

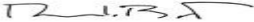


No. 2013-01(R)
January 22, 2013

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

PROGRAM: Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)

FOR: All Tribal Government Leaders and Tribally Designated Housing Entities

FROM: 
Rodger J. Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, PN

TOPIC: Posting of Fiscal Year 2013 Notice of Funding Availability for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to provide potential applicants with a summary of the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, also known as the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program, posted on January 15, 2013. The General Section of the NOFA was posted on August 8, 2012, and describes HUD's FY 2013 policy and submission requirements. Both documents and the technical correction to the General Section can be downloaded from http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

Program Description: The purpose of the ICDBG program is the development of viable American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes.

Eligibility Information: All federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages are eligible to participate in the ICDBG program. Tribal organizations, as described in 24 CFR 1003.5, are also eligible applicants. To apply for funding, an applicant must meet the eligibility criterion by the application submission date. Eligible categories of funding include housing rehabilitation, land acquisition to support new housing, homeownership assistance, public facilities and improvements, economic development, and microenterprise programs. For a complete description of eligible activities, please refer to 24 CFR 1003, subpart C.

FY 2013 Funding Availability: The NOFA does not include a total funding amount, an allocation of funds for each of the six Area Offices of Native American Programs (ONAP) or a set-aside of Imminent Threat grant funds. The availability of funding for this program is contingent on future Congressional action. HUD will issue a technical correction to this

NOFA when and if appropriations are enacted that require HUD to modify the funding criteria or application requirements, or if HUD determines that adjustments to estimated award amounts or timelines are necessary. Any such technical correction will provide detailed instructions for applicants to permit them to resubmit the application to address the revised NOFA requirements.

Application Due Date: The application deadline is 11:59:59 p.m. eastern time March 18, 2013, and as in past years must be submitted through Grants.gov unless a waiver of the electronic submission requirement has been requested and granted.

Changes in the FY 2013 NOFA: There are several changes in the FY 2013 ICDBG NOFA. This Program Guidance provides only a summary; interested applicants should read the entire NOFA carefully to be aware of each and every change.

Section I – Funding Opportunity Description

Imminent Threat Grants

The NOFA informs applicants that they should not submit requests for Imminent Threat grants until after the FY 2013 appropriation has been enacted. It informs applicants that projects funded with Imminent Threat funds must be completed within 24 months. It also states that *“If in response to a request for assistance that Area ONAP issues a letter to proceed under the authority of 24 CFR 1003.401(a), you may undertake temporary and permanent repairs to control the imminent threat but only if the activities do not alter environmental conditions. Reimbursement of such costs is dependent upon HUD approval of the [Imminent Threat grant] application....”*

Section II – Award Information

Period of Performance

The period of performance section has been modified. The NOFA will now say, *“For FY2013, HUD must obligate the funds no later than September 30, 2014, and the grantee’s Implementation Schedule cannot exceed September 30, 2020. Any funds not drawn down as of September 30, 2020 will be cancelled. HUD reserves the right, however, to require an earlier expenditure deadline under an ICDBG grant agreement. If the grantee does not make substantial progress toward meeting its implementation schedule, HUD reserves the right to recapture the funds.”*

Section III – Eligibility Information

Acquisition of Property

The NOFA clarifies that acquisition of housing units not in need of rehabilitation is permitted, but the acquired units must meet Section 8 housing quality standards.

Fire Protection Equipment

The NOFA now says that ICDBG funds may be used to purchase fire protection equipment.

Section IV – Application and Submission Information

Summary of Project(s) Proposed

A one-page summary of the proposed project must now be included in the narrative submitted with the application.

Budget Information

The NOFA now specifically asks applicants to include in their budgets any funds they will be contributing toward administering the grant.

Citizen Participation

Also in the checklist, the NOFA clarifies that it is the tribe that must conduct citizen participation, even if the tribe is not the applicant.

Receipt Date and Time

Information on how to apply for ICDBG (and other HUD grants) may now be found in Appendix D of the General Section. All applications in FY 2013 must be submitted electronically unless a waiver of this requirement has been submitted and approved by the Area ONAP Administrator.

Other Submission Requirements

Applicants should note that Grants.gov has changed its file naming requirements. Valid file names may only include certain characters. If applicants use any other characters when naming attachments, their applications will be rejected.

Section V – Application Review Information

Capacity of the Applicant

In rating factor 1, the NOFA specifies that it is the capacity of key staff (including the day-to-day program manager, consultants, and contractors) that will be measured. In this same section, success will be defined as “*meeting or exceeding benchmarks and timetables of past projects.*”

Need/Extent of the Problem

In rating factor 2, the NOFA requests information on how and why the project is critical to the cultural, social, and/or economic viability of the community. A viable community is determined by the applicant, but could be defined as one in which tribal members wish to continue to reside or return to live.

Budget

In rating factor 3, the NOFA clarifies that to receive the full nine points, the cost estimates must be reasonable and broken down by line item for each proposed activity.

HUD Policy Priorities

In rating factor 3, the NOFA retains the HUD policy priorities that were included in the FY 2012 ICDBG NOFA. Information about these policy priorities can be found in Appendix B of the FY 2013 General Section.

Land for New Housing

In rating factor 3, the NOFA modifies the criteria used to rate applications for land to support new housing units.

Comprehensiveness and Coordination

The introductory paragraph to rating factor 5 has been amended to the following:

“This factor addresses the extent to which your project planning and proposed implementation reflect a coordinated, community-based process of identifying and addressing needs of your tribal community. If your community has developed a comprehensive plan to improve the viability of the community, the project(s) should fit into that plan. This factor also examines the level of support for the project(s) from tribal organizations and departments that are not providing direct financial support for the project(s).

The application should describe the project’s specific and quantifiable outputs, outcomes, and goals for enhancing community viability. The application should also indicate how it will measure and evaluate how the goals are being met. Applicants that are funded will be required to report on the proposed outcomes and outputs as spelled out in Section VI.C.1.b. of this NOFA.”

As in FY 2012, applicants are no longer required to submit Logic Models with their ICDBG applications.

Coordination Point Breakout

The NOFA will now include, in subfactor 1 of this rating factor, the point breakdown that has been included on the application rating sheet for the past few years.

Outputs, Outcomes, and/or Goals

In subfactor 2 of this rating factor, the NOFA lists examples of a few more outputs and outcomes for the ICDBG program.

VI – Award Administration Information

Award Notices

HUD expects to announce awards in 2013, but the exact date is subject to the availability of HUD appropriations.

Technical Assistance: Contact staff at your Area ONAP for general guidance and technical assistance regarding the NOFA. ONAP staff is not permitted to help you prepare your application. Contact the Grants.gov Support Center for assistance with electronic submission requirements.

Training on ICDBG NOFA Requirements: Training on the requirements of the FY 2013 ICDBG NOFA will be provided as follows:

- HUD will offer a broadcast training for the ICDBG NOFA on January 31, 2013, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM eastern time. Applicants may view the broadcast at HUD's website at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/multimedia/videos>. The webcast will also be archived at this website.
- The Area ONAP in your jurisdiction will also conduct training specific to the ICDBG NOFA and electronic submission requirements. Contact your Area ONAP for training dates.

Applicants should not rely solely on information in this Guidance because it does not include all applicable NOFA requirements on the subjects addressed. Contact your Area ONAP Grants Management Specialist if you have any questions.