## How do you access the full NOFA document?

Follow these steps to access the full NOFA, which includes Project Descriptions, Selection Criteria, Administrative Requirements, Reporting Requirements, and Application Instructions.

1. Go to the “PACKAGE” tab at this link, <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=314708>
2. Under  “Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:” click on the “Preview” link.
3. In the dialogue box that opens, click on the “Download Instructions” button.
4. In the zip folder that opens, the NOFA is named FR 6200 N 29 HDRD NOFA.pdf

## Does HUD have an expected timetable for the delivery of this project?

Periods of Performance for all three Projects are described under **II. Award Information, D. Period of Performance** on page 25 of the NOFA.

Project 1: Cost-effectiveness Evaluation of HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Resilience Investments - 36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods.

Project 2: Qualitative Case Studies of Implementation of HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Resilience Investments - 36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods.

Project 3: Cooperative Research in Housing Technologies - 24-month project period with two 12-month budget periods.

## What are the reporting requirements?

Minimum reporting requirements are described under **VI. Award Administration Information, Section C. Reporting** on page 52 of the NOFA. The award mechanism is a cooperative agreement; therefore, HUD and the awardees may agree on reporting protocols that exceed these minimum requirements as part of developing and executing the agreement.

## Is there a mechanism for further questions should any more arise?

Questions may be referred to christopher.j.narducci@hud.gov (Projects 1 and 2), Michael Blanford at Michael.D.Blanford@hud.gov (Project 3), or Madlyn Wohlman Rodriguez at madlyn.wohlmanrodriguez@hud.gov .

Also we will be posting answers to FAQs here: <https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/fy18hudrd> .

Please check back regularly to monitor new information regarding this NOFA opportunity.

## Please describe what HUD means by “pre-competitive” research?

Pre-competitive is defined in the definition section of the NOFA:  Pre-competitive research is research that is sufficiently in the early stages such that competitors are working collaboratively.  Research that is jointly conducted by competitors for the purpose of developing new innovations for commercial use.

## Is tsunami flooding included in the scope off this research of Projects 1 and 2?

Our intent is to highlight and study mitigation and resilience strategies and implementation practices that respond to the nation’s most costly natural hazard, which is weather-induced flooding. One could argue that the impacts resulting from seismic-induced tsunamis are similar to those of other types of flooding, however, we assume that any detailed engineering analysis would find clear distinctions between solutions to either of these hazards. At least enough to render findings from a tsunami mitigation study of limited use to those communities preparing for weather-induced flood.

While we think the topic is worthy of research, we want to home in on strategies that will produce the greatest return for HUD CDBG-DR grantees, a large portion of which have experienced and will experience weather-induced flooding. Additionally, both studies ask researchers to investigate past CDBG-DR expenditures in order to better understand cost-effectiveness and implementation practices, but HUD hasn’t awarded CDBG-DR funds to communities recovering from a tsunami in the last 15 years, which is the time-frame required of the research.

## Is HUD interested in research on buyout programs?

Yes. This funding opportunity is soliciting research proposals on the cost-effectiveness (Project 1) and implementation practices (Project 2) of flood mitigation expenditures, including buyouts. The Department is interested in learning more about buyouts as a cost effective solution to reducing natural hazards’ impact to people and property, especially those persons and properties repeatedly damaged by severe flood incidents, and a way to ensure the wealth many Americans households have in their home equity is protected against ongoing flood risk and consequential decreases in property values.

## My proposal responds to objectives related to both Project 1 cost-effectiveness and Project 2 implementation, which should I apply for?

Applicants should craft an application that responds to the NOFA Project *most* aligned with the overall objectives of your unique proposal. We decided to describe two distinct tracks for research due to our desire to fund research on each set of questions. Project 1 is expected to incorporate highly quantitative methodologies, benefit-cost analysis, extensive collection of detailed project cost information, and use of a probabilistic hazard model to determine likely monetary benefits from these projects over time. Project 2 is expected to investigate the types of practices used by entities that have successfully implemented mitigation and resilience strategies in order to produce guidance on the *approach* to conceiving, planning, funding, and implementing these projects. The goals and methods of either project are not mutually exclusive. Applicants should carefully consider which NOFA Project most aligns with their capabilities and research goals. That said, the NOFA permits applicants to apply for both projects, but the applicant must submit a separate application for each that clearly identifies the Project, per NOFA instructions.

## Do we need to identify which of the three Projects listed in the NOFA we are applying for? How do we do this?

Yes. As stated in the NOFA under Section III. Eligibility, D. Threshold Requirements, page 28, “Proposals **must** be responsive to **one** of the Projects described within this Announcement. Applications that do not clearly respond to the research objectives of one of the three Projects described in this announcement will be ineligible and will not be considered for funding.”

And, “The title of the Project to which you are applying must be clearly identified within the Title field of Box 13 Competition of the Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 submitted as part of your application.”

Also, under Section I. Funding Opportunities Description, “Applicants applying for more than one project must submit a separate application for each project. Applicants may submit only one application per project.”

Any applicant/application that fails to identify the project to which they are applying on the respective application or submits more than one application for any single Project, will not be evaluated.

## Can I receive funding to develop a proprietary technology?

No. Project 3 is focused on pre-competitive research when it is likely that competitors with similar products work collaboratively to overcome barriers to their products. In the past, HUD has funding this type of research through cooperative agreements with trade associations and groups. Examples are given in the body of the NOFA announcement.

## Do I have to include proprietary information in my application?

No. Applications should not include trade secrets or other confidential information. However, the applicant should fully describe the technology in sufficient detail so that HUD can make a determination on the strength of the application.

1. The NOFA states that the narrative must be double-spaced using the standard Times New Roman 12-point font. Can information presented in table format use narrower spacing and a different font?

HUD has allowed 8-point font for tables and figures included in applications. Please use Times New Roman font for all material in the narrative.

1. Will HUD make DRGR data and any other administrative documents about relevant projects and grants available to the selected research team/s?

HUD will make DRGR data and other administrative records available as permissible under applicable rules and regulations, and at the discretion of the Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, which oversees CDBG-DR grants. HUD has shared DRGR data and other internal documents with researchers and contractors under previous agreements, and we expect the same coordination on data-sharing for studies funded through this NOFA.

Please note the requirement for researchers funded under Projects 1 or 2 to collect granular data on projects, activities, costs and timelines directly from study subjects (i.e. CDBG-DR grantees), including onsite interviews, local data on project funding, location, and start and completion dates, which is discussed in detail under Methodological Considerations, under Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, page 6 of the NOFA.

1. The NOFA lists maximum funding amounts for both Projects 1 and 2 that add to $1.5 million, but states that HUD will only award a total of $1.2 million. How much funding is available for Projects 1 and 2?

HUD placed a ceiling on each of the Projects (Project 1 - $950,000 and Project 2 - $550,000) that add up to more than the total amount available. We did this to allow for flexibility in funding proposals under one of the Projects, but the total HUD will expend on both Projects is $1.2 million. As such, one of the Projects will receive less than the maximum possible amount.

1. What is the scope of research for Projects 1 and 2?

Competitive applicants will propose research on mitigation and resilience expenditures designed to reduce risk to flood-related natural hazards, funded by CDBG-DR (including NDR and RBD) grants during the years 2005 through RBD and NDRC allocations. Due to limited funding amounts, HUD is eager to fund research that will examine a sample of projects implemented across a diverse array of geographic and community environments, and that will identify findings applicable to a broad range of communities throughout the U.S. Please refer to Methodological Considerations, under Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, page 6 of the NOFA for additional detail.

1. Should proposals aim to study all of the flood hazard mitigation/resilience strategies listed in the NOFA, some, or one of the strategies?

As discussed under Methodological Considerations, under Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, page 6 of the NOFA applicants to either Project 1 or Project 2 are limited to the following categories of flood mitigation/resilience strategies for the cost-effectiveness evaluation and implementation case studies:

* Structural elevations
* Structural flood-proofing or retrofits
* Property buyouts, including community resettlement efforts
* Public flood management infrastructure, including green and grey infrastructure
* Land-use planning

Competitive applicants will submit research proposals that focus on at least one of these strategies, but may include more than one strategy. A research proposal that focuses on multiple strategies is not necessarily more competitive; HUD is interested in the strength of the methodology to develop findings that are useful for practitioners and policy makers and capacity of the applicant and partners to conduct research in this highly complex field. Applicants should not incorporate research that focuses on strategies not listed here.