



# Community Development Block Grant 2025 Notice of Funding Availability

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# Housekeeping

- **Goal of this Workshop**
  - Go over information that is not already in existing training materials or in the NOFA materials
- **Questions**
  - If a question is answered in one of our online training aids or is explicit in the NOFA or Appendices, we'll direct you to those resources
- **Process**
  - If you have a question that is not answered by this webinar, please submit it to our inbox at **CDBG@hcd.ca.gov** where our staff will respond to your questions in a timely manner



# How to ask a question

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



# What's new in this NOFA?



# What's new in this NOFA?

- A set-aside for applicants who haven't been awarded CDBG funding in the past 5 NOFA cycles (2020-2024) has been established
- **All** applications are eligible under a Competitive Application process, no Over-the Counter (OTC) Applications
- **Eligible Activities**
  - Public Service and Planning
  - Programs (Housing & Economic Development)
  - Projects (Public Facilities, Infrastructure, & Housing)
- **All** applications must meet the 50% Rule
- Ranking and Scoring Updates
- General updates have been made to provide clearer instructions and definitions



# Allocation & Funding



## Available Funding

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) announces the availability of approximately \$27 million in funding through the federal Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) for the 2025 funding year



# Funding Categories

Funding Category Allocation	Percentage	Estimated Dollar Amount
<b>Local Administration</b>	7%	\$2,000,000.00
<b>Public Service</b> <small>(24 C.F.R. 570.201(e)(1))</small>	≤15%	\$4,400,000.00
<b>Planning</b> <small>(24 C.F.R. 570.483(b)(5))</small>	≤10%	\$2,900,000.00
<b>Housing Programs, Economic Development Programs, and All Projects</b>	34%	\$9,250,000.00
<b>Set-aside for applicants who have not been awarded CDBG funds in the last 5 NOFA cycles</b> <small>(2020-2024) (Limit one public service, planning, program, or project per applicant)</small>	≤ 25% of total NOFA amount; to fund a maximum of 4 total awards, whichever is the lesser amount	Up to \$6,750,000.00
<b>Colonias Set-Aside</b> <small>(Section 916 of the National Affordable Housing Act)</small>	Set-aside of 5%	\$1,480,000.00
<b>Non-federally recognized Tribes Set-Aside</b> <small>(HSC §50831)</small>	Set-aside of 1.25%	\$371,000.00



## Tentative Timeline

CDBG NOFA Releases	September 30, 2025
Submission Portal opens	February 2, 2026, at 9AM PST
Application Deadline	April 3, 2026, at 3PM PST
Award Letters Signed	September 2026
Standard Agreement Execution	Rolling basis (Starting October 2026)
Expenditure Deadline	2 years, 9 months from Standard Agreement execution by the Department



# Program Requirements



# Program Requirements

- **Under this NOFA**, funds are provided as *grants* to non-entitlement jurisdictions for project applications for eligible CDBG activities
- All CDBG-funded activities must meet the following National Objective:
  - **Benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons**
- **Federal & State Law require CDBG costs to be:**
  - Eligible
  - Necessary
  - Reasonable
  - Not be used to supplant local or state resources
  - Be guarded against fraud



# Program Requirements

(continued)

- An **eligible** applicant must:
  - Be a Non-Entitlement Jurisdiction
  - Demonstrate **Housing Element (HE)** Compliance
    - At a minimum, draft or adopted HE must be submitted prior to application submission
    - Jurisdictions that fail to complete the Housing Element process in a timely manner will be ineligible for funding
    - Submit a **complete** application
      - 1 Main Application + 1 Sub Application **PER** Matrix Code
  - Application must be for an **eligible activity and National Objective code** combination: [Accomplishment Matrix.pdf](#)



# Application Limits

**Maximum number of applications: 3**

## **ACCEPTABLE APPLICATION COMBINATIONS:**

- 1 Project + 1 Program + 1 Public Service or Planning -OR-
- 1 Project + 2 Public Service or Planning -OR-
- 1 Program + 2 Public Service or Planning

**Note:** 2 Projects, 2 Programs, 3 Public Service or 3 Planning applications are **NOT** allowed



# Activity Limits

- Up to 3 Applications totaling **\$3.6M**
  - **Public Service** ≤ \$300,000
  - **Planning** ≤ \$300,000
  - **Projects** ≤ \$3.3 million
  - **Programs** ≤ \$1.5 million
- For a complete list of eligible matrix codes, review the eCivis solicitation files located under **2025 CDBG Main:** [Accomplishment Matrix.pdf](#) and [Matrix Code Categories.pdf](#)



## Activity Limits: (continued)

### Acceptable Economic Development (ED) Program Combinations:

- 18A – ED Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profit Business
- 18B – ED Technical Assistance
- 18C – ED Microenterprise Assistance

Applicants **must** demonstrate capacity and experience to operate an ED Program.

**NOTE:** Each matrix code **must** have its own sub application



## Activity Limits: (continued)

### Acceptable Housing Program Combinations:

- 13A – Housing Counseling
- 13B – Single Family (1 - 4 units) Homeownership Assistance
- 14A – Single Family (1 - 4 units) Housing Rehabilitation
- 14F – Single Family (1 - 4 units) Energy Efficiency Improvements
- 15 – Code Enforcement (Only available with a Housing Program)

**NOTE:** Each matrix code **must** have its own sub application



## Activity Limits: (continued)

### **REMINDER:**

- CDBG Program Income (PI), as well as the Colonias & Native-American set-aside, **does not count against** the maximum award limit
- Applicants **may** request up to 7% of total funding for GA costs (**plus 17% of annual PI receipts for GA costs, as applicable**)
  - To ensure accuracy, use the CDBG GA Calculator: [Appendix G General Admin Calculator \(XLS\).xlsx](#)
  - **GA Calculation: Total Activity (Activity + Activity Delivery) x 7%**



# Application Requirements



# Low to Moderate Income (LMI)

**LMI Benefit** can be met through one of the following National Objectives:

- **Low/Mod Area (LMA):** Activity is available to all the residents of a designated low/mod income service area
- **Low/Mod Clientele (LMC):** Activity is provided to a specific group of eligible persons
- **Low/Mod Housing (LMH):** Housing activity provided to a specific group of eligible persons
- **Low/Mod Clientele, Micro-Enterprises (LMCMC):** Activities that benefit micro-enterprise owners/developers who are low/mod income
- **Low/Mod Jobs (LMJ):** Activity that creates or retains jobs for primarily low/mod income persons



# Milestones

- Applicants must include at least **five** milestones per activity application
- All milestones will be defined and implemented through the Standard Agreement

## **NOTE:**

- The **first** and **last** milestone will be prepopulated and **cannot** be edited by Applicants
- **Failure to meet the first milestone** is a material breach of the Standard Agreement and **will result in a for-cause termination** of this agreement



# Milestones

## (continued)

- **Milestone One (required):** Activity Initiation. Must be completed no later than 60 days from contract execution
- **Milestone Two:** *Example* - Release Invitation for Bid (IFB) within 90 days of Standard Agreement execution by HCD
- **Milestone Three:** *Example* - Execute contract with a General Contractor within 120 days of Standard Agreement execution by HCD
- **Milestone Four (optional):** *Example* - Begin construction within 9 months of Standard Agreement execution by HCD
- **Milestone Five:** *Example* - Record notice of completion within 2 months of project completion.
- **Final Milestone (required):** Activity closeout (must be completed no later than 90 days after the Expenditure Deadline)



## **ATTENTION PLEASE**

The Department **strongly recommends** a careful review of the application, instructions, 2025 NOFA, and all Appendices **PRIOR** to beginning the application

**Failure to meet threshold WILL result in immediate disqualification (DQ)**



# Threshold & Initial Requirements



# Threshold & Initial Requirements

- Eligible Applicant (as defined in previous slides)
- Single Audit Documentation
- Site Control
- Statement of Assurances
- Resolution
- Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- eCivis Budget Templates
- Sources & Uses Chart
- SAM.gov debarment checks
- State Objectives
- NEPA (Activity and General Admin)
- Readiness Criteria Documentation
- 50 Percent Rule
- Housing Element Compliance
- 20A\* Planning Related to Another Activity Approval (if applicable)



# Planning Application Requirements (20A & 20A\*)

- **Planning (20A) Application:**
  - May consist of costs including data gathering, studies, analysis, and preparation of preliminary plans and specifications **not** associated with a specific site
  - **NOTE: Bid-ready plans and specifications are NOT eligible**
- **Planning Related to Another Activity (20A\*) Application:**
  - Applicants applying for engineering, architectural, and design costs (bid-ready plans and specs) related to a specific eligible construction activity may do so under a 20A\* application
  - To submit an eligible 20A\* application, applicants must demonstrate activity feasibility **AND** obtain written approval from the Department **PRIOR** to applying
  - Approval must be requested **PRIOR** to the application submission opening period
    - **NOTE:** Approval requests **MUST** be submitted to: [CDBG@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:CDBG@hcd.ca.gov) and Department approval **MUST** be included in the application



# **Application & Activity Requirements**



# Federal Cross-Cutting Requirements

- Applicants **MUST** comply with and have documentation of meeting federal cross-cutting requirements (this is not an exhaustive list)
  - Lead-based paint requirements
  - No use of debarred, ineligible, or suspended contractors or sub-recipients
  - Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles
  - Conflict of interest prohibitions
  - Compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act and the ADA
  - Federal reporting requirements
  - Grant and subrecipient monitoring requirements
  - Build America, Buy America Act requirements (BABA)
  - Federal Procurement Requirements



# Application & Activity Requirements

- **Applicants must comply with all Federal Cross-Cutting Requirements**
- **Application Certification and Verification**
  - Applicant **must** certify application is true and correct
  - Jurisdiction must be the Applicant
  - Circumventing application components, including uploading incomplete or inaccurate documents to fields, invalidates the submission
- **Timely Submittal**
  - Give plenty of time for submitting prior to the cutoff date **and** at least several hours prior to the cutoff time
  - Submission Deadline is 60 days after the application submission period opening date (at 3 p.m. PST) **and** the deadline will **NOT** be extended
  - **Report technical issues, including error screenshots, immediately to [CDBG@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:CDBG@hcd.ca.gov)**



# Application & Activity Requirements

(continued)

- **Gap/“But-For” Funding**
  - CDBG is intended to provide stop-gap funding for crucial infrastructure, public safety, housing, and social service projects
  - CDBG funds must be “but-for” funding for every Activity
  - CDBG funds **may not** be used to:
    - Supplant local or state resources **-OR-**
    - Replace funds that have been budgeted and/or expended from another funding source for the same Activity
- **Good Standing**
  - The Applicant and any co-Applicant must be in good standing with HCD, have a satisfactory past performance, and be in full compliance with all Department contracts and reporting



# Application & Activity Requirements

(continued)

- **Homelessness Assistance**

- Applicants must be a participating member of your local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC), if applying for activities under matrix codes 03C & 03T
- A letter on CoC letterhead from the CoC coordinator, stating your jurisdiction is a participating member, must be submitted with your application

- **Readiness**

- Applications must demonstrate readiness to be considered for funding
- To be considered “ready,” a program will need to provide the following **at application submission:**
  - Draft or final program guidelines
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract or a draft RFP/RFQ to be released within 60 days of Standard Agreement execution
  - **For Housing and Economic Development Programs/Projects:** Marketing plan or strategy



# Application Submission



# Application Submission

- Certify attendance of workshops
- Follow the instructions in the NOFA, the online application, and the CDBG Program Guidelines
- Submit a **correct** and **complete** application
  - A complete application consists of:  
1 Main Application + 1 Sub Application **PER** Matrix Code
- Programs with **multiple activity types** (multiple sub applications/matrix codes) will be considered as a single application
  - If awarded, it will be funded under a single Standard Agreement

**\*Submitted applications must be complete to be reviewed\***



# 2025 CDBG NOFA Workshops

- Applicants are **required** to attend or watch recorded video of these workshop sessions, as applicants will certify participating in this application training in the application
- **Training Topics:**
  - Resolutions: What is required and why
  - Public Participation
  - NEPA
  - Debarment
  - Preparing the Narrative & Milestones
  - Single Audit
  - 2025 CDBG Application & Budget
  - 2025 CDBG NOFA Review (this Webinar)



# Application Review



# Application Review

**\*Submitted applications must be complete to be reviewed\***

- All applications must be submitted by the application deadline, and will be reviewed for minimum Threshold Requirements, as outlined in this NOFA
- Awards will be made in order from the highest to lowest score, within the appropriate set-aside, if applicable
  - If funding cannot be awarded to all planning, public service, projects, or programs within a set-aside, the highest scored ones will be awarded
  - If set-asides are exhausted, the remainder will be scored along with all others



# Application Review

(continued)

## **Set-Aside for Applicants Not Awarded CDBG Funds in the Last 5 Years**

- Applicants who have not received a CDBG award in the past 5 NOFA cycles (2020-2024) will be eligible to rank in priority order from 1 to 3 planning, public service, project or program submission to compete under a set-aside
  - **This rank in priority will be made via prompt in the main application**
  - **PI only awards are not considered a CDBG Award received in the past 5 years for the purposes of this ranking**

## **Scoring**

- All applications will be scored according to the evaluation criteria outlined in Appendix F
- All applications will be sorted, from highest to lowest score, within each set-aside, if applicable



# Awards & Implementation



# Awards & Implementation

- Award Announcements will occur no later than **September 2026**
  - CDBG staff will not be able to discuss applications or the status of applications
- Appeals must be made in writing
  - Appeals **must** be submitted to [CDBG@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:CDBG@hcd.ca.gov) and must be received by HCD no later than five (5) business days from the date Applicant is notified that their application has failed to move forward
    - **Late appeals will not be reviewed**
    - Please refer to the 2025 CDBG NOFA, regarding “Appeal Criteria and Process” for more information
- Standard Agreements
  - A condition of award will be that a Standard Agreement **must be executed** by the grantee **within 30 days (contracting period) of the grantee's receipt** of the Standard Agreement(s)



# False, Fictitious or Fraudulent Claims

**Warning:** Any person who knowingly makes a false claim or statement to HUD or the Department may be subject to civil or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. 287, 1001 and 31 U.S.C. 3729.



# Resources

- CDBG Website
  - [Community Development Block Grant Program \(CDBG\) | California Department of Housing and Community Development](#)
- eCivis Solicitation for 2025 CDBG NOFA
  - [Euna Grants - Grants Network](#)
- 2025 CDBG NOFA – Website & eCivis
- CDBG Grants Management Manual – Website



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## About HCD

# Notice of Funding Availability Calendar Now Available

View 2023-24 targeted release dates for draft guidelines, NOFAs, and awards.

[View calendar](#)

California Department of Housing and Community Development  
Notice of Funding Availability Calendar  
**2023-2024**

<sup>17</sup> All NOEA amounts are presented in millions and are subject to change based on the availability of funds at the time of NOEA issuance.



# Thank you!

Please direct NOFA questions to: [CDBG@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:CDBG@hcd.ca.gov)

## **REMINDER:**

- CDBG Program Staff are **ONLY** able to answer project- and activity-specific questions prior to the application submission period opening
- Once the application submission period opens, CDBG Program Staff will only be able to assist with technical issues, such as issues with eCivis