



CDBG News

Office Hours Schedule Change

In June 2025, CDBG Office Hours transitioned to a quarterly schedule. It will continue in the time slot of Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to address grantee feedback. Use this link to register, [2026 CDBG and CDBG-CV Office Hours – Zoom Registration](#).

Resources Available

Website and Grant Management Manual

The Grants Management Manual (GMM) is a resource for CDBG grantees to establish, run, and closeout CDBG-compliant projects and activities. CDBG has redesigned its public-facing website with a more user-friendly layout. CDBG has adopted a streamlined approach and revamped its website to make the Notice of Funding Availability the primary resource for those researching CDBG policies and tools. The GMM can now be accessed from the right-hand side of the [Community Development Block Grant Program \(CDBG\) | California Department of Housing and Community Development](#) webpage. The updated site also features a wide range of documents, tools, and appendices that provide valuable information.

Webinars

In addition to the resources above, HCD has posted several recorded videos to the Department's YouTube channel. View these great informational and training videos: [HCD YouTube - CDBG Workshops and Trainings Playlist](#). For office hours recordings, please see our [CDBG Office Hours Recordings Playlist](#).

HUD Exchange Resources

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Frequently Asked Question Collections where Grantees can find answers to frequently asked questions grouped by programs, systems, and related topics. This month we are highlighting the resilience resources posted to their website, <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/>

- [Notice CPD-2025-01: CPD Implementation Guidance for the Build America, Buy America Act's Buy America Preference](#)



HCD CDBG Resources

Please see these frequently requested resources on HCD's website:

- [Chapter 1 Program Overview](#) — **Updated 1/12/2025**
 - [Chapter 2 National Objectives and Eligible Activities \(PDF\)](#) — **Updated 02/19/2025**
 - [Appendix 6-3: CDBG Financial Reporting Form](#)
 - [Appendix 6-8: CDBG Program Income Reporting Form](#)
 - [Appendix 12-1: Combined Closeout Package](#)
 - [Appendix 12-2: Completion Report Form](#)
 - [Completion Report for 20A — State-Planning Only](#)
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- **Did you know** - Staff time (Jurisdiction, Consultant, Subrecipient, Contractor, etc.) for work completed **directly** on the specific Activity may be reported as Activity/Activity Delivery? Overall management of the CDBG Program, such as NOFA webinars and Office Hours, should be reported as GA.
 - HCD does not permit the use of AI-generated recordings in grantee meetings or training.

HCD Office Hours

- **Next Office Hours is March 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**
- If you don't already receive emails from HCD, here are links to get signed up:
 - Stay in touch with HCD (scroll all the way to the bottom and click "Federal Programs": [HCD E-mail Listserv Signup](#).
- Register for Office Hours: [2026 CDBG and CDBG-CV Office Hours – Zoom Registration](#).



Office Hours Q&A Recap – December 10, 2025

Question	Answer
<p><i>Currently, only the 2023 awards are shown on the CDBG website, can the 2024 CDBG awards be shown too?</i></p>	<p>The 2024 CDBG Awards are currently posted on the website.</p>
<p><i>Will points be given to jurisdictions that have completed their 20A* grants and are shovel ready for the 2026/2027 CDBG NOFA so they are not in jeopardy of paying back their 20A* funding?</i></p>	<p>No extra points will be given to jurisdictions that have completed their 20A* grants. Please refer to Appendix F-CDBG Scoring Matrix for clarifications on scoring criteria. Please direct any specific project related questions to CDBG inbox (CDBG@hcd.ca.gov) or your CDBG representative if you need further assistance.</p>
<p><i>Can those in Over the Counter (OTC) set aside still use consultants to help?</i></p>	<p>CDBG doesn't prohibit engaging consultants for assistance. We encourage seeking consultant help if it can be considered based on your budgets and other constraints.</p>
<p><i>Are you going to require jurisdictions to have other funding in the project?</i></p>	<p>At this moment, it is not required to have other funding for the project. Although, since CDBG is always a gap funding type of program, we highly encourage having other sources of funding as well.</p>
<p><i>In the past plans/specs and NEPA were included in the construction grants. Would that be a consideration?</i></p>	<p>We now make plans/specs and NEPA that were previously included in construction grants on a pre-award cost reimbursement basis.</p>
<p><i>Can you increase the amount available to grantees for public services with the elimination of available funding in the next two</i></p>	<p>There are no plans currently to increase the amount available for public services.</p>



NOFA periods?

Do current Business Assistance or Housing Programs count as OTC or as competitive programs?

Since Planning grants and Public Services will not be allowed for 2 years, would HCD consider allowing the use of PI for these activities during this period?

When would the 2026 NOFA be released?

What can be considered a match for the NOFA points for match funds?

Is there any consideration to ask HUD to reduce Public Service cap so that jurisdictions can use CDBG PI for public services or planning?

As in the 2025 NOFA, Business Assistance and Housing Programs are competitive.

HCD cannot allow Program Income (PI) to be used for planning and public services.

Late summer or fall of 2026.

CDBG doesn't necessarily have guidance on the other funding sources that you are using. While it is not a requirement to have other funding sources along with CDBG funding, you will be awarded points if you have funding from other grants or internal funding sources and you can show that CDBG funding is being used as intended for gap funding. This is to encourage applicants to consider the bigger picture of the project's financial needs and helps projects to be more likely to not have to disencumber and to complete on time and budget.

The cap is regulatory, not statutory. It would need to be an advocacy campaign to change that for all the states.



Does HCD offer funding to help make a project shovel-ready?

Funding sources like 20A* grants help jurisdictions to get projects shovel-ready. If your jurisdiction further doesn't have the resources to make the bid-ready plans, please reach out to CDBG inbox (CDBG@hcd.ca.gov) to discuss how the unit can support you.

What are the activity limits for 2025 and 2028?

Please refer to page 14 of the [2025 NOFA](#) for the activity limits for a project. We haven't yet established the limits for 2028.

Does the removal of Planning/Public Services/Housing Programs from the 26/27 NOFA's prevent entitlement jurisdictions from spending their allocation on those activities?

HCD's method of distribution does not impact the planning at all for entitlement jurisdictions. Entitlement jurisdictions receive their own allocations of funds from HUD directly and submit their own plans to HUD on how to expend those dollars.

If a jurisdiction wants to apply to use its Program Income for Economic Development or Housing in 26/27, would that be allowed?

Absolutely. Please refer to the eligible projects and programs as detailed in the [CDBG Program Income \(PI\) only Accomplishment Matrix](#).