



U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

# FY 2025 Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants (RCB)

CPD-2600-DC-0008

Applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on 07/06/2026.

Community Planning and Development

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# BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, register in the required systems and review the application materials. If you are already registered, confirm that your information is current and active.

## **SAM.gov Registration**

You must have an active and up-to-date account with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), at the time of application and throughout the life of any award.

To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](https://sam.gov) and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

It can take several weeks to register in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), so get started now if you are planning to apply. [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) also provides each organization with a unique entity identifier (UEI). A valid UEI is required to apply for funding.

## **Grants.gov Registration**

You must have an active [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) registration. This requires a [Login.gov](https://login.gov) registration as well. See step-by-step instructions at the [Grants.gov Quick Start Guide for Applicants](https://grants.gov). You must apply for funding using [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov), unless HUD has approved your [waiver request](https://grants.gov).

See [Section VI.B](https://grants.gov). Submission Methods.

## **Find the Application Package**

Use the Grants Search at [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) and search for opportunity number CPD-2600-DC-0008 . The application package has all the online forms you need to apply. You also need to access the Download Instructions link and review the content before you apply.

If you have other technical difficulties using Grants.gov, contact the Support Center on [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

To get updates on changes to this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), click Subscribe from the View Grant Opportunity page on [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

### **Application Deadline**

Applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on 07/06/2026.  
See [Section VI.A](https://grants.gov). of this NOFO.

### **HUD Listserv**

To get **email alerts** about current and future funding opportunities, **subscribe** to [HUD's Funding Opportunities listserv](https://grants.gov).

# I. BASIC INFORMATION

I. [Basic Information](#)

A. [Summary](#)

B. [Agency Contact\(s\)](#)

## I. BASIC INFORMATION

See [Contact and Support](#) section of this NOFO.

### A. Summary

**Federal Agency Name:**

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**HUD Program Office:**

Community Planning and Development

**Announcement Type:**

Initial

**Program Type:**

Discretionary

**Paperwork Reduction Act Information:**

2501-0044; 2506-0195

**Due Date for Intergovernmental Review:**

#### Key Facts

**Opportunity Name:**

FY 2025 Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants (RCB)

**Opportunity Number:**

CPD-2600-DC-0008

**Federal Assistance Listing(s):**

14.265

#### Key Dates

**Application Due Date:**

**11:59:59 PM Eastern Time on:**

07/06/2026

**Anticipated Award Date:**

10/06/2026

**Estimated Performance Period Start Date:**

10/06/2026

10/06/2026

**Estimated Performance Period End Date:**

10/05/2030

### 1. NOFO Summary

Rural communities face unique housing and community development issues across the country – from outmigration, repetitive disaster losses, aging housing, geographic isolation, and economic marginalization – it is HUD’s priority to ensure rural Americans are provided opportunities to build capacity and unlock access to capital. *This NOFO makes available \$6,000,000 for the Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable*

*Housing Program (RCB) to enable national nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, to advance affordable housing and community development activities in rural areas.*

The RCB program enhances the capacity and ability of Rural Housing Development Organizations (RHDOs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), local governments, and Indian Tribes (eligible beneficiaries) to carry out affordable housing and community development activities in rural areas for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households. This includes supporting pathways for homeless populations to self-sufficiency and stable housing. The RCB program achieves this by funding National Organizations with expertise in rural housing and rural community development who work directly to build the capacity of eligible beneficiaries. Under this competition, RCB also prioritizes projects in Opportunity Zones, broadens access for rural and small towns, and promotes better accountability in ensuring the program expands and achieves intended outcomes.

## 2. Funding Details

### Type of Funding Instrument

G (Grant)

### Available Funds

Funding of approximately **\$6,000,000** is available through this NOFO.

Additional funds may become available for award. Use of these funds is subject to statutory constraints. All awards are subject to the selection process contained in this NOFO.

### Estimated Number of Awards

5 awards from [available funding](#)

### Length of Performance Period:

48-month project period and budget period

Length of Periods Explanation:

## B. Agency Contact(s)

See [Contact and Support](#) section of this NOFO.

# II. ELIGIBILITY

## II. Eligibility

### A. Eligible Applicants

### B. Eligible Applications

### C. Cost Sharing or Matching

## II. ELIGIBILITY

### A. Eligible Applicants

If your organization is not an eligible applicant, your application won't be reviewed or scored, and you won't receive funding from HUD.

#### 1. Eligible Entity Types:

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

##### Additional Information on Eligibility

You cannot apply as an individual.

[Faith-based organizations](#) may apply just like any other organization. [HUD does not have any policies or practices that unfairly target these institutions.](#)

Only National Organizations that are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, other than institutions of higher education, may apply for RCB funding.

For the purpose of the RCB program, a National Organization must be a single non-profit organization including those that are faith-based, that has ongoing experience conducting RCB eligible capacity building activities in rural areas with rural housing organizations, local governments, and Indian tribes as evidenced by work within the last ten years in at least eight of HUD's Federal regions. Having relevant experience working in one state in a HUD region is sufficient for counting that region towards the eight-region minimum. HUD's Federal regions are described on HUD's website at: <https://www.hud.gov/contactus/local#regions>.

Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at 24 CFR 5.109, and subject to the protections and requirements of 42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq., HUD will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate against an organization based on the organization's religious character, affiliation, or exercise.

#### 2. Restrictions

##### a. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

You must meet the current [General Statutory and Regulatory Eligibility Requirements](#). If you do not meet these requirements, your application won't be scored, and you won't receive funding from HUD. This is a threshold requirement for all HUD funding.

In accordance with both Executive Orders 14321 and 14224; grantees, subgrantees and/or beneficiaries are expected to adhere to the EOs.

##### b. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters

If you have any outstanding or unresolved judgments for violating civil rights laws, you must settle them before you apply. If you don't, settle the civil rights law violations before you apply, your application won't be scored, and you won't receive funding from HUD. This is a threshold requirement for all HUD funding.

### B. Eligible Applications

1. An application from an [eligible entity](#) is considered for funding if it meets basic [threshold](#)

[requirements](#) and passes [merit review](#).

2. Your application must support the [goals](#) of this NOFO.

3. Awards made under this NOFO will not be used to conduct activities that subsidize or facilitate illegal racial preferences or other forms of illegal discrimination, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation.

### C. Cost Sharing or Matching

This Program does not require [cost sharing or matching](#) but provides points based on leverage, as described below.

There is no match requirement under the Rural Capacity Building program. However, applicants are encouraged to secure leverage, or voluntary committed cost sharing as defined in 2 CFR §200.1, from non-Federal public, private, and/or nonprofit sector resources (such as financing, supplies, or services). Applicants who submit evidence of leverage will receive credit in the review of their application. The pledged leverage becomes a binding requirement of the award. Documentation of leverage through Letters of Firm Commitment and a Leverage Summary must meet the requirements outlined in Rating Factor 5 of this NOFO.

If the anticipated leverage is not provided, HUD will reassess the application with the corrected leverage commitment. If the application is no longer able to be funded after re-rating and re-ranking the application, HUD will rescind the grant and recapture grant funds. Leverage funds must be used for RCB eligible activities in approved action plan activities and are subject to the same rules and requirements set forth in this NOFO, including a prohibition on fees or profit. In addition, loans made with non-RCB funds that a beneficiary must repay are not considered leverage. However, if the loan is offered at below market interest rates, the cost difference between the lower interest rate and the market interest rate can be accepted as leverage with proper documentation.

The RCB Program does not allow Federal sources to be used as leverage. All leverage funds, including in-kind contributions, must conform to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.1 and 2 CFR 200.306. Leverage sources may come from public (non-Federal), private, and nonprofit sources, including, but not limited to:

1. State and local housing finance agencies;
2. Local Governments;
3. Foundations;
4. Government Sponsored Enterprises such as the Federal Home Loan Banks, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac;
5. Colleges and universities;
6. Financial institutions or banks; and
7. Other private funders.

Once an RCB award is made, the grantee will be required to show evidence through semi-

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annual reports and the final closeout report to HUD that the amount of committed leverage was received and used for the intended purpose. Subject to HUD approval, sources of leverage funds may be substituted with other eligible leverage sources after grant award, if the total dollar commitment is met.

# III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## III. Program Description

### A. Purpose

### B. Goals and Objectives

### C. Authority

### D. Unallowable Costs

### E. Indirect Costs

## III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### A. Purpose

The RCB program enhances the capacity and ability of Rural Housing Development Organizations (RHDOs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), local governments, and Indian tribes (eligible beneficiaries) to carry out affordable housing and community development activities in rural areas for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households. The RCB program achieves this by funding National Organizations with expertise in rural housing and rural community development who work directly to build the capacity of eligible beneficiaries.

### B. Goals and Objectives

Program Goals:

1. Award national nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, with expertise in rural housing and community development to build the capacity of local governments, Indian Tribes, RHDOs, Rural CDCs, and Rural CHDOs, to serve low- and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas.
2. To increase capacity building efforts to enable CDCs, CHDOs, and Indian Tribes to access federal funds.
3. To assist rural community organizations to evaluate performance, work with their rural communities, use available resources more effectively, and link plans to foster regional planning.
4. Promote and enhance activities by local governments, Indian tribes, CDCs and CHDOs that lower the cost-of-living and provide price relief for American families. This will allow the beneficiary organizations to create new housing units, assist and create businesses and create well-paying jobs.
5. Promote and enhance activities that assist rural communities in utilizing the benefits of investments in Opportunity Zones

### C. Authority

*Funding for this program is provided by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4, approved March 15, 2025).*

### D. Unallowable Costs

The following is a non-exhaustive list of some ineligible activities and costs, and it does not represent ALL the ineligible activities or ineligible costs possible in the RCB program.

*Construction, acquisition, leasing, development, or housing rehabilitation costs are not eligible activities with RCB funds. RCB funds may be used to build the capacity of eligible beneficiaries to be able to engage in construction, rehabilitation, or development work, but the funds cannot be used to directly fund those activities. All activities are categorically excluded from environmental review under NEPA.*

1. *Food and meals.* Food is considered an entertainment cost (2 CFR 200.438) and is an

ineligible expense.

2. *Fundraising* with RCB funds is prohibited in accordance with 2 CFR 200.442.
3. *Issue advocacy or political engagement* with RCB funds is prohibited in accordance with 2 CFR 200.450.

Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility & Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). Only United States citizens or “qualified aliens” are eligible for benefits under this program.

## E. Indirect Costs

If you expect to charge [indirect costs](#) to the award, submit the Indirect Cost Information for Award Applicant/Recipient form (HUD-426) with your application.

You are required to provide documentation identifying the federally negotiated indirect cost rate from the cognizant agency that shows the approved rate or provide an attachment that states that the *de minimis* rate of 15% Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) will be used.

## F Program History

Additional information regarding the RCB program can be found at the following link. [Section 4 and Rural Capacity Building Programs | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#).

The following changes were made to the FY 2025 NOFO Sections:

Section III. Program Description – This section has been updated

- a. Civil Rights Goals have been removed

Section V: Application Review. This Section has been updated

- a. HBCU preference points have been removed.
- b. Environmental Justice Preference Points have been removed
- c. Opportunity Zones are included in the Rating Factors 3 and 5.
- d. On order to be recommended for funding applicants must score a minimum of 9 points in Rating Factor 1.
- e. Point values for Rating Factors 1-5 have been updated.
- f. Fair Housing Rating Factor 3 has been removed.
- g. NOFO rating factors have been revised to use plain language.

Section VII: Post Award Requirements and Administration: This section has been updated:

- a. Added requirements related to implementing Executive Orders
- b. Added Remedies for Noncompliance

## G Other Information

Eligible Activities and Priorities. Funds may only be used to conduct the following activities:

1. Training, education, support, and advice to enhance the technical and administrative

capabilities of CDCs and CHDOs to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low and low and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas. This may include building the capacity of CDCs and CHDOs to:

- Participate in consolidated planning and Continuum of Care program planning efforts to help ensure rural participation, including persons experiencing homelessness in assessing area needs;
- Navigate the increased housing and community development resources provided by the Federal Government and assist in directing Federal investments to underserved communities;
- Provide training best practices for utilizing Opportunity Zones as incentives for community investment;
- Consult broadly within the community;
- Cooperatively plan for the use of available resources in a comprehensive and holistic manner; and
- Assist in evaluating performance under these community planning and coordination efforts and in linking plans with neighboring communities to foster regional planning.

2. Pass-through grants, loans, predevelopment assistance, or other financial assistance to CDCs and CHDOs to increase their capacity to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low-income or low- and moderate-income families and persons in rural areas.

3. Such other activities as may be determined by the grantees in consultation with the Secretary or his or her designee.

At this time, eligible program activities allowed under the third listed eligible activity only include HUD reviewed and approved reasonable administrative activities directly related to the grantee's management of its RCB program. Some examples of reasonable administrative activities specific to the management of the RCB program include the preparation of RCB action plans and activities, preparation of RCB program reports, and management of the implementation of the first and second eligible activities. For any other activities to qualify under the third listed eligible activity it must first be proposed in an action plan, and then reviewed and approved by HUD through the action plan process after a grant award is made; thus, it should not be proposed through this application.

Any RCB funded activity that results in the creation of intangible property, including but not limited to the creation of curriculum, trainings, data or research findings is subject to the rules at 2 CFR 200.315. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.315, the Federal awarding agency reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so.

**Program Priorities.** Activities undertaken as part of, or as a result of, capacity building efforts described in this section should build pipelines and support the implementation of other HUD housing and community development programs, in addition to issues related to comprehensive neighborhood revitalization activities.

Through these activities, grantees are encouraged to align with and support projects that

create opportunities for investments focused on job growth, economic recovery, and neighborhood revitalization. Additionally, grantees are encouraged to consider how CDCs and CHDOs may align investments with regional planning for sustainable economic development if such efforts are underway in the jurisdiction.

RCB program priorities should focus on:

- supporting homeownership and affordable housing in general,
- activities that support homeownership,
- organizations assisting veterans,
- organizations assisting first-responders,
- organization assisting people with disabilities,
- organizations that assist the homeless population achieve self-sufficiency and stable housing,
- Organizations should engage in opportunities to use federal and state owned lands as described in the MOU between HUD and DOI.

# IV. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

## IV. Application Contents and Forms

### A. Standard Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

### B. Budget

### C. Narratives and Other Attachments

### D. Other Application Content

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## IV. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Applications must include three main elements: a) standard forms, assurances, and certifications; b) budget; and c) narratives and other attachments. The content, forms, and format for each element are included in this section.

You may use this section as a checklist to ensure you submit a complete application.

If you don't provide the required documents in the correct format, your application is incomplete.

Do not submit password protected or encrypted files.

**Page Limitation and Font Size.** The narrative addressing the Five Factors is limited to no more than 40 typed single spaced pages using a Times New Roman standard 12-point font (footnotes and endnotes may be presented in size 10 font).

1. All applicants should include the applicant's name, UEI number, and page number on each page of the narrative. HUD will not review more than 40 single spaced pages for all Five Factors. The page limit does not include the Indirect Cost rate determination, HUD Form 4130 Multi-Year Budget, or any of the other required documents that are provided as attachments.

2. **Prohibition on Materials Not Required.** Materials other than what is requested in this NOFO are prohibited. Reviewers will not consider resumes, charts, letters, or any other documents attached to the application that are not specified or requested in this NOFO.

3. **Additional Information on the RCB program and Frequently Asked Questions.** HUD may provide a summary of Frequently Asked Questions. Please check the RCB program webpage on the HUD website at [Section 4 and Rural Capacity Building Programs | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

4 Applicants should include a one page abstract with the application. The abstract should include the following information:

- Grantee Name
- Grantee Address
- Project Name
- Project Director
- Project Director Contact Information
- Purpose
- Activities to be performed- please list program priorities that are being addressed from the program priorities section of the NOFO
- SMART Goals (Program Level and Project Level)
- Expected Targets
- Deliverables and Expected Outcomes

- Subrecipient Activities
- Requested Amount
- Leverage
- Approved Indirect Cost Rate

5 Threshold Summary: A Threshold Summary must be included at the beginning of the narrative portion of the application and it will count against the narrative page limit.

HUD reserves the right to review publicly available information (e.g., organizational website, IRS website <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>) to verify that application materials are consistent with such information.

To accurately determine the applicant's eligibility, the Threshold Summary must clearly identify specific activities and cite the:

- HUD Region where the activity was conducted;
- State(s) within the HUD Region where the activity was conducted;
- Type and mode (e.g. onsite, online, etc.) of eligible activity (e.g. loans, grants, trainings);
- Name and type of eligible beneficiary of the activity;
- Year(s) the activity was conducted (years must be specific; do not cite any activity older than 10 years.); and
- Amount of funding expended on this activity.

HUD Region Represented	State(s) Served within the HUD Region	Type and Mode of Eligible Activity	Name and Type of Beneficiary(ies) Served (no more than 5 examples for each)	Specific Year(s) Conducted	Total Amount of Funding for this Activity
8	MT	Grant: Direct provision of funds following an RFP process	My Town CDC, CDC	2019	\$15,000
5	WI, MN	Grant: Direct provision of funds following an RFP process	Your Town, Inc., CHDO, Happy Meadow, Inc., CDC	2018, 2019, 2020	\$50,000

			Town of Smallville, local government		
7	MO	Training: Onsite	Homes for Our Town, Rural Housing Development Organization Building our Community, CDC	2022	\$17,000

If a single activity or type of activity was conducted in multiple HUD regions, or if the beneficiaries crossed HUD regions, please list the activity separately such that only one HUD Region is represented per row. To establish national scope, applicants need only present one example of relevant work that meets the criteria for a National Organization for each of the minimum eight regions that they have worked in. In addition, it is expected that the work presented in this Threshold Summary will be consistent with the applicant's narrative in Factor 1 for experience. The Threshold Summary will not affect the applicant's overall score on the application; it will only be used to determine the organization's eligibility to apply for RCB program funding.

As a reminder, the Threshold Summary should be included at the beginning of the applicant's program narrative prior to the response to the Five Factors.

Element	Submission Form
Standard Forms, Assurances, and Certifications	Upload using each required form.
Budget	Use the required budget form.
Narratives and Other Attachments	Insert each in the Attachments form.

40 pages is the total maximum length of all narratives.

Other

Narratives are limited to a total of 40 typed pages of single-spaced.

- Paper size: 8.5" x 11"
- Margins: Minimum of 1 inch on all sides
- Line spacing: Single-spaced
- Font: Times New Roman, 12-point (10-point font may be used for footnotes and

endnotes only)

- Header Information:

Each narrative page must include:

- **Applicant's name**
- **UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) number**
- **Page numbers**

HUD will **only review the first 40 pages** of narrative content submitted for:

- Factors 1-5
- Threshold Summary
- Abstract

#### **Exclusions from Page Limit:**

The following required attachments **do not count towards the 40-page narrative limit**:

- Letters of Firm Commitment (for leveraging documentation)
- Indirect Cost Rate documentation
- Non-Profit Status documentation
- HUD Form 4130: Multi-Year Budget
- Any other required supporting documents submitted as attachments

Applicants must strictly adhere to these instructions. Failure to comply may result in portions of your application not being reviewed.

### **A. Standard Forms, Assurances, and Certifications**

You must properly complete and submit with your application the standard forms, assurances, and certifications identified below. You can find all forms in the application package or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#). You can also [read more about standard forms](#) on HUD's Funding Opportunities page.

<b>Forms/Assurances/ Certifications</b>	<b>Submission Requirement</b>	<b>Notes/Description</b>
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	Required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: SF-424
Applicant and Recipient Assurances and Certifications (HUD 424-B)	Required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: HUD-424B
Applicant/Recipient	Required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Disclosure/Update Report (HUD 2880)		File name: HUD-2880
Certification Regarding Lobbying	Required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: Lobbying Certification form
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable, required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: SF-LLL

You may correct [technical errors](#) in any required forms during the allowable period, except for the SF-424 or any forms associated with merit review, which must be complete and accurate upon initial submission.

## B. Budget

You must submit a budget with your application to support your project narrative.

At a minimum, your budget must indicate direct and any indirect costs.

Applicants are required to provide documentation identifying the federally negotiated indirect cost rate from the cognizant agency that shows the approved rate or provide an attachment that states that the de minimis rate of 15% Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) will be used. Refer to Section III.E Indirect Cost Rate, for full details on this requirement.

Budget Form/Document	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Multi-Year Budget (HUD 4130)	Required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: HUD Form 4130 Form location: Download Instructions
Indirect Cost Information Certification (HUD-426)	Required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: ICR Doc. Form location: Download Instructions

## C. Narratives and Other Attachments

If applicable, you must upload narrative and other attachments in [Grants.gov](#) using the Attachments Form. When using the Attachments Form, you can upload PDF, Word or Excel formats.

Document	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Abstract	Required with the application	Page limit: One page Include as cover page to rating factor responses
Response to Rating Factors	Required with the application	See <a href="#">Section V.B</a> File name: Narrative Rating Factors
Threshold Summary before rating factors	Required with the application	
Nonprofit Status – Documentation	If applicable, this document is required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File Name: Nonprofit Status
Code of Conduct	If not included in <a href="#">HUD's eLibrary</a> , this document is required with the application	Page limit: Not applicable File name: Code <a href="#">Acceptable Content</a>

#### D. Other Application Content

Document	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Negotiated HUD Form(s) 4130	The applicant must provide documents once the notification of the award is made	Page limit: Not applicable File name: HUD Form 4130
A signed Indirect Cost Form	The applicant must provide documents once the notification of the awards is made	Page limit: Not applicable File name: ICR Doc
A signed HUD Form 1044	HUD will send the form to applicant for signature and processing.	Page limit: Not applicable File name: HUD Form 1044

A signed Grant Agreement	HUD will send the form to applicant for signature and processing.	Page limit: Not applicable File name: Grant Agreement
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## 1. Technical Application Errors

HUD will contact you to fix a technical error with your timely application after the due date. Technical errors, if corrected, do not affect (positive or negative) your merit rating under this NOFO. Examples of technical errors include, but are not limited to: inconsistencies in funding requests; a missing or incomplete form or certification; failure to submit an otherwise sufficient application under the correct Assistance Listings number or Funding Opportunity Number in Grants.gov; improper signature on a form or certification; and missing or inappropriate eligibility documentation.

HUD will send notice to the [authorized organization representative](#) to fix a technical error. You must respond timely and appropriately to HUD's notice (see [submission requirements](#)).

Your application is not eligible for funding if you fail to fix the error to HUD's satisfaction by the due date in HUD's notice. HUD will not review information submitted after the due date in HUD's notice.

# V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

## V. Application Review Information

### A. Threshold Review

### B. Merit Review

### C. Risk Review

### D. Selection Process

### E. Award Notices

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## V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### A. Threshold Review

**When you apply:** Your application is reviewed to make sure it meets the threshold requirements of this NOFO. If your application has a [technical error](#), HUD will allow you to [correct it](#). If you fail to meet **any** of the threshold requirements, your application is **not** eligible for HUD funding. If you do meet the threshold requirements, your application moves to [Merit Review](#) (the next step).

#### 1. Timely Application Submission

Late applications are not evaluated and not eligible for funding. See deadlines in [Section VI](#).

#### 2. Complete Application

If your application is timely, HUD will confirm completeness. Your application is considered for funding if it is complete and responsive to the requirements in this NOFO. If your application is incomplete, HUD will ask you to fix any [technical errors](#). Otherwise, incomplete and nonresponsive applications are not considered for funding.

#### 3. Eligible Applicant

Upon receipt, HUD will confirm whether you are an [eligible applicant](#). Applications from ineligible applicants do not proceed to [merit review](#) and are not eligible for HUD funding.

HUD will use your Threshold Summary to determine your eligibility as an applicant and whether your application is rated.

### B. Merit Review

If your application meets the threshold requirements, a panel will review and score its merits. The panel may include HUD employees and non-employees. They will evaluate your application based on the following criteria. The results of the evaluation are shared with senior HUD officials who make the [final decisions about funding](#) consistent with this NOFO.

#### Merit Review Summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
Rating Factor 1: Capacity of the Applicants and Relevant Organizational Experience	20 points
Rating Factor 2: Extent of the Problem and Need for Capacity Building	9 points
Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach	32 points
Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources	10 points
Rating Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation	29 points
Total	100 points

#### 1. Rating Factors

Your application must include a response to the following criteria.

## Rating Factors Details

Criterion	Max points = 100
<b>Rating Factor 1: Capacity of Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience</b>	20 max points
<p>Describe your organization's capacity to manage federal grants and implement eligible Rural Capacity Building (RCB) activities with rural organizations. A minimum of 9 points is required to be considered for funding under this factor. Applicants are required to score a minimum of 4 points in both Organizational Capacity and Eligible Activity Experience in Rural Areas, including in Rural Opportunity Zones, in order to be considered for funding under this factor.</p> <p>You must be prepared to launch the RCB program immediately upon award and have the management, organizational, and financial capacity to do so. RCB funds must only support activities that assist eligible beneficiaries; they cannot be used to build your own organizational capacity.</p> <p>Demonstrate experience and readiness in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project management</li> <li>2. Rapid program design and launch</li> <li>3. Financial management</li> <li>4. Contract and subrecipient oversight (if applicable)</li> <li>5. Outcome tracking and evaluation</li> <li>6. Accountability, quality control, monitoring, and internal audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200</li> </ol> <p><b>Organizational Capacity (10 points)</b></p> <p>Demonstrate sufficient management, financial, and programmatic capacity by addressing the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Management Capacity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the organizational structure as it relates to staff managing the RCB grant.</li> <li>• Include an RCB-specific organizational chart with brief role summaries of key staff overseeing the program and funds.</li> <li>• Highlight the experience and qualifications of staff responsible for managing federal grants and implementing the RCB program.</li> <li>• Explain the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously, including those with various partners and across different geographic areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>If any part of the RCB program will be managed by contractors, explain the reasons and benefits for using contractors for FY 2025. Describe the selection process used or planned for procuring qualified individuals or organizations to carry out these responsibilities.</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p>Do not include résumés or any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) beyond names and titles (see 2 CFR 200.1 for more information on PII).</p>	
<p>Focus on the key staff managing the RCB program and delivering eligible activities. If any positions are vacant or contingent upon award, identify the staffing gaps and explain how and when they will be filled.</p>	
<p>If currently funded under a previous RCB grant, describe past performance in managing federal funds, meeting leverage commitments, and complying with HUD’s financial and monitoring requirements. HUD will evaluate past performance based on Sections V.B.1 and V.B.2 of this NOFO.</p>	
<p><b>1.Capacity to Deliver Eligible Activities</b></p>	
<p>Identify the skilled and experienced key personnel responsible for delivering proposed eligible capacity building activities in rural areas. If any roles are unfilled, describe your plan to recruit or procure individuals with expertise in capacity building for rural housing and community development providers. Demonstrate your ability to carry out each proposed eligible activity. Clearly identify skills and experience working with veterans, the homeless, the disabled, first-responders and affordable housing programs.</p>	
<p>If contractors or subrecipients will be used to support delivery of eligible RCB activities, explain the reasons for this approach. Describe the selection process whether through recruitment or procurement for securing qualified individuals or organizations to deliver capacity-building activities to eligible beneficiaries. This description must align with your program activity approach in Factor 3.</p>	
<p><b>2. Financial Capacity</b></p>	
<p>Demonstrate the ability to manage and expend federal funds efficiently, in compliance with grant requirements. HUD will assess this based on your status as a new or currently funded applicant:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Applicants</b> (no RCB grant awards from FY 2019–FY 2024)</li> </ul>	
<p>Demonstrate that a financial management system is in place to manage and produce data relevant to federal grants.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe key components of the system</li> <li>• List financial reports regularly reviewed by senior management and HUD</li> <li>• Identify the reports that will be used to manage the RCB program</li> <li>• Explain how the system has supported successful implementation of similar-sized or comparable grants</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Currently Funded Applicants</b> (managing one or more RCB grants from FY 2019–FY 2024)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>i. Financial Management System</b></p>	
<p>Demonstrate that a financial management system is in place to manage and generate data</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p>relevant to federal grants, including current RCB awards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe system components</li> <li>• List financial reports regularly reviewed by senior management and HUD</li> <li>• Identify the reports to be used for FY 2025 RCB implementation</li> <li>• Explain how the system has supported timely and successful execution of similar or past RCB grants</li> </ul> <p><b>ii. Timely Expenditure and Disbursement</b></p> <p>Describe the timeliness of expenditures and disbursements for RCB grants awarded from FY 2019 to FY 2024, using data from HUD’s Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS)/DRGR as of 30 days prior to this NOFO’s published due date.</p> <p>Include the following information for each RCB grant awarded from FY 2019–2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LOCCS/DRGR data pull date</li> <li>• Award amount for each grant year</li> <li>• Amount and percentage committed to eligible activities (based on a HUD-approved activity plan)</li> <li>• Amount and percentage disbursed (as of LOCCS data no later than 30 days before this NOFO’s published due date)</li> <li>• Remaining undisbursed balance for each award</li> </ul> <p>HUD will evaluate past performance based on timely fund commitment and disbursement, using benchmark expectations in the table below. This includes completion, return of unspent funds, or applicable extensions for FY 2018 awards.</p> <p>HUD will calculate the drawdown rate by comparing the amount disbursed (as of the LOCCS pull date) to the total award for each grant year. Applicants will be evaluated proportionally based on the number of awards received, with scoring focused on performance not quantity of awards. Points will reflect the applicant’s ability to draw down funds in a timely manner, based on the grant start dates.</p> <p><b>Eligible Activity Experience in Rural Areas, including in Rural Opportunity Zones (10 points)</b></p> <p>Describe your organization’s experience in rural areas, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capacity building for rural organizations through RCB-eligible activities that support affordable housing and community development for eligible beneficiaries</li> <li>2. Efforts to increase rural participation in HUD, USDA-Rural Development, and other federal programs, including your own experience with these programs</li> <li>3. Research on national rural conditions and participation in communities of practice with researchers and national rural housing organizations</li> </ol>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p>4. Capacity building, training, and strategic investment advice for rural organizations that are operating in Opportunity Zone areas</p> <p>Include details on the type and scale of activities performed, and the type and geographic reach of rural organizations served. Include experience working organizations that serve the homeless, veterans, affordable housing programs, the disabled, and first-responders.</p>	
<p><b>Rating Factor 2: Extent of the Problem and Need for Capacity Building</b></p>	9 max points
<p>Describe the capacity building needs of eligible beneficiaries in rural areas, with emphasis on the specific rural areas where FY 2025 RCB funds will be used. Clearly explain the nature and scope of those needs in relation to the eligible activities and priorities outlined in Section III.F. Support the description with credible, reliable, and quantitative data.</p> <p><b>Need for Capacity Building in Rural Areas</b></p> <p><b>1. Affordable Housing and Community Development Needs (3 points)</b></p> <p>Describe the general socioeconomic needs of rural communities, families, and individuals. This may include housing, economic conditions, health, accessibility, education, infrastructure, and related issues. If specific rural areas are targeted, address the distinct needs of those communities Needs should not focus on illegal alien populations. Needs should focus on veterans, the homeless, physically disabled and first-responders.</p> <p><b>2. Capacity Building Needs of Eligible Beneficiaries in Rural Areas (3 points)</b></p> <p><b>a. Beneficiary Needs</b></p> <p>Based on the general socioeconomic needs of rural communities, describe the specific capacity building needs of organizations providing affordable housing and community development services to address those challenges.</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p><b>b. Needs of Emerging Organizations</b> Identify the capacity building needs of organizations aiming to conduct community development or affordable housing activities in rural areas that lack designated Community Development Corporations (CDCs) or Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs).</p> <p><b>c. HUD Program Access and Administration</b> Describe the capacity needs of organizations in rural areas seeking to improve their ability to obtain, administer, and manage HUD programs.</p> <p><b>d. Ability to Utilize Opportunity Zones</b> Describe the capacity needs of organizations or communities that would benefit from targeted investments in Opportunity Zone areas.</p> <p><b>3. Data Quality (3 points)</b> Support all descriptions of community and beneficiary needs with objective, high-quality data. Acceptable sources include the most recent U.S. Census, American Housing Survey, state or local Consolidated Plans, HUD program reports (via HUD Exchange or HUD User), or other relevant, reliable sources published within the past five years. If using internally collected data, ensure it is recent, reliable, and replicable. Provide a brief explanation of the research methods used for data collection and analysis.</p>	
<b>Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach</b>	32 max points
<p>Present a clear, cost-effective plan to build the capacity of eligible beneficiaries based on the needs identified in Factor 2. HUD will evaluate the strength of the proposed approach, including how well proposed activities address specific capacity building needs and how effectively resources are used. The plan must demonstrate a direct connection between</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p>identified needs and proposed activities.</p> <p>Include the following elements in the narrative:</p> <p><b>1. Description of Activities (12 points)</b></p> <p>Clearly describe the overall strategic vision and approach to capacity building, outlining the eligible activities (as defined in Section III.F) proposed to address the needs identified in Factor 2. Explain how each activity is feasible and practical for meeting those needs. Specify methods of execution, for example, whether training will be conducted on-site, virtually, or recorded for later use.</p> <p>The organization is expected to carry out the majority of RCB activities. If contractors or subrecipients will be used, explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Why they are needed</li> <li>ii. The extent of their involvement</li> <li>iii. The estimated percentage of total RCB activities they will carry out</li> </ul> <p>Do not propose activities under the third eligible activity in Section III.F, except for RCB-related administration work. These activities can only be approved post-award through the action plan process. Proposing them in this application will result in a one-point reduction. Any narrative related to ineligible activities will not be reviewed and such activities will be removed from the awarded budget.</p> <p><b>b. Rationale and Effectiveness of Approach</b></p> <p>Explain how the proposed activities were determined to be cost-effective and how their delivery method will enable eligible beneficiaries to strengthen their ability to carry out specific housing and community development activities. Briefly state the evidence or research supporting the selected activities and their integration into the RCB program. Include any past experience that your organization has in serving rural communities that informs these determinations.</p> <p>To receive full credit, clearly explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Why each activity and delivery method were selected for the FY 2025 RCB program</li> <li>ii. Why this represents the most effective and cost-efficient approach to address identified beneficiary needs</li> <li>iii. How the activities will lead to measurable capacity gains, enabling beneficiaries to begin housing, community, or economic development work by the end of the grant term</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Implementation Process and Plan to Conduct Activities (20 points)</b></p> <p>Describe how the proposed capacity building activities will be designed, organized, implemented, and managed in compliance with RCB program requirements. If planning to use an internal Request for Proposals (RFP) process to select eligible beneficiaries, provide a summary of that process and its alignment with the proposed timeline.</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p>HUD will evaluate the clarity and completeness of the implementation plan, including how it addresses the needs identified in Factor 2 and how it ensures timely and effective delivery of activities in rural areas. Specifically include the target populations of veterans, the homeless, persons with physical disabilities.</p> <p>To receive full credit, describe how the proposed activities will be implemented and managed under a FY 2025 grant award, including:</p> <p><b>a. Method and Process for Activity Delivery</b></p> <p>Describe how the proposed activities will be implemented and managed. Explain the process for directing FY 2025 RCB funds, such as through an internal RFP or other selection method.</p> <p><b>b. Proposed Eligible Beneficiaries</b></p> <p>Describe how eligible beneficiaries will be identified and selected. If beneficiaries are already known, identify them and explain the selection process. Include information related to targeting beneficiaries in Opportunity Zone areas.</p> <p><b>c. Rural Area Geographic Determination</b></p> <p>Explain how rural areas will be selected for RCB fund use. Describe the process and criteria used, referencing the needs identified in Factor 2. While specific locations aren't required, regions may be named. If specific rural areas are already selected, identify them and explain the rationale. If specific Opportunity Zone areas are already selected, identify them.</p> <p><b>d. Support for HUD Programs and Planning Processes</b></p> <p>Describe how the proposed rural capacity building activities will enhance other HUD programs, as well as other federal initiatives like Opportunity Zones, and local Consolidated Plans in the target communities. Connect the activities to both the needs identified in Factor 2, including access to HUD programs. Describe how the work supports other federal programs and goals, such as USDA-Rural Development and the goal of increasing the housing workforce and supply.</p> <p><b>e. Budget</b></p> <p>Complete a four-year budget using Form HUD-4130, showing annual costs for managing and delivering the FY 2025 RCB program. Follow the form's instructions and address the specific cost areas listed for each program year:</p> <p><b>i. Grant Management Administration Costs</b></p> <p>List administrative costs related to: Personnel (Direct Labor); Fringe Benefits; Travel (administration only); Equipment (&gt;\$5,000 depreciated value); Supplies (&lt;\$5,000 depreciated value); Contractors and Consultants (for administration); and Indirect Costs.</p> <p><b>ii. Planning and Administrative Costs</b></p> <p>Include general management, oversight, coordination, evaluation, and reporting costs that are not directly tied to eligible activity delivery. These may include salaries, wages, and</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<p>related administrative expenses.</p> <p><b>iii. Eligible Activity Delivery Costs</b></p> <p>Provide cost breakdowns for the first and second eligible activities in Section III.F (e.g., training, financial assistance). Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Labor and fringe benefits</li> <li>• Travel</li> <li>• Contractors and Consultants (including subrecipients and estimated or known hourly rates)</li> <li>• Financial Assistance to Beneficiaries (if applicable)</li> <li>• Equipment (&gt;\$5,000 depreciated value per activity)</li> <li>• Supplies (&lt;\$5,000 depreciated value per activity)</li> <li>• Indirect Costs</li> </ul> <p><b>iv. Leverage</b></p> <p>Apply committed leverage amounts to relevant budget lines. While a “Match” column appears on the form, matching is not required and may be left blank. Leverage listed for Factor 4 must align with Letters of Firm Commitment. Additional funding or federal funds not counted as leverage may be included as “Other Funding Sources.”</p> <p><b>v. Grand Totals</b></p> <p>Ensure total HUD funding requested matches the amount shown in the application. Leverage totals must align with submitted Letters of Firm Commitment.</p> <p><b>vi. Written Budget Narrative</b></p> <p>Go beyond the budget form to explain assumptions behind each line item and how each connects to the program design and proposed activities. Address the rationale for using consultants or subrecipients, including how hourly rates were determined.</p> <p><b>vii. Schedule</b></p> <p>Provide a four-year schedule showing expected completion of activities each year. The schedule must align with the year-to-year budget and proposed program activities. Early completion may be proposed, but the schedule must still show the full four-year timeline.</p> <p><b>viii. Options for Scaling Activities</b></p> <p>Identify how activities can be adjusted if awarded less than the fully requested amount. Include a ranked list of proposed activities or provide a narrative prioritizing RCB program components to guide HUD in award determinations.</p>	
<b>Rating Factor 4: Leverage</b>	10 max points
Leverage serves as an indicator of community support and commitment for the proposed	

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Max points = 100</b>		
<p>RCB program activities. HUD will evaluate your ability to secure leverage from public/private and/or nonprofit sector resources (such as financing, supplies and/or services) other than RCB grant funds or other federal funds. Leverage should enhance your proposed RCB program and its ability to perform eligible activities during the grant period.</p> <p>To determine your eligible leverage commitment, you must submit a leverage summary. The leverage summary must identify sources of leverage (as described in the letters of firm commitment). Each letter submitted should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be printed on the letterhead of the organization providing the leverage resource;</li> <li>2. Include the name of the organization committing the leverage resource;</li> <li>3. Clearly state the RCB Applicant's name as the recipient of the proposed leverage resource(s);</li> <li>4. Describe the type of commitment (e.g., cash or in-kind), any restrictions on the commitment (e.g., geographic reach), and the proposed dollar value of the leverage commitment;</li> <li>5. Confirm that the leveraging funds are not tied to a federal funding source;</li> <li>6. State the specific period of time that the funds are available, or if they have an unrestricted time frame;</li> <li>7. Explain how the leverage commitment specifically enhances and contributes to your proposed RCB program activities in this application; and</li> <li>8. Be signed and dated by an official of the organization committing the leverage resource who is legally able to make commitments on behalf of the organization. The date of the signature must occur after the date of publication of this RCB NOFO.</li> </ol> <p>The table below is an example of how applicants can present their Leverage Summary.</p>			
<b>Entity providing firm commitment</b>	<b>Dollar amount</b>	<b>Corresponding activity</b>	<b>Type of commitment (in-kind, cash etc).</b>
XYZ	50,000	Training	Cash
ABC	10,000	Financial assistance	In kind
JHU	40,000	Financial assistance	Cash
<b>Total leverage amount</b>	/100,000		

Criterion		Max points = 100	
<b>Total amount of grant request</b>	1,000,000		
<b>Percentage of leverage</b> (calculated as the leverage amount divided by the total grant request 100,000/1,000,000 and multiplied by 100)	10%		
<p>Application of leverage funds</p> <p>You must explain how you will use the committed leverage funding to support the proposed program activities. Weight should be given to demonstrating leverage from a variety of sources (public, private, nonprofit). Describe how leverage will enhance your proposed RCB program. Be consistent with the information presented in the Leverage Summary, Letters of Firm Commitment and with the leverage amounts and information presented in the budget in Factor 3.</p>			
<b>Rating Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation</b>		29 max points	
<p><b>1. Performance Plan with Expected Performance Outputs and Outcomes (13 points):</b></p> <p>Provide a description of the performance plan. To receive full credit the performance plan must incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overarching RCB program performance goals;</li> <li>• Specific planned outputs, with numeric goals;</li> <li>• Specific planned outcomes, with numeric goals; and</li> <li>• A timeline for the achievement of performance outputs and outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>Planned outputs and outcomes may be taken from the list of examples below, or you may propose other quantifiable output or outcome measures that apply to the activities proposed in Factor 3. All proposed outcome measures must clearly demonstrate how eligible beneficiaries improved skills, technical capabilities, and ability to undertake community development and affordable housing activities will be identified and measured.</p> <p>Possible Outputs from the Implementation of RCB Activities</p> <p>General Outputs for all Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals served</li> </ul>			

Criterion	Max points = 100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of CDCs/CHDOs, RHDOs, Tribes, and local governments served</li> <li>• Number of organizations served (used in rare occasions like at an open training at a conference)</li> <li>• Number of HUD Regions served</li> <li>• Number of states served</li> <li>• Number of surveys distributed to eligible beneficiaries (CDCs, CHDOs, RHDOs, tribes etc)</li> <li>• Additional units of affordable housing produced or preserved as a result of increased rural capacity</li> <li>• Number of new Public-Private Partnerships formed</li> <li>• Number of veterans organization served</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Eligible Activity 1: Training and Education Outputs (3 points)</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of engagements/trainings offered</li> <li>• Number of peer-to-peer learning events</li> <li>• Number of publications created, and their projected reach.</li> <li>• Number of curricula developed, and their projected reach.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Eligible Activity 2: Financial Assistance Outputs (10 points)</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals receiving financial assistance to attend training</li> <li>• Dollar amount of financial assistance provided to individuals to attend training</li> <li>• Number of grants awarded</li> <li>• Dollar amount of grants awarded</li> <li>• Median award amount of grants</li> <li>• Number of grant applications received</li> <li>• Number of loans made</li> <li>• Dollar amount of loans made</li> <li>• Median loan amounts</li> <li>• Number of loan applications received</li> <li>• Number of paid jobs created within the beneficiary organization(s)</li> <li>• Number of units of new affordable housing produced</li> <li>• Number of rehabilitated, repaired, or preserved units of affordable housing</li> </ul>

Criterion	Max points = 100
<b>Expected Outcomes for Eligible Beneficiaries that Result from Receiving RCB Activity Engagements</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and dollar amount of community programs supported</li> <li>• Number of veterans programs supported</li> <li>• Number of tribal programs supported</li> <li>• Number of homeless programs supported</li> <li>• Number of programs assisting physically disabled persons</li> <li>• Jobs</li> <li>• Number of jobs created from the beneficiary's work</li> <li>• Median job salary of jobs created from the beneficiary's work</li> <li>• Number of jobs created for veterans</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Number of new housing units in the development process by the beneficiary</li> <li>• Number of new housing units created by the beneficiary</li> <li>• Number of housing units preserved, repaired, or rehabilitated by the beneficiary</li> <li>• Business</li> <li>• Number of businesses assisted by the beneficiary</li> <li>• Number of veterans business assisted by beneficiary</li> <li>• Number of businesses created through the beneficiary's work</li> <li>• Number of units of affordable housing produced, preserved, or rehabilitated as a result of increased local capacity</li> <li>• Number of housing activities, as noted above, targeting veteran populations</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Utilization of Opportunity Zones (4 points): You should provide evidence, in the performance plan described in subsection 1 above, of planned activities that enhance local partners' knowledge of, and ability to utilize, investments in Opportunity Zones within their operational areas.</b></p>	
<p><b>Possible Outputs to demonstrate this subfactor can include (not an exhaustive list):</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings provided to CDCs and CHDOs on utilization of Opportunity Zones</li> <li>• Materials, Briefings, or Playbooks generated that outline leading practices in Opportunity Zones</li> </ul>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals trained in Opportunity Zone utilization</li> <li>• Grants awarded for planning and implementation of Opportunity Zone development strategies</li> <li>• Loans made for planning and implementation of Opportunity Zone utilization strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected Outcomes to demonstrate this subfactor can include (not an exhaustive list):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of entities that take advantage of the benefits provided by Opportunity Zones areas</li> <li>• Number of communities that generate strategic plans that target Opportunity Zone development</li> <li>• Number of CDCs or CHDOs that generate strategic investment strategies that target Opportunity Zone development</li> <li>• Number of businesses assisted within Opportunity Zone areas</li> <li>• <b>Jobs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of jobs created within Opportunity Zone areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of new housing units created within Opportunity Zones areas</li> <li>○ Number of housing units preserved, repaired, or rehabilitated within Opportunity Zone areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of businesses created within Opportunity Zone areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>3 Performance Evaluation Plans (4 points): Clearly describe detailed plans for evaluating the effectiveness of your RCB program. The plan must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Internal Organizational Evaluation of the Applicant's Management of the RCB Program Operation:</i> Describe how you will assess and evaluate the internal operations and processes for managing and administering the RCB program grant award during the Period of Performance.</li> <li>• <i>Evaluation of RCB Program Effectiveness and Delivery:</i> Describe the process for how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the RCB program and activities proposed in Factor 3, including you will evaluate the performance plan within the Period of Performance of the RCB grant award. The narrative will be rated on the:</li> <li>• the extent to which the evaluation plan includes outcomes that are specific, measurable, and appropriate in relation to the activities proposed.</li> </ul>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The measures should demonstrate the expected improved organizational development of eligible beneficiaries.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Past Performance (8 points)</b></p> <p>a. <i>New Applicants:</i> If you have not received an RCB award within the past 5 years you must describe your past performance on at least one other grant that is similar in scope (i.e. building the capacity of organizations that would qualify as RCB eligible beneficiaries through the provision training and/or financial assistance) to the RCB grant program you have managed within the past 5 years. To receive credit, applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State the source of the similar grant award;</li> <li>• State the name of the grant award program (if applicable);</li> <li>• Provide a brief and relevant description of the program;</li> <li>• Describe the type of comparable activity(ies) that it conducted with the similar grant program; and</li> <li>• Provide a brief summary of the results, outputs, and outcomes of its work through that grant program.</li> </ul> <p>Past performance will be assessed by successfully delivering on RCB program comparable program outputs and outcomes that resulted in positive outcomes in improving the ability of organizations that would qualify as RCB program eligible beneficiaries to provide affordable housing and community development.</p> <p>Specifically, you should show you were able to achieve any comparable outputs and outcomes from the list of quantifiable measures listed under element 1 of Factor 5 of this NOFO, or other relevant measures.</p> <p><i>(Currently RCB Funded Applicants):</i> If you have received an RCB grant award in the last five years (FY 2019-FY 2024) You will be assessed on past performance in delivering on program outputs and outcomes achieved. Provide a narrative explaining your RCB program delivery performance within the last five years. HUD will evaluate past RCB performance to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• timeliness,</li> <li>• cost-effectiveness, and</li> <li>• resulted in positive outcomes in the delivery of capacity building activities for eligible beneficiaries in improving their ability to provide affordable housing and community development.</li> </ul> <p>Use information from previous or current RCB program grant awards to describe how RCB program activities contributed to, or resulted in, the achievement of program goals and outcomes using the list of quantifiable measures listed under element 1 of Factor 5 of this NOFO, or other relevant measures. Include examples of increases</p>	

Criterion	Max points = 100
and improvements in affordable housing and community development program accomplishments as a result of building the capacity of eligible beneficiaries.	

**This program does not offer points for Section 3.**

## 2. Policy Initiative Preference Points

Preference points are added to your overall application score. You do not need to address the policy initiatives in this section to receive an award. If you choose to address a policy initiative in your application, you must adhere to the information with any award.

## 3. Other Factors

Your application must respond to the following additional criteria.

### a. Budget

The panel will evaluate but not approve the budget. The panel will assess whether the budget aligns with planned program activities and objectives. Panel members will consider whether the budget and the requested performance period are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed project.

### Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

You must ensure that the activities in your application are [consistent with your local Consolidated Plan](#).

## C. Risk Review

Before making any awards, HUD will evaluate each applicant's likelihood of successfully carrying out the project. Here's what HUD looks at:

### Past Performance:

- Government-wide performance data, as noted in [2 CFR 200.206\(a\)](#)
- Public sources like news reports, Inspector General findings, Government Accountability Office reports, and complaints proven to have merit
- History of managing Federal awards (if applicable), including on-time reporting, meeting planned goals, and following previous award rules. And, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
- Reports from past audits, including those performed under 2 CFR part 200, subpart F—Audit Requirements
- History of finishing activities on time and using any promised matching or leveraged funds

### Organizational Health:

- Financial stability

- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards in 2 CFR part 200
- Ability to follow all required laws and rules
- Capacity, including staffing structures and capabilities

### Results:

- Ability to promote self-sufficiency and economic independence
- Number of people served or targeted for assistance

HUD evaluates the integrity of the applicant as reflected in government-wide websites, information in HUD's files, the federal Do Not Pay portal, public information and information received during HUD's Name Check Review process and incorporates the risk assessment criteria laid out in 2 CFR 200.206. If this integrity evaluation results in an adverse finding, HUD reserves the right to take any of the remedies provided in 2 CFR 200.339 and HUD reserves the right to impose specific grant conditions in accordance with 2 CFR 200.208.

- **Review Types.** Two types of reviews will be conducted. First, HUD will review each application to determine whether it meets threshold eligibility requirements. If an application does not meet threshold eligibility requirements, HUD will not assess the application with respect to the Rating Factors for award. Second, HUD will review and assign scores to eligible applications using the Rating Factors for Award noted under Criteria, Section V.A.
- **Threshold Eligibility Requirements.** All applicants must comply with the threshold requirements found in this NOFO and the eligibility requirements listed in Section III of this NOFO in order to be reviewed, scored, and ranked. Applications that do not meet these requirements and applications that were received after the deadline (see Section IV.D of this NOFO) will be ineligible for funding.
- **Rating.** HUD will rate all eligible applications that meet the Threshold Requirements against the criteria in Rating Factors 1 through 5 and assign a rating score. The maximum total rating score for the Rating Factors is 100 points.
  - **Minimum Rating Score.** Applicants must receive a total rating score of 75 points or more for Rating Factors 1 through 5 to be eligible for funding. In addition, applicants must earn at least 9 points for Factor 1 to be eligible for funding. HUD will reject any application that does not meet the minimum rating score requirements.
  - **Ranked Order.** HUD will place eligible applications that meet the minimum rating score requirements in ranked order and will award up to the amount requested or a lesser amount if sufficient funds are not available. Meeting a minimum score of 75 points does not guarantee a funding award will be made. HUD reserves the right to adjust funding to meet urgent policy priorities.
  - **Tie Scores.** If two or more applications have the same score, the applicant with the highest score for Rating Factor 5 of this NOFO, ("Achieving Results and Program Evaluation"), or with lower indirect cost rates, will be ranked higher. If

a tie remains, the applicant with the highest score for Rating Factor 3 of this NOFO, ("Soundness of Approach"), will be ranked higher.

- **Grant Award Adjustments.** Successful applicants selected to receive a grant award that is less than they applied for are required to participate in the negotiation process to create an updated program budget and plan reflecting the actual award offer, and to include the exclusion of any proposed ineligible activities, if applicable. In cases where HUD cannot successfully conclude negotiations on an updated program budget and plan, or if the selected applicant fails to provide HUD with requested information as part of the negotiation process in the required time frame, an award will not be made to that applicant. In such an instance, HUD may offer an award to and negotiate with another applicant.

HUD may use the results of the risk review to make final funding decisions and/or set specific conditions on the award.

## D. Selection Process

When making award funding decisions, HUD will consider:

- Threshold review results, including eligibility requirements.
- Merit review results.
- Risk review results.

To the extent allowed by law, HUD may also consider:

- The scope of the overall projected impact on the program and administrative goals and priorities in this NOFO.
- Reasonableness of the estimated costs to the government.
- The applicant's readiness to conduct the proposed work.
- Likelihood that the proposed project will result in the benefits expected.
- Broad range of recipients beyond recurrent recipients.
- Geographic dispersion.
- All else being equal, preference for applicants with lower indirect cost rates.
- Applicants with demonstrated success in implementing Gold Standard Science (applicable to research awards).
- Applicants with potential to produce immediate results and potential for longer-term, breakthrough results, based on the goals of this NOFO (applicable to research awards).

To the extent allowed by law, HUD may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.

- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.
- Withdraw an award offer and make an offer of funding to another eligible application, if terms and conditions are not finalized or met timely.
- Use additional funds made available after NOFO publication to either fully fund an application or fund additional applications.
- Correct HUD review and selection errors. If HUD commits an error that causes an applicant not to be selected, HUD may make an award to that applicant when and if funding is available.
- Release another NOFO, if funding is available and if HUD does not receive applications of merit.

## E. Award Notices

If your application is successful, HUD will email an award notice to the authorized official representative from the SF-424. HUD will also notify unsuccessful applicants.

The award notice communicates the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. The notice may also include HUD-imposed award conditions as provided under [2 CFR 200.208](#).

You agree to the award terms and conditions by either drawing funds from HUD's payment system or signing the agreement with HUD. If you do not agree to the award terms and conditions, HUD may select another eligible applicant.

HUD will send written notifications to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. Notifications will be sent by email to the person listed as the Authorized Representative in item 21 of the SF424.

A notification sent to a successful applicant is not an authorization to begin performance or to incur costs. Successful applicants will receive notification of the preliminary award decision and must submit a revised budget and plan for any amount offered that is less than original request, and they must receive final approval for an updated budget and plan (according to the deadlines set in the award notification). Once the updated budget and plan is approved, HUD will send the successful applicant a Federal Award Agreement package to be signed and returned.

Once the Federal Award Agreement is fully executed, the grantee must submit to HUD an action plan with specific activities and budgets for each initiative it proposes to implement, based on its final approved budget and plan. RCB work and program activities cannot commence unless approved as an activity in an action plan. The action plan and activities will show when and how the federal funds and matching funds will be used. The action plan and activities must be sufficiently detailed for monitoring purposes and must identify the performance goals and objectives to be achieved. HUD will approve the action plan and activities or notify the grantee of matters that need to be addressed prior to approval. Multiple action plan activities may be submitted for each grant; as such, action plan activities may be developed for less than the full dollar amount and term of the award, but no HUD-funded costs may be incurred for any work until the action plan activity is approved by HUD. All activities are also subject to the environmental requirements in Section VII. A.28 of this

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## NOFO.

Consistent with the web resources provided in Section III.F of this NOFO and the requirements at 2 CFR 200.112 and 200.318, after selection, but prior to award, applicants selected for funding will be required to provide HUD with an up-to-date copy of their written Code of Conduct. An applicant who previously submitted an application and included a copy of its Code of Conduct will not be required to submit another copy if the applicant is listed in HUD's library of the Code of Conducts for HUD Grant Programs located at [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/conductgrants](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/conductgrants) unless the information has been revised. Frequently Asked Questions for this Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) will be located at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov). The executed award notice is not intended as and does not constitute a contract. There are no monetary remedies for the grant recipient under the award notice.

# VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

## VI. Submissions Requirements and Deadlines

- A. Deadlines
- B. Submission Methods
- C. Other Submissions
- D. False Statements

## VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

You must apply electronically, unless you qualify to submit a [paper application](#). See [Find the Application Package](#) to make sure you have everything you need to apply online.

Make sure you are current with [SAM.gov](#) and UEI requirements before applying for the award. See the [Before You Begin](#) section of this NOFO.

### A. Deadlines

#### 1. Application submission deadline:

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

07/06/2026

HUD must receive your application by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline are late. Late applications are not eligible for HUD funding.

If HUD receives more than one application from you, HUD will review only the last submission.

HUD may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as Presidentially-declared natural disasters. An improper or expired registration and password issues are not causes to allow HUD to accept applications after the deadline date.

#### 2. Grace Period for Grants.gov Submissions

If [Grants.gov](#) rejects your application before the deadline, you have up to 24 hours after the application deadline to correct and resubmit your application. Any application submitted during the grace period but not received and validated by Grants.gov will not be considered for funding. There is no grace period for paper applications.

### B. Submission Methods

#### 1. Electronic Submission

You must register and submit your application through [Grants.gov](#). See [Before You Begin](#).

For instructions on how to submit in [Grants.gov](#), see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Make sure that your application passes the [Grants.gov](#) validation checks or we may not get it.

[Grants.gov](#) will record the date and time of your application submission. HUD will use this information to determine timely applications.

**Need Help?** See the [Contact and Support](#) section of this NOFO.

#### 2. Electronic Submission Application Waiver

You may request a waiver from the requirement to submit your application electronically. The request must show good cause and detail why you are technologically unable to submit electronically. An example of good cause may include: a valid power or internet service disruption in the area of your business office. Lack of [SAM.gov](#) registration is not good cause.

Use the information in the [Contact and Support](#) section of this NOFO to submit a written request to HUD. You must **submit your waiver request at least 15 calendar days before**

the application deadline.

## C. Other Submission Information

### 1. Intergovernmental Review

This NOFO is not subject to Executive Order [12372](#). No action is needed.

### 2. Technical Application Errors

HUD will contact you to fix a [technical error](#) with your timely application after the due date. Use the following submission requirements to respond to HUD's notice.

#### a. Fix Errors in Electronic Applications

To fix an error in response to a HUD notice, you must email the corrections to HUD at [applicationsupport@hud.gov](mailto:applicationsupport@hud.gov). The subject line of the email to [applicationsupport@hud.gov](mailto:applicationsupport@hud.gov) must state "Technical Fix" and include the [Grants.gov](#) application tracking number (e.g., Subject: Technical Fix - GRANT123456). If you do not email [applicationsupport@hud.gov](mailto:applicationsupport@hud.gov) or if you do not include the appropriate subject line, HUD may mark your application as ineligible.

The HUD notice will allow between 48 hours and 14 calendar days from the date of the HUD notice to fix an error. If the due date to fix an error falls on a Saturday, Sunday, Federal holiday, or on a day when HUD's Headquarters is closed, then the due date moves to the next business day.

#### b. Fix Errors in Paper Applications

You must fix an error in your paper application, in accordance with HUD's notice. If your paper application includes an incorrect UEI, HUD will request you supply the correct UEI.

## D. False Statements

By submitting an application, you acknowledge your understanding that providing false or misleading information on your application, or during any part of the performance phase of an award, can lead to serious consequences. Those consequences include but are not limited to: fines, repayment, restitution, prison time, termination of any HUD award, and being banned from receiving any future HUD award and doing business with the federal government (18 USC 1001, 18 USC 1012, 18 USC 1010, 18 USC 1014, 18 USC 287, 31 USC 3729 et seq., 31 USC 3801-3812, FAR Part 9.4, 2 CFR Part 180, other remedies in your HUD award).

# VII. POST - AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

## VII. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

- A. Administrative, National and Departmental Policy Requirements and General Terms and Conditions
- B. Environmental Requirements
- C. Remedies for Noncompliance
- D. Reporting

## VII. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

### A. Administrative, National and Departmental Policy Requirements, and General Terms and Conditions

You must follow the applicable provisions in the [Administrative, National & Departmental Policy Requirements and Terms for HUD Financial Assistance – 2026](#):

#### Administrative

3. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ([2 CFR part 200](#))

5. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) ([2 CFR part 170](#))

7. Participation in HUD-Sponsored Program Evaluation ([12 U.S.C. 1701z-1](#); 12 U.S.C. 1702z-2; [24 CFR part 60](#); and [FR-6278-N-01](#))

9. Presidential Executive Actions affecting federal financial assistance programs

- [Executive Order \(EO\) 14332](#) (*Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking*)
- [EO 14303](#) (*Restoring Gold Standard Science*)
- [EO 14219](#) (*Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*);
- [EO 14218](#) (*Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders*);
- [EO 14202](#) (*Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias*);
- [EO 14205](#) (*Establishment of the White House Faith Office*)
- [EO 14182](#) (*Enforcing the Hyde Amendment*);
- [EO 14173](#) (*Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*);
- [EO 14168](#) (*Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*)
- [EO 14151](#) (*Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*); and
- [EO 14148](#) (*Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*)

11. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements ([42 U.S.C. § 3608\(e\)\(5\)](#) and [24 CFR 5.150 et seq](#))

15. Ensuring, when possible, the consideration of small businesses, minority businesses, women's business enterprises, veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms consistent with [2 CFR 200.321](#)

16. Equal Participation of Faith-based Organizations in HUD Programs and Activities consistent with [42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.](#); [24 CFR 5.109](#); [Executive Order \(EO\) 14202](#), *Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias*; and [EO 14205](#), *Establishment of the White House Faith*

### Office

18. Applicable Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requirements in the Housing Chapter of VAWA ([34 U.S.C. § 12491-12496](#)); [24 CFR part 5, subpart L](#); and program-specific regulations

19. Trafficking in persons ([Section 106\(g\) of the Trafficking Victims Protections Act of 2000 \(TVPA\), as amended 22 U.S.C. § 7104\(g\)](#)) and implementing regulations at [2 CFR part 175](#))

### Environmental

20. Environmental requirements that apply in accordance with [24 CFR part 50](#) or [part 58](#); [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.](#)

### Business Integrity

21. Conducting Business in Accordance with Ethical Standards (Code of Conduct), including [2 CFR 200.317](#), [2 CFR 200.318\(c\)](#), and other applicable conflicts of interest requirements

22. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment ([41 U.S.C. § 3901](#) and [2 CFR 200.216](#))

23. Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Whistleblower Protections ([41 U.S.C. § 4712](#))

24. Drug-Free Workplace ([2 CFR part 2429](#))

In addition, if any part or provision of the award agreement or terms of this NOFO are enjoined or held to be void or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, they shall be ineffective as to such jurisdiction and only to the extent of such prohibition or enjoinder and shall not invalidate or affect the legality or enforceability of the remaining provisions and applications of the Agreement and Notice. In the event the enjoinder of such provisions is stayed, dissolved, or reversed, the full terms of the award agreement and NOFO, including such provisions, will automatically become effective. This clause is self-executing and will become effective, binding, and enforceable automatically upon issuance of this NOFO.

These are additional requirements that apply to this NOFO.

14321 (Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets); 14224 (Designating English as the Official Language of the United States); 14248 (Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections); 14296 (Keeping Promises to Veterans and Establishing National Center for Warrior Independence).

1. Awards made under this NOFO will not be used to conduct activities that subsidize or facilitate illegal racial preferences or other forms of illegal discrimination, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; 14332 (Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking).

2. Awards made under this NOFO will not be distributed in a way that violates or otherwise is used to interfere with constitutional protections guaranteed for speech and religious beliefs and the free exercise of religion.

3. Awards made under this NOFO will not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize or facilitate the use of illicit drugs.

4. Awards made under this NOFO will not be used to fund any project, service provider, or

organization that operates illegal drug injection sites or “safe consumption sites” in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 856.

5. All subawards made under this NOFO must comply with 200 CFR 200.332(b), which requires all agreements or contracts made with subrecipients to contain the same terms and conditions as those in the grant agreement. Any conflicting terms and conditions must be approved by HUD.

6. If any part or provision of the grant Agreement or terms of this Notice are enjoined or held to be void or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, they shall be ineffective as to such jurisdiction and only to the extent of such prohibition or injunction and shall not invalidate or affect the legality or enforceability of the remaining provisions and applications of the Agreement and Notice.

## B. Environmental Requirements

### 1. Environmental Review

Activities funded under this NOFO are exempt or categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC § 4321) and not subject to environmental review under related laws and authorities. The exemption or categorical exclusion is in accordance with 24 CFR 50.19 (b)(3), (9) and (16)

### 2. NOFO Impact Determination Related to the Environment

This NOFO does not direct, provide for assistance or loan and mortgage insurance for, or otherwise govern or regulate, real property acquisition, disposition, leasing (other than tenant-based rental assistance), rehabilitation, demolition, or new construction, or establish revise or provide for standards for construction or construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Accordingly, under [24 CFR 50.19\(c\)\(1\)](#), this NOFO is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC § 4321).

### 3. Lead-Based Paint Requirements

When providing training, education, support, and advice on education or counseling on buying or renting housing that may include pre-1978 housing, grantees must inform beneficiaries of the requirements under the Lead Disclosure Rule (24 CFR part 35, subpart A), and, if the focus of the education or counseling is on rental or purchase of HUD-assisted pre-1978 housing, the Lead Safe Housing Rule (subparts B, R, and, as applicable, F - M).

## C. Remedies for Noncompliance

HUD may terminate all or a part of your award as described under 2 CFR 200.340 through 200.343 pursuant to the terms and conditions of your award, including, to the extent authorized by law:

- if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities; or
- in the case of a partial termination, if HUD determines that the remaining portion of the award will not accomplish the purposes for which the HUD award was made.

HUD may also impose specific conditions on your award or take other remedies as described by 2 CFR 200.339 through 200.343, if you do not comply with your award terms and

conditions.

### Appeals Process for Grantees under [2 CFR 200.342](#)

Grantees have the right to object upon the initiation of a remedy for noncompliance. You have the right to appeal the decision within 60 days of receiving notice.

Below is a step-by-step guide to help you navigate the appeals process.

#### Step 1: File a Formal Appeal

- If HUD does not reverse the decision, you can submit a formal appeal within the specified time frame.
- Your appeal should include:
  1. A statement of appeal summarizing why the termination was improper.
  2. Evidence demonstrating compliance or corrective actions.
  3. Any legal or contractual arguments disputing the termination.
  4. Submit the appeal to HUD's designated office as listed in the termination notice.

#### Step 2: HUD Review & Decision

- HUD will review your appeal and issue a written response. Possible outcomes:
  1. Termination upheld – The decision stands.
  2. Termination modified – Partial reinstatement or conditions imposed.
  3. Termination reversed – Funding is restored.

.Regulation: 2 CFR § 200.341

#### Step 3: Further Appeals (Judicial Review or Administrative Hearing)

If you disagree with HUD's final decision, you may seek an administrative hearing or judicial review. For additional guidance, contact the program office.

## D. Reporting

HUD requires recipients to submit performance, financial, and program reports as outlined below. You must comply with these reporting requirements to remain eligible for HUD funding. See [Section VII.C.](#) of this NOFO.

Further, the Recipient hereby acknowledges that HUD is in the process of implementing new grants management and reporting tools for all records pertinent to the Federal award. Recipient agrees to report on grant performance and financial activities (including vendor and cash disbursement supporting details for the Recipient and its Subrecipients) using these new tools when they are released and to satisfy occasional requests for records pertinent to the federal award, consistent with the requirements for recordkeeping, access to records, and reporting laid out in 2 CFR part 200, which may be amended from time to time. HUD will work with the Recipient to support its transition to the new reporting tools. HUD reserves the right to exercise all of its available rights and remedies for any noncompliance with these grants management and financial reporting requirements, to include, without limitation, requiring additional or more detailed financial reports, suspension of disbursements, and all other

legally available remedies, to the furthest extent permitted by law.

Report	Description	When
Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awards equal to or greater than \$30,000</li> <li>Data on executive compensation and first-tier subawards</li> <li>See <a href="#">Public Law 109-282</a> and <a href="#">2 CFR part 170</a></li> <li>HUD reports initial prime recipient data to <a href="#">usaspending.gov</a></li> <li>Submit via <a href="#">SAM.gov</a></li> </ul>	See <a href="#">2 CFR Appendix A to Part 170(a)(2)(ii)</a>
Reporting on Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total value of all current Federal awards exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award</li> <li>See <a href="#">Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200</a></li> <li>Submit via <a href="#">SAM.gov</a></li> </ul>	See <a href="#">2 CFR Appendix-XII to Part 200 I.(d)</a>
Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of progress status</li> <li>Work to be performed during the next reporting period</li> <li>Any anticipated risks and plans to mitigate those risks</li> </ul>	Semi-annually
Federal Financial Report, SF-425	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of key financial data</li> <li>See <a href="#">2 CFR 200.328</a></li> </ul>	See <a href="#">2 CFR 20sm0.328</a> or award terms semi-annually

Report	Description	When
Race, Ethnicity, and Other Data Reporting	Recipients that provide HUD-funded program benefits to individuals or families, report data on the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and family characteristics of persons and households funded by this program	semi-annually
Audited financial statement	Recipient's organizational structure, any sub-grantees or sub-recipients, and how each disbursement of grant funds was applied to an eligible cost throughout the life of the grant to receive disbursements of Federal funds.	No less than annually

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# VIII. CONTACT AND SUPPORT

## VIII. [Contact and Support](#)

### A. [Agency Contact](#)

### B. [Grants.gov](#)

### C. [Sam.gov](#)

### D. [Debriefing](#)

### E. [Applicant Experience Survey](#)

### F. [Other Online Resources](#)

## VIII. CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals who have speech or communication disabilities may use a relay service. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, visit the webpage for the [Federal Communications Commission](#).

### A. Agency Contact

#### 1. Program and Application Requirements

Name: Anupama Abhyankar

Phone: (202) 402-3981

Email: [capacitybuilding@hud.gov](mailto:capacitybuilding@hud.gov)

Note: HUD's assistance is limited by the standards at [24 CFR 4.26](#).

#### 2. Paper Application Waiver Request

Name: Monica Wallace

Email: [capacitybuilding@hud.gov](mailto:capacitybuilding@hud.gov)

Phone: 202-402-2187

HUD Organization: CPD

Street: 451 7th Street SW

City: Washington

DC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

20410

**HUD Reform Act.** HUD is prohibited from disclosing [covered selection information](#) during the selection process. The selection process includes NOFO development and publication, and concludes with the announcement of selected recipients of financial assistance. HUD will not assist you with completing your application.

### B. Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 800-518-4726 or email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Hold on to your ticket number.

### C. SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 866-606-8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

### D. Debriefing

After public announcement of awards, HUD will debrief you on your application upon your written request. Submit your written request to the [agency contact for program and application requirements](#) in this NOFO. HUD may limit the information provided to protect the integrity of the competition.

For a period of at least 120 calendar days, beginning 30 calendar days after the public

announcement of awards under this NOFO, if requested, HUD will provide a debriefing related to your application. The Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) or the AOR's successor must submit a written request for debriefing via mail or email to the POC in Section VIII Agency Contact(s) of this NOFO. Information provided during a debriefing may include the final score 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.

### **E. Applicant Experience Survey**

You are encouraged to provide feedback on your application experience by completing our [Applicant Experience Survey](#). Your feedback is optional; you are not required to provide personal information. HUD may use your feedback to improve future NOFOs. Your feedback has no impact on funding decisions.

### **F. Other Online Resources**

You are encouraged to review the [online resources](#) to learn background on some of the NOFO requirements.

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# APPENDIX

## Appendix

### Appendix I Definitions

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## APPENDIX

### Appendix I. Definitions

#### 1. Standard Definitions

For standard definitions not listed below, refer to [2 CFR 200.1](#).

**Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)** - statutory obligation to affirmatively further the purposes and policies of the Fair Housing Act (see also [24 CFR 5.151](#), as amended by [90 FR 11020](#)).

**Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)** is the person with legal authority to: give assurances, make commitments, submit your application, and enter into agreements with HUD. They also have [special permissions](#) to act on behalf of their organization within the Grants.gov system.

**Consolidated Plan** has the same meaning as defined at [24 CFR part 91](#).

**E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC)** is [defined at Grants.gov](#).

**Eligibility requirements** are mandatory requirements for an application to be considered for funding.

**Grants.gov** is the website serving as the Federal government's central portal for searching and applying for federal financial assistance.

**Opportunity Zone (OZs)** are defined in [26 U.S.C. 1400Z-1](#). In general, OZs are census tracts located in low-income communities where new investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for preferential tax treatment.

**Primary Point of Contact (PPOC)** is the person HUD may contact with questions about the application submitted. The PPOC is listed in item 8F on the SF-424.

**Small business** is defined as a privately-owned corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship that has fewer employees and less annual revenue than 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 [13 CFR part 121](#).

**System for Award Management (SAM)** has the same meaning as in [2 CFR 25.100\(b\)](#).

**Threshold Requirements** are eligibility requirements you must meet before HUD rates your application for funding.

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** has the same meaning as in [2 CFR 25.100\(a\)](#).

#### 2. Program Definitions.

**Eligible Applicant:** The National Organization (defined in this RCB NOFO) applying for funding under this funding announcement. There are two types of applicants:

- *New Applicants:* National Organizations that have not been awarded RCB program funds in the past five years, from FY 2019 to FY 2024.

1. *Currently, Funded Applicants:* National Organizations that have been awarded one or more RCB program grants, in grant years FY 2019 to FY 2024.

**Eligible Beneficiary:** A local organization of one of the following types that serves a rural area(s): rural housing development organization, Community Development Corporation (CDC), Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), Local government, and/or Indian tribe.

**Capacity Building:** Capacity building is support, investment, or training used to increase an eligible beneficiary's level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational capability, so it may more effectively and efficiently implement its mission. It is a process in which eligible beneficiaries improve and increase skills, knowledge, tools, and other resources needed to serve low- and moderate- income households in local communities that need increased or improved affordable housing and community development.

**Community Development Corporation (CDC):**

1. A CDC is a nonprofit organization that meets these qualifications:

- Is organized under Federal, State, or local law to engage in community development activities (which may include housing and economic development activities) primarily within an identified geographic area of operation;
- Is governed by a board of directors composed of community residents, business leaders and civic leaders;
- Has as its primary purpose the improvement of the physical, economic or social environment of its geographic area of operation by addressing one or more critical problems of the area, with particular attention to the needs of persons of low income;
- Is neither controlled by, nor under the direction of, individuals or entities seeking to derive profit or gain from the organization;
- Has a tax exemption ruling from the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1);
- Has standards of financial accountability that conform to 2 CFR 200.302, "Financial Management" and 2 CFR 200.303, "Internal Controls"; and
- Is not an agency or instrumentality of a State or local government.

2. At the request of a recipient, HUD may determine that a nonprofit organization that does not qualify under paragraph 1(a) through (g) is a CDC if

It is a Small Business Administration (SBA) approved Section 501 State Development Company, or an SBA Certified Section 503 Company under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended (P.L. 85-699), or

The recipient demonstrates to the satisfaction of HUD, through the provision of information regarding the organization's charter and by-laws, that the organization is sufficiently similar in purpose, function, and scope to those entities qualifying under paragraphs 1(a) through (g) of this definition, or

It is a State or locally chartered organization; however, the State or local government may not have the right to appoint more than one-third of the membership of the organization's governing body and no more than one-third of the board members may be public officials or employees of the State or local government entity chartering the organization. Board members appointed by the State or local government may not appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members.

**Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO):** A CHDO is defined in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program regulation (HOME Program) at 24 CFR 92.2. The HOME Program is authorized by the HOME Investment Partnerships Act at title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.

**Consultant:** An individual who is tasked with providing valuable and pertinent advice generally drawn from a high degree of broad administrative, professional, or technical knowledge or experience. The grantee must determine whether a consultant is a subrecipient or a contractor.

**Family:** Family refers to the definition of "family" in 24 CFR 5.403. Family includes, but is not limited to, the following, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status:

1. A single person, who may be an elderly person, displaced person, a person with a disability, near-elderly person, or any other single person; or
  - a. A group of persons residing together, and such group includes, but is not limited to:
    1. A family with or without children (a child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family);
    2. An elderly family;
      - a. A near-elderly family;
      - b. A family where one or more household members is a person with a disability;
      - c. A displaced family; and
      - d. The remaining members of a tenant family.

**Household:** Household means all the persons occupying a housing unit. The occupants may be a family as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

**Local government:** To be an eligible beneficiary of the RCB program, a local government must be located in a rural area, or be serving rural areas within its jurisdiction. State governments and statewide agencies are not considered local governments.

**Low- and moderate-income household:** Low- and moderate-income household means a household having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 low-income limit established by HUD, which means a household whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).

**Low- and moderate-income person:** Low- and moderate-income person means a member of a family having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 low-income limit established by HUD, which means an individual whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the AMI. Unrelated individuals will be considered as one-person families for this purpose.

**Low-income household:** Low-income household means a household having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 very low-income limit established by HUD, which means a household whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the AMI.

**Low-income person:** Low-income person means a member of a family that has an income equal to or less than the Section 8 very low-income limit established by HUD, which means an individual whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the AMI. Unrelated individuals shall be considered as one-person families for this purpose.

**National Organization:** For the purpose of the RCB program, a National Organization must be a single 501(c)(3) nonprofit or faith-based entity, other than an institution of higher education, that has ongoing experience in rural housing including experience working with rural housing organizations, local governments, Tribes, and conducting RCB eligible capacity building activities in rural areas with RCB eligible beneficiaries serving high need rural communities, as evidenced by work within the last ten years in at least eight of HUD's Federal regions. Having relevant experience working in one state in a HUD Federal region is sufficient for counting that region towards the eight-region minimum. HUD's Federal regions are described on HUD's website at:

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/localoffices/regions>.

**Outcomes:** Results achieved, or benefits derived from the capacity building activity conducted, typically demonstrated by the eligible beneficiary. Some examples include an ability to maintain a full-time paid staff person, increased amount of affordable homes in a beneficiary's portfolio, or success in building the beneficiary's loan portfolio to conduct community development.

**Outputs:** Deliverables such as products created, grants made, individuals served, or trainings delivered that are usually quantified by number produced, number delivered, number of attendees, etc. Outputs do not measure a change in a beneficiary's capacity directly, but they do identify what the grantee has done with the program funds.

**Rural Area:** A rural area is a statistical geographic entity delineated by the Census Bureau that does not meet the definition of an urbanized area. An urbanized area is a statistical geographic entity delineated by the US Census Bureau, consisting of densely settled census tracts and blocks and adjacent densely settled territory that together contain at least 50,000 people. As of the 2010 decennial census, the United States contained 486 urbanized areas with an additional 11 in Puerto Rico. For more information about urbanized areas, including maps, FAQs, and reference manuals, please refer to this Census Bureau website - <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>.

To demonstrate that a beneficiary complies with the rural area requirement, grantees will be expected to implement a review process to confirm that the proposed rural beneficiary is located geographically within an eligible rural area or, as a result of RCB assistance, will be commencing or expanding service in an eligible rural area. HUD has created a mapping tool for grantees to utilize in assessing a beneficiary's compliance with the rural area definition.

The mapping tool is posted on HUD's RCB grant program webpage - [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/section-4](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/section-4). Scroll to the bottom of the page where Resources are listed and select Rural Beneficiary Mapping Tool.

### **Rural Housing Development Organization (RHDO):**

1. An RHDO is a nonprofit organization that undertakes eligible RCB Program activities, as defined in this NOFO, and that meets these qualifications:

1. Is a nonprofit with a tax exemption ruling from the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1);
2. Is organized to engage in housing and community development activities (which may include housing and economic development activities) focused on the improvement of the physical, economic or social environment of its identified rural geographic area of operation, with particular attention to the needs of persons of low income;
3. Is neither controlled by, nor under the direction of, individuals or entities seeking to derive profit or gain from the organization;
4. Has, or is actively working to have, standards of financial accountability that conform to 2 CFR 200.302, "Financial Management" and 2 CFR 200.303, "Internal Controls"; and
5. Is not an agency, department, or instrumentality of a Federal, State, or local government.

RHDOs may be organizations that are working to establish themselves as official CDCs or CHDOs. RHDOs must be organizations that are either currently engaged in housing development as a primary part of their mission, or that are actively working to build their capacity to complete housing development projects.