Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)

FY 2021 CDBG, HOME, and ESG Request for Applications (RFA)

Applicant Questions and Responses

DATE: May 18, 2021

TO: All Prospective Applicants

FROM: Michael Liu, Director
        Public Housing and Community Development

SUBJECT: FY 2021 CDBG, HOME, and ESG Request for Applications

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The following questions were received related to the FY 2021 CDBG, HOME, and ESG Request for Applications (RFA) published on May 4, 2021. PHCD's responses below become a part of the guidance for the above listed Request for Applications.

CDBG Funds

1. Is the checklist, on page 32, for technical assistance to businesses to be used for both Public Service TA and Economic Development TA?

   Response: Yes, the checklist applies to both Public Service Technical Assistance (TA) and Economic Development TA.

2. In the past to allow the funds to be distributed widely among the possible agencies, there was a 20% cap on the category of funding that you could apply. For example, economic development technical assistance allocated $400,000 the limit that one organization could apply for would be $80,000. Is the 20% cap applicable in the RFA?

   Response: Yes, the 20% cap is applicable to this RFA. Refer to the CDBG Book, page 17, and/or the Library Tab in the ZoomGrants application.

3. a) For the Water and Sewer connection project, do you have an estimate of the number of homes requiring connection and their locations within the county?

   Response: The Miami-Dade septic to sewer report released by Mayor Levine Cava at the end of 2020 identified about 120,000 properties in the County served by septic systems. Based on groundwater modeling it is estimated that 9,000 of those are vulnerable to compromise or failure under current groundwater conditions, and this

number increases to approximately 13,500 by 2040. The Water and Sewer Department has a map that helps citizens determine water and sewer services for a property and the estimated distance to connect. The map is available at: https://gisweb.miamidade.gov/iWASDConnect/

b) Once contracts are awarded, what is the timeline for completion of the proposed scope of services?

Response: The standard contract would be initiated with a two-year agreement with contract amendments approved on a case-by-case basis.

4. CDBG-Public service grant: Am I considered a developer if I own an existing multi-family property and use it to house homeless or transient persons and can I be considered for this category or is this only available for new housing?

Response: Applications for the CDBG-Public Service category must comply with requirements summarized in the CDBG Book, on page 19-20.

Public Service activities must principally benefit low and moderate-income persons. Entities eligible for funding include Miami-Dade County Departments, Participating Municipalities, and not-for-profit Community-Based Organizations (CBO's), qualified Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) and Community Development Corporations (CDCs). Eligible activities under the Public Service category are governed by HUD regulations under 24 CFR 570.201(e).

5. a) Does rehabilitation costs for a multi-family affordable housing development fall under the objective of Homeowner Rehabilitation?

Response: No, it does not.

b) Or, does the project have to have homeownership?

Response: Yes, it has to be homeownership.

6. If the applicant has a recent market study completed for a similar development, that is close in proximity and in project type, is there a need for a completely new market study/feasibility study for the proposed development the CBDG funds will be used for?

Response: No, (under CDBG) a market study is not needed for the subject property. If utilizing HOME funds, a market study is needed.

7. Are the cost and expenses for rehabbing an affordable housing project eligible for this RFP utilizing CBDG assistance?

Response: CDBG assistance is available in this RFA for eligible homeownership rehabilitation and water and sewer connection activities for homeowners.

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CDBG, HOME, and ESG Funds

1. What is the tool utilized to identify eligible block groups?

   Response: The Miami-Dade County GIS web Community Services webpage has a census tract and block group identifier. Go to the following website: https://gisweb.miamidade.gov/communityservices/

   Instructions: Type the activity address into the blank, and then open the 'Demographics' tab. The census tract and block group associated with the address entered will appear at the bottom of the screen.

2. Will the application deadline for the RFA be extended?

   Response: The application deadline for this RFA has been extended to Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

3. What is the total funds available for the HUD grants this year?

   Response: The funding amounts available in the 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) RFA and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) RFA were updated based on a May 13, 2021 letter received from U. S. Housing and Urban Development:

Activity/Category	CDBG
Commission District Fund[1]	$1,594,404.80
Public Service - Technical Assistance to Small Businesses	$400,000
Economic Development – Technical Assistance to Small Businesses	$400,000
Economic Development - Micro Enterprise Lending	$3,300,000
Economic Development - Business Incubator Assistance Program	$1,500,000
Housing – Water and Sewer Connections	$1,000,000
Housing - Homeowner Rehabilitation	$2,442,420.80
Total CDBG Available Funds	$10,636,825.60

[1]Commission District Fund allocations will be awarded by the members of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners from a list of eligible applicants. Funds will not be competitively awarded.

Activity/Category	HOME	ESG	TOTAL
Funds reserved for use and solicitation in a future RFA projected to occur in Summer 2021: Acquisition, New Construction, Rehabilitation of Affordable Rental Housing, or Pre-Development	$3,503,912*		$3,503,912*
Single-Family Homeownership Rehabilitation	$400,000*		$400,000*
HOME CHDO Housing Set-Aside	$731,983.50*		$731,983.50*
HOME CHDO Operating Support	$243,994.50*		$243,994.50*
Homeless Emergency Shelter and Outreach		$675,907.20*	$675,907.20*

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing		$450,604.80*	$450,604.80*
Totals	**$4,879,890***	**$1,126,512***	**$6,006,402***

* Funds available are based on U.S. HUD estimates and are subject to change

ZoomGrants Questions

1. Will the application deadline be extended for ZoomGrants delays?

   Response: The application deadline for this RFA has been extended to Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

2. How can I upload a large PDF document to ZoomGrants?

   Response: Large attachments must be divided into several smaller PDFs in order to be successfully uploaded to ZoomGrants. The maximum file size that ZoomGrants will allow for upload is 5 Megabytes (MB). For instance, upload documents with the filename of IRS 990 – File 1 of 3, IRS 990 - File 2 of 3, and IRS 990 - File 3 of 3.

3. If the question does not apply to my agency, do I still need to answer it or upload an attachment?

   Response: Yes, all questions must be answered, and corresponding attachments must be uploaded in order to have a successful submission. For attachments that are not applicable, a document should still be uploaded with the designation of "N/A".