

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Planning and Development

Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program FR-6600-N-39 08/24/2022

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Overview	3
I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION	4
A. Program Description.	4
B. Authority.	11
II. Award Information.	11
A. Available Funds	11
B. Number of Awards.	11
C. Minimum/Maximum Award Information	11
D. Period of Performance	12
E. Type of Funding Instrument.	12
III. Eligibility Information.	12
A. Eligible Applicants	12
B. Ineligible Applicants.	12
C. Cost Sharing or Matching	12
D. Threshold Eligibility Requirements.	13
E. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility.	14
F. Program-Specific Requirements.	15
G. Criteria for Beneficiaries	15
IV. Application and Submission Information.	16
A. Obtaining an Application Package	16
B. Content and Form of Application Submission.	17
C. System for Award Management (SAM) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	20
D. Application Submission Dates and Times.	20
E. Intergovernmental Review.	23
F. Funding Restrictions.	23
G. Other Submission Requirements	25
V. Application Review Information	26
A. Review Criteria.	
B. Review and Selection Process.	
VI. Award Administration Information.	
A. Award Notices	

B. Administrative, National and Department Policy Requirements and Terms for HUD Recipients Financial Assistance Awards	38
C. Reporting.	
D. Debriefing.	
VII. Agency Contact(s).	42
VIII. Other Information	43
APPENDIX	43

Program Office:
Community Planning and Development
Funding Opportunity Title:
Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program
Funding Opportunity Number:
FR-6600-N-39
Assistance Listing Number:
14.278
Due Date for Applications:
08/24/2022

Summary

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Strategic Plan sets the direction and focus of ourprograms and staff to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all.

HUD's Strategic Goals

HUD's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan lays out this administration's strategy for ensuring everyone has an affordable,healthy place to live. Over the course of the next four years HUD will pursue two overarching priorities focused on increasing equity and improving customer experience across all HUD programs. Five strategic goals undergird the Plan as follows:

- Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities
- Strategic Goal 2: Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing
- Strategic Goal 3: Promote Homeownership
- Strategic Goal 4: Advance Sustainable Communities
- Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen HUD's Internal Capacity

The five goals of the FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan present the core vision of what we hope to accomplish, the strategies to accomplish those objectives, and the indicators of success.

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. Prospective applicants 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.

During the selection process HUD is prohibited from disclosing 1) information regarding any applicant's relative standing, 2) the amount of assistance requested by an 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: Please direct questions regarding the specific

requirements of this NOFO to the office contact identified in Section VII.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement. The information collection requirements in this notice have been approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 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. Each NOFO will identify its applicable OMB control number unless its collection of information is excluded from these requirements under <u>5 CFR part 1320</u>.

OMB Approval Number(s): 2506-0213 I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION. A. Program Description.

• Purpose

The purpose of the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP) is to explore the potential benefits of awarding grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and have disabilities. The funds made available under this program will be awarded competitively.

A number of America's veterans who are low-income and have disabilities are in need of adaptive housing to help them regain or maintain their independence, are unable to fund significant home repairs, or are burdened by utility costs. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, HUD designed the VHRMP to test a new approach to address these challenges in accordance with section 1079 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291, §1079, enacted December 19, 2014, as amended by Public Law 114-92, §1081(b)(4), November 25, 2015). The VHRMP provides competitive grants of up to \$1 million each to nonprofit organizations that provide nationwide or statewide programs that primarily serve veterans and/or low-income individuals. The grants may be used to modify or rehabilitate eligible veterans' primary residences or to provide grantees' affiliates with technical, administrative, and training support in connection with those services. The performance goals and required output and outcome measures for these grants are discussed in section VI.C.6 of this NOFO.

In the FY 2022 competition of VHRMP grants, HUD will award up to \$10,445,980 with \$4 million in funding provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103, approved March 15, 2022) as well as \$4 million in funding provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260, approved December 27, 2020), \$1 million in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94, approved December 20, 2019), and \$1,445,980 in remaining VHRMP funding provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141, approved March 23, 2018).

• Changes from Previous NOFO.

The following change has been made to **Section III. Eligibility Information, C. Cost Sharing or Matching:** Matching contributions being provided by the grant recipient must be evidenced with written documentation of the cash and/or in-kind contribution sources and amounts in the application. Each matching contribution that is to be made by an affiliate or other third party

must be evidenced in the application by a Letter of Firm Commitment that meets the definition found in Section I.A.3.b (Program Definitions) of this NOFO.

The following language has been added to Section IV. Application and Submission Information, B. Content and Form of Application Submission: Documentation of matching contributions being provided by the grant recipient must be evidenced with written documentation of the cash and/or in-kind contribution sources and amounts in the application. Each matching contribution that is to be made by an affiliate or other third party must be evidenced in the application by a Letter of Firm Commitment that meets the definition found in Section I.A.3.b (Program Definitions) of this NOFO.

The following changes has been made to Section V. Application Review Information, A. Review Criteria-Rating:

- 1. Rating Factors, Rating Factor 3 Soundness of Approach (35 points), c. Outreach is now worth 12 points (orginially worth 10 points) and d. Section 3 Compliance is now worth 3 points (originally worth 5 points). The d. Section 3 Compliance language now reads, "Your work plan must describe your strategy for hiring Section 3 workers, providing training opportunities to Section 3 workers, and awarding contracts to Section 3 business concerns that provide economic opportunities to Section 3 workers residing within the service area or the neighborhood of the project and YouthBuild programs."
- Rating Factor 4 Leveraging Resources (10 points): Points for this factor will be awarded based on the satisfactory provision of evidence of leveraging and financial sustainability, as described above, and the ratio of leveraged funds to requested VHRMP funds as follows:
 - 1. Leveraged funds equal 50 percent or more of requested VHRMP funds = 10 points;
 - 2. 40-49 percent = 8 points;
 - 3. 30-39 percent = 7 points;
 - 4. 20-29 percent = 6 points;
 - 5. 9-19 percent = 5 point;
 - 6. Less than 9 percent = 0 points
- 2. Other Factors, Preference Points: Preference points are now offered for Climate Change and Environmental Justice, in addition to Promise Zones and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. HUD may award no more than four total preferences points for a combination of any of the four (4) preferences. Each preference is worth up to two (2) points. For example, points may be awarded for Environmental Justice and Climate Change, or for Promise Zones and HBCUs.

• Definitions.

a. Standard Definitions

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). 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 publicly available listing of Federal assistance programs managed and administered by the General Services Administration, formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). Assistance Listing is a unique number assigned to identify a Federal Assistance Listings, formerly known as the CFDA

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is the person authorized to submit applications on behalf of the organization via Grants.gov. The AOR is authorized by the E-Biz point of contact in the System for Award Management. The AOR is listed in item 21 on the SF-424.

Consolidated Plan is a document developed by states and local jurisdictions. 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 <u>24 CFR part 91</u> 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 <u>2 CFR 200.331</u>.

Contractor means an entity that receives a contract as defined above and in <u>2 CFR 200.1</u>.

Deficiency is information missing or omitted within a submitted application. Examples of deficiencies include missing documents, information on a form, or some other type of unsatisfied information requirement. Depending on specific criteria, deficiencies may be either Curable or Non-Curable.

- *Curable Deficiencies* 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.

Non-Curable Deficiencies cannot be corrected by an applicant after the submission deadline. Non-curable deficiencies are deficiencies that, if corrected, would change an applicant's score or rank versus other applicants. Non-curable deficiencies may result in an application being marked ineligible, or otherwise adversely affect an application's score and final determination.

DUNS Number is the nine-digit Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System identification number assigned to a business or organization by Dun & Bradstreet and provides a means of identifying business entities on a location-specific basis.

E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) A user registered as 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 Standard AOR and Expanded AOR). There can only be one E-Biz POC per DUNS Number.

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

Expanded Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) An AOR is a member of your organization authorized by the EBiz POC to submit applications in Grants.gov on behalf of the organization. An applicant user with the Expanded AOR role is authorized to submit any applications on behalf of the organization and has privileges that allow the user to modify organization-level settings in Grants.gov.

Federal Financial Assistance means assistance that entities received or administer in the form of:

- 1. Grants;
- 2. Cooperative agreements (which does not include a cooperative research and development agreement pursuant to the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986, as amended (15 U.S.C. 3710a)).
- 3. Loans;
- 4. Loan guarantees;
- 5. Subsidies;
- 6. Insurance;
- 7. Food commodities;
- 8. Direct appropriations;
- 9. Assessed and voluntary contributions; and
- 10. Any other financial assistance transaction that authorizes the non-Federal entity's expenditure of Federal funds.
- 11. Federal financial assistance does not include amounts received as reimbursement for services rendered to individuals as described in section 200.502(h) and (i). (2 CFR 200.1)

Federal award, has the meaning, depending on the context, in either paragraph (i) or (ii) of this definition:

1. (i) 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

ii. 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 <u>2 CFR §200.1</u>, 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 <u>2 CFR 200.1</u>.

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) The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, defines an HBCU as: "...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." HBCUs offer all students, regardless of race, an opportunity to develop their skills and talents.

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.

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

Promise Zones (PZs) are high poverty communities where the federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health and address other priorities identified by the community. <u>See Promise Zones</u>.

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.

Small business is defined as a privately-owned corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship that has fewer employees and less annual revenue than a corporation or 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 <u>13 CFR Part 121</u>.

Standard Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) An AOR is a member of your organization authorized by the EBiz POC to submit applications in Grants.gov on behalf of the organization. An applicant user with the Standard AOR role can only submit applications when they are a Participant of that workspace.

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 <u>https://www.sam.gov/SAM/</u>. There is no cost to use SAM.

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

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) means the identifier assigned by SAM to uniquely identify business entities.

• Program Definitions.

(1) Affiliate – (1) a local public or private nonprofit housing organization which is a subordinate organization (i.e., chapter, local, post, or unit) of a central organization and covered by the group exemption letter issued to the central organization under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) a local public or private nonprofit housing organization with which the applicant has an existing relationship (e.g., the applicant has provided technical assistance or funding to the local housing organization); or (3) a local public or private nonprofit housing organization with which the applicant does not have an existing relationship, but to which the applicant will provide necessary technical assistance and mentoring as part of funding under the application.

(2) Eligible veteran – The term "eligible veteran" means a veteran as defined by 38 U.S.C. 101 who is low-income and has a disability as defined under Section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(3) Equity- 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, for example, 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.

(4) Letter of Firm Commitment – A letter of firm commitment from an applicant's partner organization by which the partner (a) agrees to perform an activity specified in the application,
(b) demonstrates the financial capacity to deliver the resources necessary to carry out the activity, and (c) commits the resources to the activity, either in cash or through in-kind

contributions. It is irrevocable, subject only to approval and receipt of an FY 2022 VHRMP grant. Each letter of commitment must include the partner organization's name and applicant's name, reference VHRMP, and describe the proposed total level of commitment and responsibilities, expressed in dollar value for cash or in-kind contributions, as they relate to the proposed program. The commitment must be written on the official letterhead of the participating organization, must be signed by an official of the organization legally able to make commitments on behalf of the organization, and must be dated no earlier than the date of publication of this NOFO. In documenting a firm commitment, the applicant's partner must:

1. Specify the authority by which the commitment is made, the amount of the commitment, the proposed use of funds, and the relationship of the commitment to the proposed investment. If the committed activity is to be self-financed, the applicant's partner must demonstrate its financial capability through a corporate or personal financial statement or other appropriate means; and

2. Affirm that the firm commitment is contingent only upon the receipt of VHRMP funds and state a willingness on the part of the signatory to sign a legally binding agreement (conditioned upon HUD's environmental review and approval of a property, where applicable) upon award of the grant.

(5) Low-income – The term "low-income" means not having income that is more than 80 percent of the median income for an area, as determined by the Secretary.

(6) Matching contributions - "Matching contributions" means contributions that meet the matching requirements in 2 CFR 200.306, which may include in-kind contributions but do not include leveraged resources, as described in section V.A.1 of this NOFO.

(7) Nonprofit organization – an organization that is –

- 1. Described in section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and
- 2. Exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(8) Primary Residence- "Primary Residence" means a single-family house, a duplex, or a unit within a multiple-dwelling structure that is the principal dwelling of an eligible veteran and is owned by:

- 1. The eligible veteran;
- 2. The eligible veteran's spouse, child, grandchild, parent, or sibling;
- 3. A spouse of the eligible veteran's child, grandchild, parent, or sibling; or

4. Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the eligible veteran is the equivalent of a family relationship.

(9) Secretary – The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) Section 3 Business Concern means a "Section 3 Business Concern" as defined by 24 CFR 75.5.

(11) Section 3 Project means a "Section 3 Project" as defined by 24 CFR 75.5.

(12) Section 3 Worker means a "Section 3 Worker" as defined by 24 CFR 75.5.

(13) Underserved Communities- 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 preceding definition of "equity."

(14) Veteran – "Veteran" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(15) Veterans Service Organization – Any organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code. Recognized VSOs include those organizations that are "federally chartered and/or recognized or approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs." For the directory of Veterans Service Organizations, visit <u>https://www.va.gov/vso/</u>.

B. Authority.

This NOFO is authorized by section 1079 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291, §1079, December 19, 2014, as amended by Public Law 114-92, §1089, November 25, 2015; 38 U.S.C. 2101) and is funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103, approved March 15, 2022) as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260, approved December 27, 2020), the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94, approved December 20, 2019), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141, approved March 23, 2018).

II. Award Information.

A. Available Funds

Funding of approximately **\$10,445,980** is available through this NOFO.

Additional funds may become available for award under this NOFO. Use of these funds might be subject to statutory constraints or other requirements. All awards are subject to the funding restrictions contained in this NOFO.

B. Number of Awards.

HUD expects to make approximately 10 awards from the funds available under this NOFO.

C. Minimum/Maximum Award Information

Estimated Total Funding: \$10,445,980 Minimum Award Amount: \$700,000 Per Budget Period

Maximum Award Amount: \$1,000,000 Per Budget Period

D. Period of Performance

Estimated Project Start Date: 02/03/2023 Estimated Project End Date: 02/03/2026 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: G (Grant)

III. Eligibility Information.

A. Eligible Applicants.

25 (Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification))

Additional Information on Eligibility

To be eligible for a VHRMP grant, each applicant must meet both of the following criteria: (1) The organization must be described in section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19)) and be exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code (26 U.S.C. 501(a)); and (2) The organization must provide nationwide or statewide programs that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals.

B. Ineligible Applicants.

Individuals, foreign entities, sole proprietorship organizations, and other entities that do not meet the criteria in Section III.A of this NOFO are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching.

This Program requires cost sharing or matching as described below.

Recipients will be required to provide matching contributions as provided under section 1079(b)(6) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. Specifically, each recipient must contribute towards the housing modification and rehabilitation services provided to eligible veterans an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the grant award received. Recipients may meet this requirement through in-kind contributions. All matching contributions (including matching funds and in-kind contributions) must meet the requirements of 2 CFR 200.306. Matching contributions being provided by the grant recipient must be evidenced with written documentation of the cash and/or in-kind contribution sources and amounts in the application. Each matching contribution that is to be made by an affiliate or other third party must be evidenced in the application by a Letter of Firm Commitment that meets the definition found in Section I.A.3.b (Program Definitions) of this NOFO.

Leveraged resources, as described in Section V.A.1 of this NOFO, will not count as matching contributions.

D. Threshold Eligibility Requirements.

Applicants who fail to meet any of the following threshold eligibility requirements will be deemed ineligible. Applications from ineligible applicants will not be evaluated.

1. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters. Outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before the application deadline. Applicants, who after review are confirmed to have civil rights matters unresolved at the application deadline, will be deemed ineligible. Their applications will receive no further review, will not be rated and ranked, and they will not receive funding.

- a. Applicants having any of the charges, cause determinations, lawsuits, or letters of findings referenced in subparagraphs (1) (5) that have not been resolved to HUD's satisfaction before or on the application deadline date are ineligible for funding. Such matters include:
 - 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, 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 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; 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. 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. 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 accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (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."

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

4. The application must receive a minimum rating score of 75 points to be considered for funding.

5. HUD will only fund eligible applicants as defined in this NOFO under Section III.A.

E. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility.

Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Grants Programs

The following requirements affect applicant eligibility. Detailed information on each requirement is posted on <u>HUD's Funding Opportunities Page</u>.

- Active Prime and Sub Recipient registration with SAM.gov
- Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts
- Debarments or Suspensions, or both
- Pre-selection Review of Performance
- Sufficiency of Financial Management System
- False Statements
- Mandatory Disclosure Requirement
- 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 <u>24 CFR part 170</u> if the applicant receives an award, unless an exception applies as provided in <u>2 CFR 170.110</u>.

F. Program-Specific Requirements.

Each recipient under the VHRMP shall modify or rehabilitate the primary residence of an eligible veteran at no cost to such veteran (including application fees) or at a cost such that the eligible veteran pays no more than 30 percent of his or her income in housing costs during any month. "Housing costs" means the total of any mortgage loan principal and interest, real estate taxes, and insurance for the residence, plus any loan principal and interest or other costs the eligible veteran must pay for the modification and rehabilitation.

Each recipient must use one of the following income definitions for all income determinations under VHRMP: annual income as defined at 24 CFR 5.609; or adjusted gross income as defined for purposes of reporting under the IRS Form 1040 series for individual Federal annual income tax purposes.

Grant awards under this NOFO will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR Part 200, as may be amended from time to time.

Only housing that is the primary residence of an eligible veteran may be modified or rehabilitated under this program, and the eligible veteran or his or her family member must certify in writing that the veteran intends the housing to continue to be his or her primary residence for at least five years after the modification or rehabilitation is completed.

Each recipient must establish housing standards which require that all dwelling units rehabilitated and/or modified under the VHRMP program meet all applicable State or local building codes, ordinances, and requirements or, in the absence of a State or local building code, the International Existing Building Code of the International Code Council.

Awardees must ensure that all programs and activities undertaken as eligible activities comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Fair Housing Act, and their implementing regulations at 24 CFR parts 8 and 100, respectively. The home modifications shall be made accessible upon request of the beneficiary. If the accessibility features selected are covered by HUD's Section 504 accessibility standards, those features shall comply with the applicable Section 504 standards, although departures are permitted in order to accommodate a beneficiary's specific disability. HUD's Section 504 accessibility standards are the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and HUD's Deeming Notice available at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-05-23/pdf/2014-11844.pdf.

G. Criteria for Beneficiaries.

This program serves veterans who are low-income and have disabilities as defined by 42 U.S.C. 12102. A veteran is defined at 38 U.S.C. 101. For the purposes of the VHRMP, low-income veterans are veterans whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, as determined by the Secretary. The veteran must intend to continue making the unit their primary residence for at least five years after the modification or rehabilitation is completed.

IV. Application and Submission Information.

A. Obtaining an Application Package.

Instructions for Applicants.

You must download both the Application Instructions and the Application Package from Grants.gov. You must verify that the Assistance Listing Number and Assistance Listing Description on the first page of the Application Package, and the Funding Opportunity Title and the Funding Opportunity Number match the Program and NOFO to which you are applying. The Application Package contains the portable document forms (PDFs) available on Grants.gov, such as the SF-424 Family. The Instruction Download contains official copies of the NOFO and forms necessary for a complete application. The Instruction Download may include Microsoft Word files, Microsoft Excel files, and additional documents.

An applicant demonstrating good cause may request a waiver from the requirement for electronic submission, for example, a lack of available Internet access in the geographic area in which your business offices are located. Lack of SAM registration or valid DUNS/UEI is not 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 the Applicant fails 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: Jackie L. Williams Email: RHED@hud.gov HUD Organization: ORHED Street: 451 7th Street SW City: Washington State: DC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Zip: 20410

Paper Applications: A paper application will not be accepted from an applicant that has not been granted a waiver of the electronic application submission requirement. If HUD has granted you a waiver, your paper application must be received by HUD on or before the application deadline date.

Facsimiles and Videos: HUD will not accept an application, third-party documents or other materials sent by facsimile (fax). Videos cannot be submitted via the Grants.gov system and will not be accepted as a separate submission. Any video submitted as part of an application will not be reviewed.

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 Non-Curable unless otherwise stated under the Threshold requirements section.

1. Content.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
HUD Applicant Recipient Disclosure Report (HUD) 2880 Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	
Application for Federal Assistance (SF424)	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SFLLL), if applicable	HUD will provide instructions to grantees on how the form is to be submitted.	If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Applicants must furnish an executed copy of the Certification Regarding Lobbying prior to award.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
SF-424B Assurances for Non- Construction Programs		
SF-424D (Assurances for Construction Programs)		
HUD Form 424-CB: Grant Application Detailed Budget Form	The HUD Grant Application Detailed Budget Form is designed so that an application can be made for any of HUD's grant programs.	
HUD Form 424-CBW: Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet	The HUD Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet is designed so that an application can be made for any of HUD's grant programs. It is used to provide detailed budget information regarding a proposed program. If the program requires for providing program activity information, it is necessary to use a separate HUD-424- CBW to provide information related to each program activity.	

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

An abstract or summary with: (a) the dollar amount requested, matching contributions (including matching funds and/or in-kind contributions), and leveraging, if applicable; (b) information that classifies your organization as a nonprofit organization that provides nationwide or statewide

programs that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals; (c) the approximate number of veterans your organization intends to serve using grant funds; (d) a description of the type of work that will be conducted, such as interior home modifications, energy efficiency improvements, and other similar categories of work; (e) a plan for working with the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans service organizations to identify veterans who are not eligible for programs under chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, and meet their needs; and (f) a plan of action detailing outreach initiatives. Please note that the abstract or summary is not rated. The 15-page narrative is rated.

Documentation of matching contributions being provided by the grant recipient must be evidenced with written documentation of the cash and/or in-kind contribution sources and amounts in the application. Each matching contribution that is to be made by an affiliate or other third party must be evidenced in the application by a Letter of Firm Commitment that meets the definition found in Section I.A.3.b (Program Definitions) of this NOFO. This documentation, which will not be counted in the 15-page limitation.

Documentation of funds pledged in support of Rating Factor 4 - "Leveraging Resources." This documentation, which will not be counted in the 15-page limitation, must be in the form of a "letter of firm commitment" as defined in Section I.A.3.b. (Program Definitions) of this NOFO.

A copy of your organization's IRS ruling providing tax-exempt status under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Fifteen-page Narrative response to Factors for Award as described in Section V. of this NOFO.

Environmental Assurance Statement that states the following: (Applicant) agrees to assist HUD to comply with 24 CFR part 50 and that it shall: (1) supply HUD with all available, relevant information necessary for HUD to perform for each property any environmental review required by 24 CFR Part 50; (2) carry out mitigating measures required by HUD or select alternate eligible property; and (3) not modify or rehabilitate property, nor commit or expend HUD or local funds for these program activities with respect to any eligible property, until HUD approval of the property is received.

2. Format and Form.

Narratives and other attachments to your application must follow the following format guidelines.

15 Pages maximum length of narratives

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

All pages of the application must be numbered sequentially.

The application must have a table of contents.

All applicants are required to respond to the following factors in their 15-page narrative (see Section V. of this NOFA for further details.):

- **Rating Factor 1** Relevant Organizational Experience;
- **Rating Factor 2** Need and Extent of the Problem;
- Rating Factor 3 Soundness of Approach;
- Rating Factor 4 Leveraging Resources; and
- **Rating Factor 5** Achieving Results and Program Evaluation.

Please note that although submitting pages in excess of the page limit will not disqualify your application. HUD will not consider or review the information on any excess pages, and if you place key information on those pages, you may fail to meet a threshold requirement.

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

1. SAM Registration Requirement.

Applicants must be registered with https://www.sam.gov/ before submitting their application. Applicants 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 the applicant has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.

2. UEI Requirement.

Applicants must provide a valid UEI, registered and active at <u>/www.sam.gov/</u> in the application. For more information, see: <u>https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-</u> <u>service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-</u> <u>information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update</u>.</u>

The DUNS number remained the official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government only until April 4, 2022. As of April 4, 2022, entities doing business with the federal government must use the Unique Entity Identifier created in SAM.gov.

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.

Application Due Date Explanation

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

08/24/2022

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.

Grants.gov Customer Support. Grants.gov provides customer support information on its website at <u>https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html</u>. Applicants having difficulty accessing the application and instructions or having technical problems can receive customer support from Grants.gov by calling (800) 518-GRANTS (this is a toll-free number) or by sending an email to <u>support@grants.gov</u>. The customer support center is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week, except Federal holidays. The phone number above may also be reached by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, through the Federal Relay Service's teletype service at (800)-877-8339.

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.

Please make note of the Grants.gov tracking number, it will be needed by the Grants.gov Help Desk if 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 include the fact of the extension in the program's NOFO required to be published in the Federal Register.

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.

PLEASE 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.

1. 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.

2. 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 not received and validated by Grants.gov will not be considered for funding. There is no grace period for paper applications.

3. 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 cause to allow HUD to accept applications after the deadline date.

4. 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 in the definitions section (Section I.A). 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.

Applicants must email corrections of Curable Deficiencies to <u>applicationsupport@hud.gov</u> 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 <u>applicationsupport@hud.gov</u> 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 - XXXXXXXXXX). 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/DUNS number as having a curable deficiency. Failure to correct the deficiency and meet the requirement to have a UEI/DUNS number and active registration in SAM will render the application ineligible for funding.

- 5. Authoritative Versions of HUD NOFOs. The version of these NOFOs as posted on Grants.gov are the official documents HUD uses to solicit applications.
- 6. **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.

Funding awarded under this NOFO may only be used for the costs of carrying out activities in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 below. Matching contributions may only be used for activities in paragraph 1. Leveraged resources, as described in section V.A.1 of this NOFO, may only be used for activities in paragraphs 1 and 2.

1. Modification and rehabilitation of the primary residence of an eligible veteran, which may include:

A. making physical modifications, such as installing wheelchair ramps, widening exterior and interior doors, reconfiguring and re-equipping bathrooms (which includes installing new fixtures and grab bars), removing doorway thresholds, installing special lighting, adding additional electrical outlets and electrical service, installing appropriate floor coverings, lowering countertops and cabinets, or taking other measures to: i. accommodate the functional limitations that result from having a disability, including not only motor impairment but also visual and hearing disabilities, and cognitive or psychological disabilities such as Traumatic Brain Injury or Post-Traumatic Stress; or

ii. if the residence does not have modifications necessary to reduce the chances that an elderly person will fall in his or her home, reduce the risks of an elderly person from falling;

B. making physical modifications, such as adding a bedroom or bathroom, to allow the veteran's caregiver(s), which may include the parent(s) or other family member(s) of the veteran, to live with the veteran, if the veteran's disability prevents the veteran from living independently;

C. rehabilitating the residence that is in a state of interior or exterior disrepair, including remedying identified safety hazards or ensuring adequate safety features (such as fire prevention, carbon monoxide alarm, etc.);

D. installing energy efficient features or equipment (i.e., features or equipment that help reduce the amount of electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate the residence, including insulation, weather-stripping, air sealing, heating system repairs, duct sealing, Energy Star appliances, or other measures) if

i. the veteran's monthly utility costs for the residence is more than five percent of the veteran's monthly income: and

ii. an energy audit of the residence indicates that the installation of energy efficient features or equipment will reduce the costs by 10 percent or more;

E. carrying out other modification and rehabilitation activities to address the adaptive housing needs of the veteran, if adequately justified and approved by HUD; and

F. relocating owner- or tenant-occupants of the eligible veteran's primary residence (including paying moving costs and increased housing costs during the relocation) if relocation of the occupants is necessary to complete the eligible modification or rehabilitation activities described above.

2. Provision of technical, administrative, and training support to an affiliate of the Recipient in connection with the modification and rehabilitation of eligible veterans' primary residences.

3. Reasonable administrative activities, not to exceed 10% of the grant amount, including required VHRMP reporting and monitoring.

Indirect Cost Rate.

Normal indirect cost rules under <u>2 CFR part 200, subpart E</u> 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.

<u>Applicants other than state and local governments.</u> 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 described in <u>2 CFR 200.403</u>, 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 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.

G. Other Submission Requirements.

Application, Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures.

Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Application for Federal Assistance is the government-wide form required to apply for Federal assistance programs, discretionary Federal grants, and other forms of financial assistance programs. Applicants for this Federal assistance program must submit all required forms in the SF-424 Family of forms, including SF-424B (Assurances of Non construction Programs) or SF-424D (Assurances for Construction Programs). Applications receiving funds for both non-construction programs and construction programs must submit both the SF-424B and SF-424D.

By signing the forms in the SF-424 either through electronic submission or in paper copy submission (for those granted a waiver), the applicant and the signing authorized organization representative affirm that they 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.

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. Upon receipt of an award, you, and any recipients and subrecipients of the award are also 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, 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 SF-424B and SF-424D, which also require compliance with all general federal nondiscrimination requirements in the administration of the grant.

Applicant Disclosure Report form 2880.

Required for each applicant applying for assistance within the jurisdiction of HUD to any housing project subject to Section 102(d). 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.

V. Application Review Information.

A. Review Criteria.

1. Rating Factors.

Rating Factors Score Summary Chart:

FY2022 VHRMP	Score Summary Chart by Point Value	
Rating Factor 1	Capacity of the Applicant & Relevant Organizational E	xperience
	a. Organizational Structure	15 max
	b. Relevant Partnership Capacity and/or Past Performance Capacity	15 max
	Subtotal	30
Rating Factor 2	Need/Extent of the Problem	
	a. Significant Need Among Eligible Veterans Populations	6 max
	b. Plan to Address a Need Not Already Addressed by an Existing Program	5 max
	c. Proposal Consistent with Plan in Section IV of the Work Plan	2 max
	d. Plan to Maximize Coordination with Existing Programs	2 max
	Subtotal	15
Rating Factor 3	Soundness of Approach	

	a. Work Plan	15 max
	b. Timetable	5 max
	c. Outreach	12 max
	d. Section 3 Compliance	3 max
	Subtotal	35
Rating Factor 4	Leveraging Resources	
	a. Leveraged Resources Strategy	10 max
	Subtotal	10
Rating Factor 5	Achieving Results & Program Evaluation	
	a. Evaluation Plan Procedures/Methodology	5 max
	b. VHRMP Goals	5 max
	Subtotal	10
Factors 1-5	Total	100 points
NOFO Preference	* Choose up to two preferences points for a total of four maximum	points
Points	a. Promise Zones	
	a. Promise Zones	2 points
	b. Historically Black Colleges and Universities	2 points
	c. Climate Change	2 points
	d. Environmental Justice	2 points
	Subtotal	4 points max
	Total Points Possible	104 points max

Rating Factor 1 - Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience (30 points)

This rating factor addresses the extent to which you have the organizational resources necessary to successfully implement your proposed work plan, as further described in Rating Factor 3, within the 36-month award period.

a. Organizational structure, management capacity, and relevant staff experience (15 points). HUD will evaluate the experience of your project director, core staff, and any outside consultant, construction contractor, sub-recipient, or project partner as it relates to addressing the housing needs of veterans who are low-income and have disabilities and implementing the activities in your work plan. Specifically, HUD will evaluate your program management structure; the extent to which you can demonstrate your organization's ability to manage the proposed workforce; the specific roles and responsibilities of each program management staff member; the number of years the project director and any other program-relevant senior staff have worked for the organization; experience managing federal awards and compliance requirements; and any program management staffing or skills gaps that exist within your program management structure and your plan to address them.

When responding, provide the dates, job titles, and relevancy of the past experience to the work to be undertaken by the employee or contractor under your proposed VHRMP award. The more recent, relevant, and successful the experience of your team members in relationship to the work plan activities, the greater the number of points you will receive. *Please do not include Social Security Numbers (SSNs) or any other personally identifiable information (as defined in 2 CFR 200.1) besides full name and email address for staff members.*

b. Relevant partnership capacity and/or experience, and past performance (15 points).

- Operation of home rehabilitation/modification programs. In particular, please describe any prior experience with modifying housing to address the accessibility needs of people with disabilities.
- Reaching target populations (veterans, low-income people, and people with disabilities) through housing or other community development programs. Please your outreach efforts to reach these target populations and their participation in your programs.
- Management of grants from HUD, other federal, state, local, non-profit or for-profit sources. HUD reserves the right to consider your past performance in meeting performance and reporting goals for any previous HUD award, in particular whether the program achieved its outcomes, and may verify prior experience through HUD field offices as needed.
- Partnerships with relevant stakeholder groups. In particular, please describe any prior experience working with veterans service organizations or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

HUD will evaluate your ability to work with veterans service organizations in resolving issues related to rehabilitation and/or modification of a veteran's primary residence. In evaluating this sub-factor, HUD will take into account your experience in working with veterans service organizations to design and implement programs that address housing and accessibility needs for veterans who are low-income and have disabilities. The more recent, relevant, and successful the experience of your organization and any participating entity, the greater the number of points you will receive.

HUD will evaluate your performance in any previous grant program undertaken with HUD

funds or other federal, state, local, or nonprofit or for-profit organization funds. (Note: Previous HUD performance-based experience may be verified through HUD's field offices as needed. Other relevant past performance information should be included as part of the application.) HUD reserves the right to take into account your past performance in meeting performance and reporting goals for any previous HUD award, in particular whether the program achieved its outcomes.

HUD reserves the right to give zero points for Rating Factor 1 if the applicant has been determined to have a pattern or practice of any or all of the following activities related to the management and operation of previous grant awards: (1) mismanagement of funds, including the inability to account for funds appropriately; (2) untimely use of funds received either from HUD or other federal, state, or local programs; and (3) significant and consistent failure to measure performance outcomes.

Rating Factor 2 - Need and Extent of the Problem (15 points)

This factor addresses the extent to which there is a demonstrable need for funding the proposed activities based on the approximate number of veterans being served and the type of work that will be conducted as provided in Section IV.F. of this NOFO. In this section, applicants should describe the geographic areas that they intend to cover. Applicant proposals will be evaluated on the following:

- a. Significant Need Among Eligible Veterans Populations (6 points max)
- b. Plan to Address a Need Not Already Addressed by Existing Program (5 points max)
- c. Proposal Consistent with Plan in Section IV of the Work Plan (2 points max)
- d. Plan to Maximize Coordination with Existing Programs (2 points max)

In responding to this factor, applications will be evaluated on the level of need for the proposed activity and the justification in meeting the need. HUD will award higher points for this factor to applicants who convincingly demonstrate how their proposed approach addresses a significant need among the eligible veteran populations. Applicants should specifically discuss how they plan to target assistance among eligible veterans as well as the approach to prioritizing projects and beneficiaries when the needs are greater than resources, given the flexible criteria. Any approach to targeting assistance among eligible veterans must be administered in a nondiscriminatory manner, consistent with federal nondiscrimination requirements at 24 CFR 5.105.

Applicants should specifically address how their proposal addresses a need that is not already met by existing programs for veterans, both those funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by other entities. The proposal should be consistent with the Work Plan described in Rating Factor 3(a)(iv) and describe how the applicant will avoid duplication or overlap while maximizing coordination with other existing programs (to the extent that such coordination would be beneficial to the implementing organizations and participants being served).

Rating Factor 3 - Soundness of Approach (35 points)

This factor addresses the overall quality of your proposed work plan, taking into account the eligible activities proposed to be undertaken; the cost-effectiveness of your proposed program; and the linkages between identified needs, the purposes of this program, and your proposed activities and tasks.

a. Work Plan (15 points). A clearly defined work plan must be submitted that describes each of the projects and activities you will carry out to further the objectives of this program and address the need identified in Factor 2. Each application submitted must include:

(i) a plan of action detailing outreach initiatives (see factor 3(c) below);

(ii) the approximate number of veterans the applicant intends to serve using grant funds;

(iii) specific descriptions of the type of projects/activities that will be conducted, such as interior home modifications, major home repairs, energy efficiency improvements, and other similar categories of work. Modifications and/rehabilitation activities may include alterations to make a residence accessible and include enhanced accessibility features. Incorporating enhanced accessibility that are unique to the needs of the veteran may enable a veteran with disabilities to better utilize his or her housing and remain in one's home for a longer period of time. Examples include no step-entrances, power operated or proximity-based entry resident entrances into buildings, wider doorways and hallways, installing levers instead of doorknobs, open concept floor plans while still allowing spaces to be closed off for privacy, additional clearance space throughout units, accessible bathrooms on the first floor of multi-level units, bathtub/shower grab bars in all bathrooms, adjustable height shelves and pull-out pantry storage in kitchens; adjustable height closet rods and shelves in closets; and appropriately placed motion activated or "rocker-pad" light switches, or a combination of the two;

(iv) a plan for working with the Department of Veterans Affairs and <u>veterans service</u> <u>organizations</u> to identify veterans who are not eligible for programs under chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, and meet their needs; and

(v) the budget for your program, broken out by line item. Written projected cost estimates from outside sources are also required.

Applicants must submit their work plan on a spreadsheet showing each type of project to be undertaken and the tasks required to implement the project (to the extent necessary or appropriate), with your associated budget estimate for each activity/task. Your work plan must provide the rationale for your proposed activities and assumptions used in determining your project timetable and budget estimates. Failure to provide your rationale may result in your application receiving fewer points for lack of clarity in the proposed work plan.

b. Timetable (5 points). Your timetable must address the measurable short-term and long-term goals and objectives to be achieved through the proposed activities based on annual benchmarks; the method you will use for evaluating and monitoring program progress with respect to those activities; and the method you will use to ensure that the activities will be completed on time and within your proposed budget estimates.

c. Outreach (12 points). Your outreach strategy must include a plan of action detailing outreach initiatives to (i) identify eligible veterans; (ii) engage eligible veterans and Veterans Affairs recognized-Veteran Service Organizations (as described in I. Funding Opportunity Description, Section 4. Program Definitions, pages 9-10) in projects utilizing grant funds. Grantees must include at least one recognized VSO in their outreach strategy; and (iii) reach underserved communities in an effort to promote equity, consistent with Executive Order 13985 on equity.

HUD will evaluate the outreach plan to assess your ability to meet VHRMP outcome and output measures consistent with Rating Factor 5 and the reporting requirements in section VI.C. Grantees must ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities in all outreach activities, including through the use of appropriate auxiliary aids and services, which includes ensuring that information is provided in accessible formats as needed, *e.g.*, Braille, audio, large type, assistive listening devices, and sign language interpreters, accessible websites and other accessible electronic communications. Grantees must also take steps to ensure meaningful program access for person with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

d. Section 3 Compliance (3 points). Your work plan must describe your strategy for hiring Section 3 workers, providing training opportunities to Section 3 workers, and awarding contracts to Section 3 business concerns that provide economic opportunities to Section 3 workers residing within the service area or the neighborhood of the project and YouthBuild programs. In accordance with HUD's Section 3 regulations at 24 CFR 75.7, your application will receive up to 5 points based your response to the following inquiries:

- types and amounts of employment, training, and contracting opportunities to be generated as a result of proposed grant activities;
- specific actions to be taken to give Targeted Section 3 workers (as defined at 24 CFR 75.21) and Section 3 business concerns (as defined at 24 CFR 75.5) priority consideration for employment, training, contracting, and other economic opportunities in accordance with HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 75, subparts A and C;
- written criteria to be used for determining the respective eligibility of individuals and businesses as Targeted Section 3 workers and Section 3 business concerns;
- written procedures to be used for notifying Targeted Section 3 workers and Section 3 business concerns about the availability of training, employment, and contracting opportunities;
- methodology to be used for monitoring subrecipients and contractors to assure compliance with Section 3 requirements;
- strategies for meeting or exceeding the Section 3 benchmarks that HUD may establish as provided by 24 CFR 75.23; and
- contact information and qualifications for staff persons who will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of Section 3

*Note: You may only receive up to 3 points for Section 3 Compliance. This information is reiterated under "Other Factors, Section 3" later in this NOFO.

Rating Factor 4 - Leveraging Resources (10 points)

This factor addresses the extent to which applicants have obtained letters of firm commitment of financial or in-kind resources from other federal, state, local, and private sources. This factor is not a substitution for the matching requirement as provided in Section III.C.

For every VHRMP dollar anticipated, you should provide the specific number of dollars leveraged. In assigning points for this criterion, HUD will consider the level of outside resources obtained in the form of cash or in-kind goods or services that support activities proposed in your application. HUD will award a greater number of points based on a comparison of the extent of the organization's leveraged funds. The level of outside resources for which commitments are obtained will be evaluated based on their importance to the total program.

Your application must provide evidence of leveraging in the form of letters of firm commitment. Each commitment described in the narrative of this factor must be in accordance with the definition of "letters of firm commitment" in Section I.A.4 of this NOFO. The letter of firm commitment must be on letterhead of the organization committing the financial or in-kind resources, must be signed by an official of the organization legally able to make commitments on behalf of the organization, and must not be dated earlier than the date this NOFO is published.

Points for this factor will be awarded based on the satisfactory provision of evidence of leveraging and financial sustainability, as described above, and the ratio of leveraged funds to requested VHRMP funds as follows:

- 1. Leveraged funds equal 50 percent or more of requested VHRMP funds = 10 points;
- 2. 40-49 percent = 8 points;
- 3. 30-39 percent = 7 points;
- 4. 20-29 percent = 6 points;
- 5. 9-19 percent = 5 point;
- 6. Less than 9 percent = 0 points

See the Section IV. D4 of this NOFO for instructions for submitting third-party letters and other documents with your electronic application.

Rating Factor 5 - Achieving Results and Program Evaluation (10 points)

This factor evaluates whether you have an effective plan for managing and evaluating the timeliness, compliance, efficiency and effectiveness of your VHRMP program, considering the program goals and performance indicators described in sections I.A. and VI.C of this NOFO. You must clearly identify the outcomes and outputs to be achieved and measured as well as performance measures with timelines. The plan should indicate how the applicant

will compare actual achievements with anticipated achievements and make improvements during program implementation, as needed.

Evaluation plan requirements:

a. Evaluation Plan Procedures/Methodology (up to 5 points)

You must describe your procedures for evaluating your VHRMP program, including the frequency and methods you will use to collect data. You must identify the quantifiable output and outcome indicators or measures you will use to evaluate whether your VHRMP program is achieving your goals and addressing the needs identified in your VHRMP application.

b. VHRMP Program Goals (up to 5 points)

You must identify both your primary and secondary VHRMP goals. You must describe how your goals are related to each of the specific needs you identified in Rating Factor 2 "Need/Extent of Problem."

HUD will consider the quality of your performance evaluation plan, compliance and procedures, your process for corrective actions, the relationship of your goals to the needs that you identify, and how you will use your evaluation results to provide measurable outcomes and outputs as required for reporting by HUD in Section VI.C of this NOFO. HUD will also require VHRMP grantees to submit periodic reports on their program achievements and program evaluation results.

HUD will evaluate how well an applicant's monitoring and evaluation plan is designed to provide clear and measurable goals and indicators to implement the VHRMP program. *Under this rating factor, applicants will receive a maximum of 10 points*

Maximum Points: 102

2. Other Factors.

Section 3.

In accordance with HUD's Section 3 regulations at <u>24 CFR 75.7</u>, your application will receive up to 3 points based the quality of Section 3 plans.*

* The inclusion of Section 3 points will be determined "as appropriate for the specific NOFO." HUD anticipates that program offices/areas will include scoring for Section 3 plans where relevant and exclude Section 3 scoring where the nature of the grant being awarded is incompatible with Section 3 endeavors. If points are included, the applicable program office/area will be responsible for determining how the "quality of Section 3 plans" will be evaluated.

Preference Points

HUD encourages activities in support of the interdepartmental initiatives. HUD may award no more than four total preferences points for a combination of any of the four (4) preferences (Climate Change, Environmental Justice, Promise Zones (PZ) or Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Each preference is worth up to two (2) points. For example, points may be awarded for Climate Change and Environmental Justice, or for Promise Zones and HBCUs.

Climate Change

In accordance with Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, HUD prioritizes activities that achieve the goal of bolstering adaptation and increasing resilience to the effects of climate change. HUD will award up to two (2) points for applications that identify measures that will be incorporated in the project and will advance carbon reduction and reduce vulnerability of the project to threats identified in the U.S. Global Change Research Program National Climate Assessment (NCA) and related analyses, including threats from extreme weather events, temperature shifts, and sea level rise.

Applicants may receive one point for demonstrating via application materials one of the following, with a maximum of two points awarded for this priority overall:

A. Climate Mitigation (1 point): To receive 1 point under this objective, applicants must show how their proposed grant activities will increase energy or water efficiency or reduce carbon emissions in the target community through one or a combination of the following: (1) Achievement of certification through Energy Star or other green rating system; (2) incorporation of low-carbon energy sources such as solar power; (3)participation in voluntary Federal, State, Local or tribal energy efficiency initiatives; or (4) use of materials and construction techniques that reduce carbon emissions. Applications must clearly describe how identified actions measurably reduce the carbon emissions or energy or water consumption of the project below the established baseline for the target community based on facility size and type.

B. Climate Adaptation and Resilience (1 point): To receive one point under this objective, applicants must show how their proposed grant activities will reduce vulnerabilities to one or more of the impacts of the climate change identified in the NCA and related analyses in the target community as defined below:

B.1. Extreme Weather Events: The application demonstrates that project design is informed by consideration of the potential for extreme weather events at the project locations based on the NCA and related analyses (including regional and local assessments) and based on extreme weather threats endemic to the geographic locations and incorporates measures to reduce the risk to residents and property through construction and repair techniques, emergency planning, resilient systems that reduce the potential for service interruption, or other measures.
B.2. Temperature Shifts: The application demonstrates that the project design includes specific measures to reduce vulnerability to extreme heat events, heat-related illness affecting children, elderly, persons with disabilities, and functional needs populations, or to reduce risk to asthmatic individuals in locations with higher ground-level ozone concentrations.

B.3. Sea-Level Rise: The application demonstrates that the project design includes measures to protect buildings and infrastructure in coastal areas from inundation and wave action . B.4. Wildfires: In a location with elevated wildfire risk, the application demonstrates that the project design includes protective measures such as use of fire-resistant materials. Please note that for purposes of these points, HUD will only consider measures that fall within the scope of eligible VHMRP activities (e.g., floodproofing, reinforcing roofs, repairing HVAC,

using fire-resistant materials, etc.).

Environmental Justice: In accordance with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, and EO 14008, HUD will award up to two (2) points for applications proposing projects that advance environmental justice in communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care, as delineated by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) or other HUD-approved definition.

*HUD anticipates that program offices will revise the criteria listed in this section according to program scope and based on program actions identified in HUD's Climate Action Plan and Justice40 Initiative.

HBCU.

An applicant designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)will receive up to two (2) preference points when the application includes documentation of the applicant's status as an HBCU. <u>Click here to view the list of accredited HBCU's</u>

Promise Zones

HUD encourages activities in Promise Zones (PZ). To receive Promise Zones Preference Points, applicants must submit form HUD-50153, "Certification of Consistency with Promise Zone Goals and Implementation," signed by the Promise Zone Official authorized to certify the project meets the criteria to receive preference points. To view the list of designated Promise Zones and persons authorized to certify, please see the Promise Zone pages on HUD's website.

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:

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;

Timely completion of activities and receipt and expenditure of promised matching or leveraged funds;

The number of persons served or targeted for assistance;

Promoting self-sufficiency and economic independence

Producing positive outcomes and results.

HUD may reduce scores based on the past performance review, as specified under V.A. Review Criteria. Whenever possible, HUD will obtain 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 Section III E., Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility, "Pre-selection Review of Performance".

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:

- Financial stability;
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part;
- 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;
- 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
- The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

3. Rating and Ranking.

- 1. Technical Deficiencies. After the VHRMP application deadline date and consistent with regulations in 24 CFR part 4, subpart B, HUD will not consider any unsolicited information you may provide. However, HUD may contact you to clarify an item in your application or to correct a curable technical deficiency. In order not to unreasonably exclude applications from being rated and ranked, HUD may also contact applicants to ensure proper completion of the application. HUD will do so on a uniform basis for all applicants. HUD will not seek clarification of items or responses that improve the substantive quality of your response to any Rating Factor. Examples of curable (correctable) technical deficiencies include inconsistencies in the funding request or a failure to submit certifications. In each case, HUD will notify you in writing by email in accordance with the instructions found in the Section VI.B of this NOFO. HUD will describe the clarification or technical deficiency and provide instructions for submitting corrections. The time allowed to correct deficiencies will not exceed 14 calendar days or be less than 48 hours from the date of the email notification. Refer to Section VI.B. of this NOFO for more specific guidance and instructions. HUD will rate all eligible applications that meet the threshold requirements against the criteria in Rating Factors 1 through 5. HUD will assign a point score for each Rating Factor. Points will be deducted for incomplete or inadequate responses.
- 2. **Threshold Review.** HUD will screen each application to determine if it meets the threshold criteria listed in Section III of this NOFO; and whether it is deficient and subject to corrections of technical deficiencies as described above.

- 3. **Applications that will not be Funded.** HUD will not rate and rank applications that fail to cure technical deficiencies within the time frame provided by HUD. Further, HUD will not rate, rank or fund applications that fail any of the threshold requirements contained in Section III of this program NOFO.
- 4. **Rating.** HUD will rate each eligible application that meets the threshold criteria based on the applicant's response to the Rating Factors. HUD will assign a score for each Rating Factor and a total score for each eligible application.
- 5. **Minimum Rating Score.** Applicants must score a minimum of 10 points under Rating Factor 1(a) and 10 points under Rating Factor 1(b) of this NOFO, "Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience." Applicants must receive a total score of 75 points or more for Rating Factors 1 through 5. HUD will reject any application that does not meet these minimum rating score requirements.
- 6. **Ranking.** All eligible applicants will be placed in rank order based on the total application score.
- 7. **Tie Scores.** If two or more applications have the same score, the applicant with the highest score for Rating Factor 1 ("Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience") will be ranked higher. If a tie remains, the applicant with the highest score for Rating Factor 3 ("Soundness of Approach"), will be ranked higher.

Experience with performance-based funding requirements. HUD will evaluate your performance in any previous grant program undertaken with HUD funds or other federal, state, local, or nonprofit or for-profit organization funds. (Note: Previous HUD performance-based experience may be verified through HUD's field offices as needed. Other relevant past performance information should be included as part of the application.) HUD reserves the right to give zero points for Rating Factor 1, if the applicant has been determined to have a pattern or practice of any or all of the following activities related to the management and operation of previous grant awards: (1) mismanagement of funds, including the inability to account for funds appropriately; (2) untimely use of funds received either from HUD or other federal, state, or local programs; and (3) significant and consistent failure to measure performance outcomes.

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 have not been chosen for award. Notifications will be sent by email to the person listed as the AOR in item 21 of the SF-424.

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 impose specific conditions on an award as provided under <u>2 CFR 200.208</u>:

- Based on HUD's review of the applicant's risk under <u>2 CFR 200.206;</u>
- When the applicant or recipient has a history of failure to comply with the general or specific

terms and conditions of a Federal award;

• When the applicant or recipient fails to meet expected performance goals contained in a federal award; or

• When the applicant or recipient is not otherwise responsible.

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 will fund no portion of an application that:

(1) Is not eligible for funding under applicable statutory or regulatory requirements;

(2) Does not meet the requirements of this notice; or

(3) Duplicates other funded programs or activities from prior year awards or other selected applicants.

b. If funds are available after funding the highest-ranking application, HUD may fund all or part of another eligible fundable application. 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.

c. If funds remain after all selections have been made, remaining funds may be made available within the current FY for other competitions within the program area, or be held for future competitions, or be used as otherwise provided by authorizing statute or appropriation.

d. 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 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.

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 Department Policy Requirements and Terms for HUD Recipients Financial Assistance Awards

For this NOFO, the following <u>Administrative</u>, <u>National and Department Policy Requirements</u> and <u>Terms for HUD Financial Assistance Awards</u> apply.

1. Unless otherwise specified, these non-discrimination and equal opportunity authorities and other requirements apply to all NOFOs. Please read the following requirements carefully as the requirements are different among HUD's programs.

• Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights Laws, Which Encompass the Fair Housing Act and Related Authorities (see cf. <u>24 CFR 5.105(a)</u>).

• Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (Click Here).

• Economic Opportunities for Low-and Very Low-income Persons (Section 3). See <u>24 CFR</u>

<u>part 75</u>.

• Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) See https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/limited_english_proficiency.

• Accessible Technology. See

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCIO/documents/s508103017.pdf

- 2. Equal Access Requirements. See 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2)
- 3. Ensuring the Participation of Small Disadvantaged Business, and Women-Owned Business.
- 4. Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in HUD Programs and Activities.
- 5. Real Property Acquisition and Relocation. See <u>49 CFR part 24</u>.
- 6. Participation in HUD-Sponsored Program Evaluation.

7. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

- 8. Drug-Free Workplace.
- 9. Safeguarding Resident/Client Files.

10. Compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub.

L.109-282) (Transparency Act), as amended.

11. Eminent Domain.

12. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities. See

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/disability_overview

13. Conducting Business in Accordance with Ethical Standards/Code of Conduct.

- 14. System for Award Management and Universal Identifier Requirements
- 15. Trafficking in persons.
- 16. Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters
- 17. Suspension and debarment.

18. Environmental Requirements, which include compliance with environmental justice requirements under Executive Order 12898 and 14008.

The following language refers "5. Real Property Acquisition and Relocation" in the list above: Compliance with Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 (URA) requirements is explained below.

While the relocation of owner occupants for a project receiving funds pursuant to this NOFO generally do not trigger the applicability of the URA, tenant-occupants who must be temporarily relocated may be entitled to URA benefits and assistance. These benefits and assistance include moving costs and increased housing costs during the relocation. Costs associated with temporary relocations may be provided using VHRMP funds. Moreover, if a tenant-occupant is permanently displaced from the home, as that term is defined by 49 CFR 24.2, then the tenant-occupant may be eligible for permanent relocation assistance.

Environmental Review

Compliance with <u>24 CFR part 50</u> or <u>58</u> procedures is explained below:

Grantees must comply with HUD environmental review requirements. All VHRMP assistance is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related Federal environmental authorities and regulations at 24 CFR part 50. Following a recipient's selection for funding, the recipient must notify HUD of each property it proposes to rehabilitate or modify, and HUD will perform an environmental review of each proposed property in accordance with 24 CFR part

50. The results of the environmental review may require that proposed activities be modified or that proposed sites be rejected. Grantees and their contractors must not undertake any project or activity or commit Federal or non-Federal funds or assistance to a project or activity that could limit reasonable choices or could produce an adverse environmental impact, including modification or rehabilitation of a property, until all required HUD environmental reviews for the property have been completed, and you receive HUD's approval under 24 CFR part 50. The performance of energy audits and the provision of technical assistance and training are excluded from environmental review requirements in accordance with 24 CFR 50.19(b)(1) and (9).

Prohibition on Surveillance

<u>2 CFR 200.216</u> Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

Remedies for Noncompliance Lead Based Paint Requirements.

When providing housing assistance funding for purchase, lease, support services, operation, or work that may disturb painted surfaces, of pre-1978 housing, you must comply with the lead-based paint evaluation and hazard reduction requirements of HUD's lead-based paint rules (Lead Disclosure; and Lead Safe Housing (<u>24 CFR part 35</u>)), and EPA's lead-based paint rules (e.g., Repair, Renovation and Painting; Pre-Renovation Education; and Lead Training and Certification (<u>40 CFR part 745</u>)).

C. Reporting.

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

1. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters. Applicants 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 Part 200 Award Terms and Conditions for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

Reporting documents apply to the award, acceptance, and use of assistance under the VHRMP and to the remedies for non-compliance, except when inconsistent with HUD's Appropriation Act or other federal statutes or the provisions of this NOFO.

2. Race, Ethnicity and Other Data Reporting. HUD requires recipients that provide HUDfunded 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.

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 <u>www.USASpending.gov</u>. Accordingly, each award HUD makes under this NOFO will be subject to the requirements provided by the Award Term in Appendix A to <u>2 CFR Part 170</u>, "REPORTINGSUBAWARD

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

Performance Reporting. All HUD-funded programs, including this program, require 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. The Disaster Relief Grant Reporting System (DRGR) will be used to collect this information.

- 1. For each quarter of the Federal fiscal year calendar during the Period of Performance, the Recipient must submit a performance report in DRGR and must include a completed Federal financial report as an attachment to each performance report. During the Period of Performance, the Recipient must submit these reports within 30 days following the end of each quarter of the Federal fiscal year calendar. The Recipient must submit its final performance report and final financial report within 120 days after the Period of Performance. If HUD determines more frequent reporting is necessary for the effective monitoring of the Recipient's performance or use of funds under this Grant Agreement, HUD may require the Recipient to submit its performance and financial reports on a monthly basis.
- 2. The performance report must contain the information required under 2 CFR 200.329(c)(2), including a comparison of actual accomplishment to the objectives indicated in the approved application, the reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate, and additional pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.
- 3. Consistent with the output and outcome measures described below, the performance report must show VHRMP outputs and outcomes the Recipient achieved, compared to the goals stated in the Recipient's application.

Output Measures. Output Measures are quantifiable. VHRMP output measures must include:

- 1. a quantitative measure of outreach activities, e.g., number of eligible (or likely eligible) veterans or their family members who were personally reached; estimated reach of advertising or other mass communications; number of attendees for educational activities such as trainings; level of participation from veteran service organizations; etc.;
- 2. the number of eligible veterans who were provided assistance;
- 3. the socioeconomic characteristics of such veterans, including their gender, age, race, and ethnicity;
- 4. the total number of modifications/rehabilitations provided, categorized by type of modification/rehabilitation (i.e. accessibility, safety features, major home repair, energy efficiency, etc.);
- 5. the average cost per project (i.e., per home) and per modification/rehabilitation type as listed in paragraph (4) above;

- 6. the total number, types, and locations of entities contracted under the program to administer the grant funding; and
- 7. the amount of matching contributions (including matching funds and in-kind contributions) raised with each grant.

Outcome Measures are benefits accruing to the program participants and/or communities during or after participation in VHRMP. Quantitative measures are encouraged to the extent available. VHRMP outcome measures must include:

- 1. a description of the cost savings and other impacts on participants from housing rehabilitation and modification services provided, such as reported time savings, health and safety outcomes, mental wellness or stress levels, ability to engage in previously inaccessible activities, etc. (note: this can be itemized as multiple measures);
- 2. a description of the outreach initiatives instituted by the Recipient to (i) identify and (ii) engage eligible veterans and their families, and veteran service organizations, in projects utilizing grant funds; for instance, by noting how outreach activities related to ultimate participation levels or other program outcomes;
- 3. a description of the impact and efficacy of the outreach initiatives; and
- 4. a description of any other actions taken under the program.

Financial reports must be submitted using the Federal Financial Report (SF-425), or such future collections HUD may require and as approved by OMB and listed on the OMB Web site at <u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/</u>.

The performance and financial reports will undergo review and approval by HUD. If a report submission is insufficient, HUD will reject the report in DRGR and identify the corrections the Recipient must make.

No drawdown of funds will be allowed through DRGR while the Recipient has an overdue performance or financial report.

D. Debriefing.

For a period of at least 120 days, beginning 30 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 authorized organization representative 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), below. 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:
Jovette Bryant
Phone:

877-787-2526 Email: RHED@hud.gov

Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the tollfree Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Please note that HUD staff cannot assist applicants in preparing their applications.

VIII. Other Information.

1. National Environmental Policy Act.

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.

- <u>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing</u>
- Code of Conduct list
- <u>Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA)</u>
- <u>Unique Entity Identifier</u>
- Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations
- <u>Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System</u>
- FFATA Subaward Reporting System
- <u>Grants.gov</u>
- <u>HBCUs</u>
- <u>Healthy Homes Strategic Plan</u>
- Healthy Housing Reference Manual
- HUD's Strategic Plan
- HUD Grants
- Limited English Proficiency
- NOFO Webcasts
- <u>Procurement of Recovered Materials</u>
- **Promise Zones**
- <u>Section 3 Business Registry</u>
- <u>State Point of Contact List</u>
- System for Award Management (SAM)
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 (URA)
- USA Spending
- 3. Program Relevant Web Resources

APPENDIX