

Accessible Housing and Technology Research and Demonstration (Project 1)

Question: The RFP notes (page 2) that the project should “identify, evaluate, and test the home modifications and technology innovations.” We assume that 1) the methods for evaluation and testing can take many forms, including those beyond engineering design and laboratory testing such as social science methods; and 2) that existing and currently available design and construction accessibility technologies can also be evaluated and tested. Are these assumptions correct, or is the project focused only on new technology R&D?

Answer: Measurement of the quality of the proposal could include creative solutions. Those can be created for both currently available technologies or new technologies.

Question: The RFP specifies (page 2) “non-detached single family homes” along with “semi-detached townhomes, and structures with four (4) or fewer residential units.” Are “detached single family homes” purposefully excluded? Can proposals include this dominant segment of the housing inventory along with all other attached single-family and low-density multifamily properties?

Answer: Most research completed in the past has been for detached single family homes. This proposal is intended to address the challenges of attached housing.

Question: The RFP references (page 3) current federal architectural accessibility standards, such as the 2010 ADA. However, the housing segments in question (e.g., existing single-family housing) are typically excluded from application of these standards. Does the RFP intend for bidders to view the standards as guidelines for possible selections of technologies?

Answer: The proposal will be more strongly rated in regards to how it responds to the objectives listed in the project description.

Question: The RFP notes (page 3) two general populations: those persons with disabilities and those that are elderly and potentially aging-in-place. Should proposals address both, and include relevant advisory team members from both sectors?

Answer: What the proposal addresses is the decision of the organization submitting the proposal.

Question: With regard to conflicts of interest (page 22) for Project 1 proposals, are entities that are likely to gain intellectual property or profit from promoting specific accessibility materials and technologies conflicted? These entities would include: 1) private businesses associated with home building and remodeling or manufacturers of accessible technologies; 2) trade associations for these private businesses; and 3) the research wings of these trade associations. However, these business interests appear as eligible applicants (page 16).

Answer: The conflict of interest rules address procurement and do not apply to an applicant in regards to their proposed activities. HUD would review the methodology to determine whether the applicant proposes to treat all tested materials in a fair and equitable manner.

If the proposal is to test only the applicant’s proprietary materials or techniques that is a slightly different issue. To demonstrate / determine the utility of products produced solely by the bidder would affect the utility of the research to HUD and the rating of the application.

Question: The grant restricts "existing housing designs"- does it mean, that the technology adaptation, can be installed, in existing non detached residential units, where, there are right now, existing tenants that are occupying said units?

Answer: The installation of technology adaptations into existing residential units is not listed as an eligible activity in this grant. (See page 3 of 38, "Background")

Question: Or does the grant restrict, that the technology, be installed- in vacant non detached residential unit?

Answer: The installation of technology adaptations into vacant residential units is not listed as an eligible activity in this grant.

Question: For example, we have several single non-detached residential units. is there a limit to the installation of the technology? My understanding is a long as the technology is to be installed, in the unit, where the disabled individual is living?

Answer: The demonstration of accessibility and technological adaptations for persons with disabilities in units where the disabled individual is living is not listed as an eligible activity in this grant.

Question: The grant states, that said unit will be used as a demonstration model- does this mean that the prototype, is vacant, meaning, unit must not be used for living and restricted only to demonstration purpose?

Answer: The only type of demonstration model listed as an eligible activity is a prototype room, as stated in section I.A.1.A.(3) on page 4 of the NOFA.

Question: So the demonstration, should not be situated in only one location if the units are scattered?

Answer: The only type of demonstration model listed as an eligible activity is a prototype room, as stated in section I.A.1.A.(3) on page 4 of the NOFA

Technical Assistance Assessment (Project 2)

Question: Our technical team would like to ask if other potential applicants been notified about HUD's determination that subcontractors on a TA contract/grant are ineligible for Project 2?

Answer: A modification under eligibility "other" has been changed to read as follows: Note: Providers (Contractors and sub-contractors) of currently active HUD-funded technical assistance (TA) and providers (Contractors and sub-contractors) of TA within the last 5 years, are not eligible applicants for Project 2 (Technical Assistance Assessment).

Question: Objectives for Project 2 include an "in-depth analysis of three to four large, high priority TA projects" (p. 6). What does "TA project" refer to for purposes of the proposal? Does it mean a *type* of TA (e.g., on-call TA, needs assessments support, etc.), a *TA contract*, or an *assignment* to a TA provider?

Answer: This was left vague intentionally. "TA project's will be determined jointly with HUD during the planning phase. For the purposes of this proposal, you can make your own recommendations or suggestions.

Question: For conflicts of interest (page 22) for Project 2 proposals, we assume that any organization that has recently provided or is currently providing direct TA to HUD grantees under the programs noted in the RFP are excluded.

Answer: Unfortunately, subcontractors also are not eligible for this work.

Question: ...Though we have been officially part of ...(TA) efforts, we have not provided direct TA to any HUD grantee... the contacts our organization has had with HUD program grantees has been for research purposes or to assist a HUD TA provider through our research capacities only, and not to deliver TA to the grantees directly. We request confirmation that these efforts do not constitute a conflict of interest.

Answer: Unfortunately, subcontractors also are not eligible for this work.

Question: Page 16 of the NOFA makes it clear that current providers of HUD-funded technical assistance are not eligible for this opportunity. Would an award from this NOFA prohibit an applicant from bidding on future technical assistance opportunities with HUD?

Answer: No.

Question: Page 16 of the NOFA states "Providers of currently active HUD-funded technical assistance (TA) and providers of TA within the last 5 years, are not eligible applicants for Project 2 (Technical Assistance Assessment)." Does this statement apply to subcontractors that have agreements with TA providers to do some part of a project, but do not have an agreement with HUD directly?

Answer: Yes

Question: If yes to Q2, is it still possible for our organization to have such an organization as a partner that would serve only in an advisory role (e.g., vetting survey questions, providing feedback on deliverables, etc.) and would not participate in any data collection or analysis?

Answer: No

Question: The NOFA mentions objectives of project 2 in two places. First on page 6 and then again on page 10. Are we correct in understanding that the objectives on page 6 are comprehensive of the more specific objectives on page 10 or should these be considered separately?

Answer: Yes

Question: Page 23 of the NOFA states that "the narrative must be formatted to fit an 8 ½ by 11-inch page, double-spaced (information requirements), with one-inch margins, using standard Times New Roman 12-point font." Are exhibits/tables allowed to be single spaced and have smaller but legible fonts?

Answer: Yes

Question: Page 23 of the NOFA states that "resumes are subject to a separate 20-page limit as follows: (i) the application shall include resumes for no more than 5 key personnel; and (ii) no individual resume shall exceed 4 pages." Can resumes be single-spaced?

Answer: Yes

Question: Page 23 of the NOFA states "appendix that lists the names of the firms for all of the subcontractors and consultants with whom the applicant has entered into an agreement to participate in an award under this NOFA and a brief statement of each firm's qualifications." Also page 24 of NOFA states that "appendix containing a list of references outlining the applicant's performance of recent (within five years) and relevant social science research or program evaluations." Can appendices be single-spaced?

Answer: Yes

Question: Page 23 of the NOFA states that "One-Page Application Summary needs to include:

1. A brief description of the proposed research and/or evaluation project; and
2. Provide funding request in whole dollar amount. The amount requested should be based on the scope of the project, personnel costs, other direct costs, as well as administrative costs, etc."

Can the One-page Application Summary be single-spaced?

Answer: No, Page 23, B.2.Format and Form

Question: Can a list of works cites/references be included in the appendix?

Answer: No, Page 23, B.2.Format and Form

Question: Page 24 of 38 states that "budget submission (display of all anticipated costs during the 3-year performance period, including an indirect cost rate)." Is the budget to be submitted as an attachment to the technical narrative or a separate volume, i.e., Volume I, Technical Narrative (with appendices) and Volume II - Budget?

Answer: Either

Question: Page 24 of 38 states that "appendix containing a list of references outlining the applicant's performance of recent (within five years) and relevant social science research or program evaluations" should be included. Please clarify the number of past performance references to be included in this list.

Answer: As many as applicable

Question: Page 32 of 38 states that "total direct and indirect costs should be included for each task in accordance with the proposed labor rates included in the Budget description in Section VI. A. below." Should budget information be included in the Work Plan?

Answer: No