

CDBG Office Hours

Team HCD CDBG

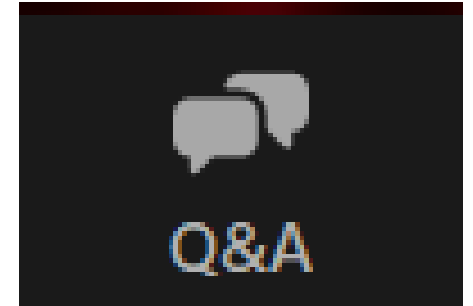
Wednesday, October 4, 2023





How to ask a question

- Webinar questions:
 - Click “Q & A” chat bubble to submit a question to the team
 - You may ask questions anonymously, but if you want your name, organization, or region associated with your question, you will need to type it in the “Your Name” box
 - The team will read questions out loud throughout the presentation and will provide answers if possible
 - All questions will be saved and recorded as part of the public record





CDBG Program Updates

2022 CDBG NOFA

- 42 Recommended for Award
- 1 Pending Acceptance
- 3 Pending Final Approval
- 5 Routing
- 33 Approved

2023 CDBG NOFA

HCD is pleased to announce the release of the [2023 Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) for approximately \$19 million in federal funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Under this NOFA, the Department will only accept Applications from the Projects remaining on the 2019-2020 Over-the-Counter (OTC) Waitlist. Applicants cannot change projects or budgets. Funding is expected to be sufficient to make Awards to all Projects that meet threshold criteria.

Timelines

- 2023 NOFA drop date: September 29, 2023 – OTC Waitlist Only (approx. \$19M)
- **Application Opens October 30, 2023**
- **Application Closes December 29, 2023**



CDBG Program Updates cont'

- Applicants are **required** to attend the below live webinars. Due to the significant changes, HCD encourages all jurisdictions to attend these webinars in preparation for the 2024 NOFA.
 - **CDBG 2023 Notice of Funding Availability Webinar**
 - Tuesday October 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., PST **-OR-** Thursday October 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. PST
 - **Completing the 2023 Application and Budget** – Thursday October 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., PST
- There are significant changes to this year's application in form, content, and process. As such, we are releasing a preview of the questions prior to the opening of the application. A copy of questions and the appendices can be located under the Files tab of the [solicitation](#).

2024 CDBG NOFA

- Projected 2024 NOFA drop date: January 2024 – Competitive and OTC (approx. \$48M)



Save the Dates: Upcoming 2023 and 2024 NOFA Webinars – Registration is Required

Webinar Name	Webinar Date and Time	Registration Link
2023 CDBG Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Webinar – Session #1	Tuesday, October 17th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	<u>Register Here</u>
Completing the 2023 CDBG Application and Budget Workshop	Thursday, October 19th 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<u>Register Here</u>
2024 CDBG Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Listening Session	Wednesday, October 25th 10:00 am – 11:00 am	<u>Register Here</u>
2023 CDBG Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Webinar – Session #2	Thursday, October 26th 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<u>Register Here</u>

Questions and Answers: Recap from Prior Office Hours





Closeout Hearing Template

Question

Will HCD be publishing a draft template for a public notice for a CDBG Closeout hearing? We only have one for the public hearing to apply to the NOFA.

Answer

Please contact your HCD representative or grant manager and request the closeout job aid – this document contains information that will be helpful. Chapter 12 of the GMM will also include information on this subject; this is not publicly published yet but is forthcoming.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



Planning Grants Pt. 1

Question

Please explain the process for applying for planning grants. Can I apply now or wait until January? Can you point me to documentation that I can use for information?

Answer

Planning grants will not be an eligible activity under the September 2023 NOFA. The 2023 NOFA is only for previously waitlisted 2019/2020 Over-The-Counter applications that were submitted. Grantees can apply for a planning grant under the January 2024 NOFA. For documentation, the best place to look would be in our Grants Management Manual and review the description of what eligible activities there are as it relates to planning. As a reminder, the January 2024 NOFA is competitive. At this stage, we recommend grantees reach out to your HCD rep to describe your project idea and request technical assistance. Once the application is open, we are unable to provide technical assistance on a competitive application.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



Visitor Center Activity Funding

Question

As I now understand, CDBG is meant to be used for gap-funding, and not up-front or sole-source funding. So I'm left up the creek without a paddle. I need funding to get us started off. Can you point me to other California government sources of funding for my project to construct a cultural visitor center for my city?

Answer

CDBG is meant to be used as gap-funding. We are encouraging leveraging other funding sources. One of the reasons that we make planning grants available is so that you use that to put together a plan that will need to utilize additional funding. We are currently working on the planning only grant application that would need to utilize other non-CDBG funding sources. Please keep in mind that a cultural visitor center is likely only an eligible activity if the service area (residential area that is served by the center) is low and moderate income, so you are going to want to identify what the anticipated service area is for the cultural visitor center and then work with us and utilize the resources that we have available in our Grants Management Manual to determine if the service area is low and moderate income, as that is the starting point for CDBG for that type of activity.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



Waste, Fraud, and Abuse (WFA) Training

Question

When will the recording be made available for the WFA training? Unfortunately, I have a region meeting in Oakland at that time. Also, how many staff members should attend?

Answer

We are using a slightly different platform because ICF is hosting this through a Teams webinar. We will download and share the video as soon as possible. We will work with HCD to ensure the format is compatible, the format is available to be uploaded, and we will remediate the slides. As soon as we can, but we do not know how long that will take. We anticipate a month to six weeks before it is up because of the steps it takes to make a document ADA accessible and getting it onto our YouTube channel. We will check our attendance records and send out a miscellaneous task with a link with the recording and a certification that you watched the video. In terms of staff members attending, we want at least one representative from each jurisdiction, not just consultants because it is important to ensure that we are taking all the necessary precautions to avoid waste and abuse.

The recording has recently been uploaded to YouTube: [Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Training - YouTube](#)



Additional Funding Update Pt. 1

Question

Are additional funds for CDBG-CV projects referenced in office hours back in June still available?

Answer

An update announcement will be made in the near future regarding the augmentation of CDBG funds available, as well as the process for applying for additional funding. The additional funds will only be made available to construction projects that experienced cost overruns on their original scope. The funds will be prioritized and available first to tribal and Home Key contracts, then to all current CDBG and CV grantees under current contracts. You will need to submit documentation for the cost overruns on original scope of work in order to receive additional funding.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



Additional Funding Update Pt. 2

Question

Can you tell us how much funding is available for the CV additional funding?

Answer

It's still influx because we still have grantees that are closing out and in the process of disencumbering. We will let grantees know at the next office hours. We anticipate being able to augment several projects, but I don't have the exact number that is immediately available.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



2023 NOFA Timeline

Question

What is the last date to apply for NOFA 2023 if you were waitlisted. You said drop date is September 2023 does that mean the begin to apply date?

Answer

The NOFA is anticipated to drop September 29, and the NOFA documents will be available for you to review for 30-days. After the 30-day period, the eCivis portal will open and you will be able to apply within the next 60-days. We will include these finalized dates in the published NOFA.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



Infrastructure Improvements

Question

Our Board of Supervisors is very interested in using PI funds for county roads. Could you clarify what infrastructure CDBG funds can be used for in regard to roads? Is it just for new roads and improvements like sidewalks, ADA, intersection, etc?

Answer

Road or infrastructure improvements are eligible primarily under two matrix codes. One is low- and moderate-income area, that is the service area served by the road improvements. The other could be if it's associated with or in connecting to a housing development and it's the road or infrastructure needed for the improvements related to housing. It depends on what the service area is for the particular improvements that your county wants to do. It does not necessarily have to be the whole county; it just depends on the nature of the roads. If it's a highway, it's going to be the whole county. If it's surface streets in a neighborhood, it's probably going to just be that neighborhood. It really depends on how the service area is defined. It can be used for new road installations, and it can also be used for the improvements previously mentioned but cannot be used for regular road maintenance. The statement about regular road maintenance is important because a lot of times we see roadwork aligned with maybe with water sewer expansion or under road utilities that are changing in size and scope.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



Grants Management Manual

Question

Our city is severely disadvantaged and so I already know CDBG is the right source. You've twice mentioned the grants management manual, so can you please point me to that document, or can I easily find it on your website?

Answer

Yes, if you go to our website and scroll down slightly you will see a few tabs are in blue. One of them is the Grant Management Manual and everything should populate. When we have the whole Grants Management Manual published, we anticipate doing a deep dive and walking through each of the chapters during office hours as an upcoming training opportunity. We are unsure when this will be on the calendar but it's on our list to do and make sure we are supporting grantees in that way.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



ADA Improvements

Question

Are ADA improvements to City owned buildings and parks eligible for CDBG funding regardless of the overall income of the area?

Answer

Generally, the answer is yes, if the parts of the building are accessible to the general public. There is a section in Chapter 2 of the GMM that details requirements on serving limited clientele that provides further information on this type of project and fulfilling a national objective.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23



National Objective Timeline

Question

If a grantee applied for "infrastructure in support of new housing", how long does the grantee have for the housing project to come to fruition to meet a national objective? 24 months after fund expiration date?

Answer

It's up to HCD to determine what parameters they want to put on grantees. Traditionally, most states look to fund projects that upfront from application are designed to be an eligible activity and meet a national objective and it's very challenging for states to fund pre or speculative work for another project to meet the national objective. We will provide more information shortly. For new projects, the language in our standard agreement boilerplate is 24 months for new housing units where the national objective is LMH the standard agreement language is 24 months from the closeout date of the contract. We have to look at the new boiler plates, but we will double check.

From: Office Hours 9/20/23

Questions and Answers:
Please submit your question(s) via Zoom
Q+A

