

## *CDBG/CV Broadband RFP*

### **Questions and Answers:**

1. Can the deadline be extended?

Ans: To assure interested parties have adequate time to prepare proposals, the Office of Housing and Community Development has decided to extend the application deadline to 3:30p on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

2. Can applications be submitted electronically?

Ans: While the OHCD prefers (single) hard copies of applications be submitted (delivered to 315 Iron Horse Way, Providence), the office will accept electronic submissions (submitted by email to [Michael.Tondra@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Michael.Tondra@doa.ri.gov)). Confirmation of receipt by email will be provided. Please note that applicants should redact any sensitive information transmitted by email. Such information may be collected subsequently at the contracting phase if selected for funding. Applicants must factor the time necessary for documents to transmit electronically to assure the deadline is met.

3. Is broadband to housing authorities eligible?

Ans: Housing authorities are an eligible applicant. PHA units are typically income restricted and projects serving those populations would likely meet CDBG national objective requirements of predominate benefit to low/moderate income households (LMH – 80% of AMI income limit).

4. Where can the application materials be found?

Ans: The application can be found at <http://www.ohcd.ri.gov>. Note OHCD has a number of recent/open RFPs. Please assure to use the CDBG/CV Broadband RFP materials. The OHCD website has been modified in recent weeks. Materials (Application form, Budget Form and RFP/Posting) can be found in the Special Announcements section. Other information about the CDBG program, which may be helpful to applicants (contact information, regulations, HUD Guide to eligible activities and national objectives), can be found on the CDBG Program page.

5. Are there minimum broadband speeds?

Ans: Projects with speeds of 100/20 or greater will be prioritized. This is the new lower speed limit of the federal government. Speeds should be referenced in project narratives.

6. What has changed since the Information Session?

Ans: The OHCD has extended the deadline (8/19) and allowed for electronic submissions.

7. Must non-profits apply through a municipality?

Ans: With respect to CDBG/CV funding, the regulations have been modified to allow States to undertake activities directly (or through contracts/subcontracts). Therefore, non-profit vendors may apply directly to OHCD. The preference, however, is for applications to be submitted through municipalities if there is sufficient local capacity/interest.