

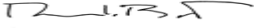


No. 2015-05
September 10, 2015

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 2015 Notice of Funding Availability for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to provide potential applicants with a summary of the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 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 August 28, 2015. The General Section of the NOFA was posted on October 16, 2014, and describes HUD's FY 2015 policy and submission requirements. Both documents can be downloaded from http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail and www.grants.gov.

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 criteria 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 2015 Funding Availability: The total approximate amount of funding available for competitive single purpose ICDBGs in this NOFA is \$58,856,810. The NOFA also states that \$3,960,000 in ICDBG funds have been retained to fund Imminent Threat grants.

Application Due Date: The application deadline is 11:59:59 p.m. eastern time on October 22, 2015, 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 2015 NOFA: There are several changes in the FY 2015 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. The NOFA itself includes a list of changes in Section 1.A.

Section I – Funding Opportunity Description

A.1. Program Description

The following sentence has been added to the description of the purpose of the ICDBG program. *“Applicants can use these funds for a multitude of community development purposes including those that improve the lives of tribal youth by creating and providing protective factors that build an individual’s resiliency. Accordingly, funds can be used to develop Head Start facilities, Boys and Girl Clubs, recreational centers, and job training programs as well as to improve the living situations of entire families.”*

A.3. Definitions

NOFA now includes a definition of a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO).

Section II – Award Information

A. Available Funds

In FY 2015, HUD is using data from the U.S. Census’ American Community Survey (ACS) to allocate funds to the Area Offices of Native American Programs (AONAPs). Accordingly, the AONAP allocations in FY 2015 are:

Eastern Woodlands:	\$4,648,764
Southern Plains:	\$13,989,642
Northern Plains:	\$8,842,084
Southwest:	\$20,912,558
Northwest:	\$3,188,032
<u>Alaska:</u>	<u>\$7,275,730</u>
Total:	\$58,856,810

Section III – Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

The NOFA now references the latest list of tribes eligible to receive assistance, which was published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on January 14, 2015.

A.4.a.(1) Project-Specific Requirements – Housing Rehabilitation

The NOFA states that housing units rehabilitated with ICDBG must meet the housing codes defined in Section I.A.3.q. of the NOFA. It also specifies that information required in this section, including information about low- and moderate-income beneficiaries, **MUST** be included in the application or the application will not be reviewed.

A.4.a.(2) Project Specific Requirements – New Construction

Exempts applicants who receive the minimum amount of IHBG funding, and who are applying for ICDBG for new housing construction, from needing to demonstrate that other funding sources, including IHBG, could be used to construct the new housing.

A.4.a.(3) Project Specific Requirements – Economic Development

Clarifies that the entities preparing a financial analysis for economic development projects must have experience in analyzing the type of project proposed.

Section IV – Application and Submission Information

A. Waiver of Electronic Application Requirement

Requests for waivers of the electronic application submission process must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the application deadline. The NOFA also includes examples of good cause for waivers.

Application Checklist

B.2.- The checklist now specifies which forms and what type of information must be submitted with all applications and which forms and information are optional depending on the type of projects proposed.

B.2.f. - Specifies that the citizen participation resolution submitted with the application must be for the type of project proposed in the application.

Section V – Application Review Information

Rating Factors

Factor 1 – Capacity of the Applicant

Subfactor 1.b. - Requires applicants to demonstrate that the project will be underway within 180 days from the date the funds are available to the applicant in HUD's Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS). In FY 2014, applicants had to demonstrate that all contracts could be awarded within that timeframe.

Subfactor 1.c. and d. - Specifies that the CBDOs or other subrecipient's financial management and procurement systems must meet the requirements of 2 CFR 200 and 24 CFR 1003 if such entities are going to have such responsibilities for the project.

Subfactor 2. - States that when rating the implementation and expenditures of past ICDBG projects, HUD will not consider grants funded pursuant to the previous year's NOFA.

Factor 3 – Soundness of Approach

Subfactor 2. – Budget

Specifies that the person who prepares the budget must have recent and relevant experience in preparing budgets for the type of project proposed. Also in the budget subfactor, the NOFA states that if the application includes a public service component, the breakdown of costs for services must be included in the budget.

Subfactor 3. – Commitment to Sustain Project

Subfactor 3.b. – New Housing Construction/Rehabilitation

The NOFA clarifies that if an organization other than the tribe or its TDHE is assuming responsibility for maintaining the project, the applicant must provide a commitment to that effect from that organization.

Subfactor 3.e. - Land to Support New Housing

The NOFA now says that applicants who are requesting funds to acquire land for future housing development must demonstrate that the land is suitable for housing, and adds a requirement that land be zoned for housing. The NOFA also clarifies that construction needs to begin no later than 2 years after site purchase (to get the full 12 points in this subfactor).

Factor 4 – Leveraging Resources

Specifies that the amount of funds a tribe is committing to a project must be included in a tribal resolution.

Factor 5 – Comprehensiveness and Coordination

Subfactor 1 – Coordination

In this section, the NOFA asks applicants to describe how they involved the community in the development of the application (pursuant to the requirement for citizen participation).

Section V.2. – Policy Priorities

The NOFA eliminates the points for HUD Policy Priorities so all types of projects are treated equally.

Section V.3. – Bonus Points

The NOFA provides up to two bonus points for projects located either in Promise Zones or Sustainable Communities.

Section VI – Award Administration Information

States that when a tribal organization applies for a grant on behalf of an Indian tribe, the tribe, and not the organization, is considered the grantee responsible for the environmental review requirements.

Award Notices

HUD expects to announce awards by February 1, 2016.

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 2015 ICDBG NOFA will be provided shortly after the NOFA is posted.

- HUD will offer a broadcast training for the ICDBG NOFA 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.