

## **Q&A**

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

#### **Application Workshop, Thursday – January 6, 2021 @ 10AM**

1. **Q.** When will HUD begin using newer/2020 census data?

**A.** We do not know exactly when HUD will revise the Low/Moderate Income Summary Data Tables using more recent Census information. We will notify communities if/when new data is available. In the interim, municipalities must use the most recently available LMISD tables that are posted HUD's website and linked in our presentation. If you feel this information does accurately reflect the income characteristic/boundaries of the service area for your project, you may conduct an income survey using guidelines also provided in the handbook.

2. **Q.** Could you share the portal information? And are there any different home repair forms or should we use the same ones previously available.

**A.** Residential Rehabilitation forms have not been modified and may continue to be used. Such activities are accepted on a rolling/ongoing basis and not submitted through this competitive application process. The portal/email in which applications/documents can be provided is [doa.cdbg@doa.ri.gov](mailto:doa.cdbg@doa.ri.gov) and has been incorporated into the presentation.

3. **Q.** Are there still caps for individual project costs?

**A.** No – There are no financial caps on individual projects. There are, however, limitations on the number of activities that can be requested.

4. **Q.** Do all projects receive either a Release of Funds or Certificate of Exemption?

**A.** The State will issue a ROF for all projects for which it received a Request for Release of Funds from a municipality. The exemption the certification of exemption is generated locally when undertaking the environmental review on the project. Examples of certifications are available on the OHCD website. While OHCD requests Certifications of Exemption be forwarded to OHCD for its files, no response is necessary from our office to proceed.

5. **Q.** If you haven't received any performance documentation for last year's environmental, is it safe to proceed?

**A.** If you have not received your Release of Funds relative to prior year activities, please contact Raquel Kennedy to verify the status. If an activity was determined Exempt, no ROF from OHCD is necessary to proceed.

6. **Q.** Does the project's location within a floodplain make it less competitive than other projects or does it depend on the nature of the project?
  - A. While project location will be factored in the review, a location in a floodplain, by itself, does not make an activity less competitive. A project's location within a floodplain does, however, add complexity to the project overall which may impact the timeliness and budgeting.
  
7. **Q.** Are Essential Service activities the same as Public Service activities?
  - A. Yes – public services and essential services refer to the same classification of activities.
  
8. **Q.** Will there be updated competitive application forms as well?
  - A. While the application forms are generally the same as they were in PY'2019, new PY'2020 forms (as well as the handbook/materials) will be posted on the OHCD/CDBG webpage, provided in this presentation.
  
9. **Q.** What is the deadline for expenditure of PY'2017 funding?
  - A. The handbook states all (100%) PY'17 must have expended and drawn prior to June 30, 2022 to be eligible for PY2020 funding. All CDBG awards are subject to a maximum 4-year expenditure deadline.
  
10. **Q.** Does the 15 business (working) day comment period always apply to applications?
  - A. Yes – The regulations indicate 15 working (business) days relative to citizens participation comment period(s). The 15 calendar day comment period applies to environmental reviews.
  
11. **Q.** Can we include the public notice for residential rehabilitation (rolling application) in our hearings for the competitive application?
  - A. Yes - CDBG citizens participation requirements must be followed for all applications submitted, whether through the rolling or annual competitive application process. You may combine hearings provided all content is posted and covered.