms for HUD Financial Assistance Awards apply. Failure to comply with these requirements may impact your ability to receive or retain a financial assistance award from HUD. Read the requirements carefully as the requirements are different among HUD's programs.

1. Compliance with Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements, including those listed within [Federal Register Notice, FR-4878-N-02](#) (also see [HUD's webpage](#))
2. Compliance with Accessible Technology requirements, including those listed on in [HUD's Policy on Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and Accessible Technology](#)
3. Compliance with Equal Access Requirements (see [24 CFR 5.105\(a\)\(2\)](#) and [5.106](#))
4. Compliance with Ensuring the Participation of Small Disadvantaged Business, and Women-Owned Business requirements at [2 CFR 200.321](#)
5. Compliance with Participation in HUD-Sponsored Program Evaluation (see [Federal Register Notice, FR-6278-N-01](#))
6. Compliance with OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (see [2 CFR part 200](#))
7. Compliance with Drug-Free Workplace requirements (see [2 CFR part 2429](#), which is HUD's implementation of [41 U.S.C. 701, et seq.](#))
8. Compliance with the requirements related to safeguarding resident/client files
9. Compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 ([2 CFR part 170](#)) (FFATA), as amended
10. Compliance with Eminent Domain
11. Compliance with Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities requirements on [HUD's Disability Overview](#) webpage
12. Compliance with Violence Against Women Act at [24 CFR part 5](#), subpart L and applicable program regulations
13. Compliance with Conducting Business in Accordance with Ethical Standards/Code of Conduct, including [2 CFR 200.317](#), [2 CFR 200.318\(c\)](#) and other applicable conflicts of interest requirements
14. Compliance with the [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\) Act](#) procurement requirements and [implementing guidance available on HUD's dedicated webpage](#)
15. Compliance with System for Award Management and Universal Identifier Requirements at [2 CFR part 25](#)
16. Compliance with environmental justice requirements under Executive Orders [12898](#) and [14008](#), and OMB Memorandum [M-21-28](#), which implements the Justice40 Initiative, section 223 of Executive Order [14008](#).

17. Compliance with waste, fraud, and abuse requirements, including whistleblower protections (see [HUD's 1/2s webpage](#))

### **Environmental Review**

In accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1) and (b)(3) activities funded under this NOFO are exempt or categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) and not subject to environmental review under related laws and authorities.

### **Prohibition on Surveillance**

Compliance with [2 CFR 200.216, Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment](#) is required.

### **Remedies for Noncompliance**

HUD may terminate a Federal award, in whole or in part, for any of the reasons specified in [2 CFR 200.340, Termination](#).

### **Lead-Based Paint Requirements**

Not Applicable

## **C. Reporting**

HUD requires recipients to submit performance and financial reports under OMB guidance and program instructions.

### **1. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters**

You should be aware that if the total Federal share of your federal award includes more than \$500,000 over the period of performance, the award will be subject to post award reporting requirements reflected in [Appendix XII to 2 CFR part 200, Award Terms and Conditions for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters](#).

### **2. Race, Ethnicity and Other Data Reporting**

HUD requires recipients that provide HUD-funded program benefits to individuals or families to report data on the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and family characteristics of persons and households who are applicants for, participants in, or beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of HUD programs in order to carry out the Department's responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, Executive Order 11063, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 562 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987. These authorities prohibit discrimination in housing and in programs receiving financial assistance from the Department and direct the Secretary to administer the Department's programs and activities in a manner affirmatively to further these policies and to collect certain data to assess the extent of compliance with these policies. Each recipient shall keep such records and submit to the Department timely, complete, and accurate compliance reports at such times, and in such form and containing such information, as the Department may determine to be necessary to enable it to ascertain whether the recipient has complied or is complying with 24 CFR parts 1 and 121. In general, recipients should have available for the Department data showing the demographics of beneficiaries of federally-assisted programs.

### **3. Compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-282) as amended (FFATA)**

FFATA requires information on federal awards be made available to the public via a single, searchable website, which is [www.USASpending.gov](http://www.USASpending.gov). Accordingly, each award HUD makes under this NOFO will be subject to the requirements provided by the Award Term in Appendix A to [2 CFR part 170](#), “REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION,” unless the Federal funding for the award (including funding that may be added through amendments) is not expected to equal or exceed \$30,000. Requirements under this Award Term include filing subaward information in the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS.gov) by the end of the month following the month in which the recipient awards any sub-grant equal to or greater than \$30,000.

### **4. Program-Specific Reporting Requirements**

This program requires recipients to submit, not less than annually, a report documenting achievement of outcomes under the purpose of the program and the work plan in the award agreement.

Quarterly Progress Reports: Quarterly Progress Reports will document activities completed in the most recent reporting period, planned activities for the upcoming reporting period, and budget expenditures by line item (including hours worked for specific staff). Progress reports must be submitted quarterly and should be aligned with the submission of drawdown requests. Draft Final Report: Draft Final Report must summarize the work conducted over the course of the project, present the study objectives, data sources, analysis methods, and results. The Draft Final Report is the key deliverable of the study and must serve as a standalone document that meets the overall objective of this project. The Draft Final Report should be edited and prepared for publication in accordance with HUD's Guidelines for Preparing a Report for Publication [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/About/GTR\\_Guide1.pdf](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/About/GTR_Guide1.pdf)

**Final Report: Final Report must adequately address any HUD comments received for the Draft Final Report. This report is expected to be submitted just before the conclusion of the grant.**

## **D. Debriefing**

For a period of at least 120 calendar days, beginning 30 calendar days after the public announcement of awards under this NOFO, HUD will provide a debriefing related to their application to requesting applicants. A request for debriefing must be made in writing or by email by the AOR whose signature appears on the SF-424 or by his or her successor in office and be submitted to the POC in Section VII Agency Contact(s) of this NOFO. Information provided during a debriefing may include the final score the applicant received for each rating factor, final

evaluator comments for each rating factor, and the final assessment indicating the basis upon which funding was approved or denied.

## **VII. AGENCY CONTACT(S)**

HUD staff will be available to provide clarification on the content of this NOFO.

Questions regarding specific program requirements for this NOFO should be directed to the POC listed below.

Name:

Madlyn Wohlman Rodriguez

Phone:

202-402-5939

Email:

madlyn.wohlmanrodriguez@hud.gov

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech and other communication disabilities may use a relay service to reach the agency contact. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, visit the webpage for the [Federal Communications Commission](#). Note that HUD staff cannot assist applicants in preparing their applications.

## **VIII. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **1. Compliance of this NOFO with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the environment has been made for this NOFO in accordance with HUD regulations at [24 CFR part 50](#), which implement section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)). The FONSI is available for inspection at [HUD's Funding Opportunities](#) web page.

### **2. Web Resources.**

- [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing](#)
- [Assistance Listing \(formerly CFDA\)](#)
- [Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#)
- [Code of Conduct Requirements and E-Library](#)
- [Environmental Review](#)
- [Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- [Fair Housing Rights and Obligations](#)
- [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System](#)
- [Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act \(FFATA\) Subaward Reporting System](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Healthy Homes Strategic Plan](#)
- [Healthy Housing Reference Manual](#)
- [Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCUs\)](#)

- [HUD's Strategic Plan](#)
- [HUD Grants](#)
- [HUD Reform Act](#)
- [HUD Reform Act: HUD Implementing Regulations](#)
- [Limited English Proficiency \(LEP\)](#)
- [NOFO Webcasts](#)
- [Procurement of Recovered Materials](#)
- [Promise Zones](#)
- [Section 3 Business Registry](#)
- [State Point of Contact List](#)
- [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
- [Real Estate Acquisition and Relocation](#)
- [Unique Entity Identifier](#)
- [USA Spending](#)

### **3. Program Relevant Web Resources**

## **APPENDIX**