

## Community Development Allocation Program

**Q We are receiving \$75,000 in Allocation, so we are limited to three projects. If we apply for Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) and Critical Infrastructure (CI), and we set-aside Allocation funds for each, can we do two additional projects for a total of five?**

**A** Yes, that is correct. Competitive set-aside activities to which Allocation funds are committed do not count against the grantee's cap projects.

**Q If our competitive set-aside applications are not funded, do the Allocation funds that were committed to competitive set-aside applications have to go to already proposed Allocation projects?**

**A** Yes, if the applicant has already met its project cap (three projects for Allocations of \$124,900 or less; four projects for Allocations of \$125,000 or more). Or, if the applicant preferred, it could replace one of the existing proposed allocation projects and do an alternate project that costs more as long as the completed application pages for that project were submitted within the required review period.

However, the cap on projects would remain at three or four (depending on Allocation) plus one additional project for each successful competitive set-aside grant to which Allocation funds are committed.

## Neighborhood Revitalization

**Q If my community received Neighborhood Revitalization Program funding in FY 2012, can I apply again in FY 2013?**

**A** Yes, but only if 75 percent of the awarded funds have been expended by the application due date of June 21, 2013, and the Office of Community Development (OCD) has monitored the grant.

County applicants funded in FY 2012 and applying for a city jurisdiction that received a direct allocation for the FY 2012 program year will not be required to meet the 75 percent and monitoring thresholds to apply in FY 2013, unless the application is for a project within the same formally direct city.

## Downtown Revitalization

**Q Is my community required to complete a downtown development plan and market study to apply?**

**A** No, but applicants will be required to coordinate downtown revitalization activities with business/building owners and residents of the community. Applicants will also be required to have design review guidelines that include the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and an active downtown business/building owners' organization.

## **Critical Infrastructure**

**Q For Critical Infrastructure (CI), if there is a major road in the community and it needs resurfacing and bridge replacement, we can do both as Street Improvements? What if it also needs culverts (Flood and Drainage)?**

**A** All components could potentially qualify as a single street improvement activity as long as the activities are all required to alleviate the existing hazardous conditions and benefit the same service area.

**Q Can water and sewer infrastructure be funded under the Critical Infrastructure program?**

**A** Yes, but only if the project is not eligible for Residential Public Infrastructure Program funds. Communities considering applying to the Critical Infrastructure Program for water and sewer projects should contact their program representative to discuss the most appropriate source of funding prior to submitting an application.

**Q Must the location of the infrastructure needing to be improved be in a primarily residential neighborhood for Critical Infrastructure program assistance?**

**A** No, the infrastructure can be located in a commercial or industrial area; however, the majority of the beneficiaries must be residential. Also, the project cannot be eligible for Economic Development Program assistance. Communities considering applying to the Critical Infrastructure Program for projects not located in a primarily residential area should contact their program representative to discuss the most appropriate source of funding prior to submitting an application.

**Q Can a county apply for more than one Critical Infrastructure grant?**

**A** No. Counties are limited to one critical infrastructure grant.

## **General Competitive Set-Aside**

**Q Will I receive separate grant agreements for each application?**

**A** No. One grant agreement will be issued for an applicant's Allocation program. Any competitive set-aside funds awarded will be included in the same grant agreement.

**Q What is the grant time period?**

**A** All grant agreements will be issued with a start date of September 1, 2013. If an applicant is not awarded any competitive set-aside grants, the project completion period will end December 31, 2014. If one or more competitive set-aside grants are awarded, the project completion period will end August 31, 2015.

**Q Can a county apply for two Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) grants?**

**A** Yes. A county can apply for any combination of not more than two Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) or Downtown Revitalization (DR) grants (2 NR, 2 DR, or 1 NR and 1 DR). In addition, each grantee can apply for one critical infrastructure. A direct city can apply for one NR or DR grant and one CI.

**Q If a county applies for two Neighborhood Revitalization or Downtown Revitalization grants, does each application have a chance of receiving funding?**

**A** Yes, each application will be evaluated on its own merit and has an equal chance of receiving funding. However, when applying for multiple grants, the county should demonstrate the capacity to administer the projects simultaneously.

**Q Is my community required to be a direct grant recipient for the Community Development Allocation Program to apply for the competitive set-aside programs?**

**A** Yes, only the 105 Community Development Allocation Program grant recipients can apply for competitive set-asides funds. Counties are encouraged to apply for competitive set-asides on behalf of cities and villages under their jurisdiction.

**Q Can a community apply for a Neighborhood Revitalization/Downtown Revitalization and Critical Infrastructure grants for the same area?**

**A** Neighborhood Revitalization/Downtown Revitalization and Critical Infrastructure applications can have overlapping service areas; however, the projects should be unrelated to one another. OCD will take into account things like location, beneficiaries and the scope and description of the proposed projects when determining whether they are related. For example, repaving Main Street might benefit everyone in a city, which would include people in a NRG target area, but it would be considered to be a separate project.

**Q Does my community have to commit a minimum amount of leverage to my competitive application?**

**A** No, there is no minimum leverage commitment for the set-aside programs; however, the amount of leverage committed to a proposed project is competitively scored.