Office of Native American Programs
Office of Public & Indian Housing

No. 2017-07

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

PROGRAM:	Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)
FOR:	All Tribal Government Leaders and Tribally Designated Housing Entities
FROM:	Heidi J. Frechette, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, PN
TOPIC:	Posting of Fiscal Year 2017 Notice of Funding Availability for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to provide potential applicants with a summary of the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, also known as the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program, posted on March 9, 2017. The General Section of the NOFA was posted on July 8, 2016, and describes HUD's FY 2017 policy and submission requirements. Both documents can be downloaded from:
https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail
and www.grants.gov.

Program Description: The purpose of the ICDBG program is the development of viable American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for persons with low- and moderate-incomes.

Eligibility Information: All federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages are eligible to participate in the ICDBG program. Tribal organizations, as described in 24 CFR 1003.5, are also eligible applicants. To apply for funding, an applicant must meet the eligibility criterion by the application submission date. Eligible categories of funding include housing rehabilitation, land acquisition to support new housing, homeownership assistance, public facilities and improvements, economic development, and microenterprise programs. For a complete description of eligible activities, please refer to 24 CFR 1003, subpart C.

FY 2017 Funding Availability: Congress has not yet appropriated funds for this program. Therefore, the amount of available funding is not known and is contingent on future Congressional action.

Application Due Date: The application deadline is 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 18, 2017, and as in past years, must be submitted through Grants.gov unless a waiver of the electronic submission requirement has been requested and granted.

Changes in the FY 2017 NOFA: There are several changes in the FY 2017 ICDBG NOFA, although the essence of the application process remains the same. This Program Guidance provides only a summary; interested applicants should read the entire NOFA carefully to be aware of each and every change. The NOFA itself includes a list of changes in Section 1.A.2.

Section I – Funding Opportunity Description

Section I.A.1. Imminent Threat Grants. ONAP published a Program Guidance on Imminent Threat grants: https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=2017-01ImminentTGT.pdf

Section I.A.3. Definitions. The NOFA now includes the definition for Tribal Resolution to the Program Definitions section.

Section II – Award Information

Section II. A.1. Available Funds. Area ONAP allocations are yet to be determined for FY 2017, due to funds not being currently available.

Section II.A.2. Grant Ceilings. In FY 2017, the grant ceilings for the Southwest region were modified.

Section III.A.3. Housing Rehabilitation Cost Limits. The Housing Rehabilitation Cost Limits were increased from $75,000 to $100,000 in Alaska.

Section III – Eligibility Information

Section III.A. Eligible Applicants. The NOFA now clarifies that tribes eligible for ICDBG assistance must be listed in the latest version of *"Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs."* See http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/text/idc1-033010.pdf. Tribal organizations that meet the definition of such in 24 CFR 1003.5 by the application due date may also apply.

Section IV – Application and Submission Information

Section IV.A. Obtaining an Application Package. Requests for waivers of the electronic application submission process must be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the application deadline. In FY 2017, waivers should be submitted to Frederick Griefer, ONAP Grants Management Director, at the address listed in section IV.A. of the NOFA.

Section IV.B.2. Content and Form of Application Submission. The NOFA added the SF-424 Project/Performance Site Location(s) form as a required form to collect the primary place of performance.

Section V – Application Review Information

Section V.A.1. Rating Factors. In FY 2017, there are five rating factors as there were in the FY 2016 NOFA; however, a new subfactor was added, and points vary a little.

Factor 2 – Need and Viability. There are two major changes in this factor, the addition of the subfactor on Unfunded Applicants and an increase of points for this factor. A maximum of 24 points can be awarded for this factor, compared to 16 points in FY 2016. The Unfunded Applicants subfactor provides points for tribes/tribal organizations that have applied for a grant since FY2014, received a fundable score over 70, but did not receive a grant.

Factor 3 – Soundness of Approach. Up to 34 points can be awarded for this rating factor, down from 36 points in FY 2016.

Factor 4 – Leveraging Resources. Up to six points can be awarded for this rating factor, down from eight points in FY2016. The NOFA also clarifies how the Indian Housing Block funds must be described and committed to count as leverage.

Factor 5 – Comprehensiveness and Coordination. Up to six points can be awarded for this rating factor, down from eight points in FY2016.

Award Notices
Provided funding is appropriated, HUD expects to announce awards by September 2017.

Technical Assistance: Contact staff at your Area ONAP for general guidance and technical assistance regarding the NOFA. ONAP staff are not permitted to help you prepare your application. Contact the Grants.gov Support Center for assistance with electronic submission requirements.

Training on ICDBG NOFA Requirements: Training on the requirements of the FY 2017 ICDBG NOFA will be provided shortly after the NOFA is posted.

   • HUD's broadcast training for the ICDBG NOFA will be archived here in mid- to late April 2017; it will not be a live webcast. Information can be found at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/multimedia/videos.

   • Your Area ONAP will also conduct training specific to the ICDBG NOFA and electronic submission requirements. Contact your Area ONAP for training dates.

Applicants should not rely solely on information in this Guidance because it does not include all applicable NOFA requirements on the subjects addressed. Contact your Area ONAP Grants Management Specialist if you have any questions.