

Homes and Community Renewal

(Community Development Block Grant Program, and New York Main Street Program)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Q. Are CDBG affordable housing grants offered through the CFA?

A. The 2016 CFA includes funding for Public Facilities, Public Infrastructure, Microenterprise, and Community Planning. Housing Rehabilitation and Homeownership activities are offered through a separate funding round, currently due on September 28, 2016. Information is available online, here:

<http://www.nyshcr.org/AboutUs/Offices/CommunityRenewal/HousingResourcesFundingOpportunities.htm>

Q. What is the funding limit for a Microenterprise grant?

A. Eligible applicants may apply for a microenterprise grant of up to \$200,000. The recipient may then award eligible businesses up to \$35,000 each. The Recipient may elect to use 25% of the total award for Administration, Program Delivery and the required entrepreneurial training. Administration is capped at 5%.

Q. Should the prevailing wage be used for infrastructure?

A. Yes, Davis Bacon prevailing wage is required for infrastructure.

Q. Regarding the Community Development Block Grant, for the public infrastructure, can you submit more than one activity?

A. Under public infrastructure, if a project involves both water and sewer line replacement, then yes, both can be applied for under one application. If multiple activities are proposed that benefit different populations, then separate applications must be submitted.

Q. What is the deadline for CDBG?

A. Applications for the CFA are due at 4PM July 29, 2016. Open round activities including Economic Development and Small Business are through the CFA portal but are part of an open round format and do not share the July 29th deadline.

Q. Are private developers eligible to receive block grants?

A. No, applicants for CDBG funds must be units of local government.

Q. Is façade repair for government or private buildings eligible?

A. Facade repairs for buildings for the general conduct of government are ineligible for CDBG assistance. Façade repairs on private buildings may be eligible, please contact OCR for more information

Q. What is the total amount of funding available?

A. Public Facilities -\$300,000

Public Infrastructure- \$750,000, co-funded projects may apply for up to \$1 million

Microenterprise - \$200,000

Community Planning - \$50,000

Q. Can non-profits apply for CDBG funds or only government entities?

A. Applicants for NYS CDBG funds must be units of local government. Non-profits are not eligible to apply.

Q. Are buildings on fairgrounds eligible?

A. Building improvements must be available to users year-round and must be able to demonstrate a benefit to low-and moderate income persons.

Q. Do you need to have all of the paperwork from a municipality prior to applying?

A. All required attachments must be included with the full application.

New York Main Street Program

Q. Can NYMS funds be used to renovate private or vacant properties?

A. NYMS funds may be used to renovate privately-owned and/or vacant properties, however, only not-for-profit organizations and units of local government may submit applications to NYS Homes & Community Renewal.

Q. Can NYMS funds be used for site remediation?

A. No, site remediation, or site work, is not an eligible use of NYMS funds. Ineligible activities include new construction, demolition, site work, general operating expenses, furniture, fixtures, and equipment or electronics.

Q. Can NYMS funds be used towards demolition?

A. No, demolition is not an eligible uses of NYMS funds.

Q. Does the project need to have existing relationships with city programs to apply?

A. Existing relationships are not required, however, not-for-profit applicants are strongly encouraged to coordinate efforts with the municipality in which the project is located when applying for NYMS funds.

Q. How do applicants meet the eligibility requirements target area?

A. Eligible target areas are defined in the statute. An applicant must describe how an area meets each of the three criteria included in the definition below.

Article XXVI of the Private Housing Finance Law indicates that an eligible target area shall mean an area:

(i) that has experienced sustained physical deterioration, decay, neglect, or disinvestment;

(ii) has a number of substandard buildings or vacant residential or commercial units;

and (iii) in which more than fifty percent of the residents are persons whose incomes do not exceed ninety percent of the area median income for the county or metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in which the project is located, or which is designated by a state or federal agency to be eligible for a community or economic development program.

Applicants must address each of the three requirements and provide source data. CDBG eligible census tracts, and areas served by Neighborhood Preservation Companies meet criterion iii.

Q. Can a project apply for both targeted and downtown stabilization funds?

A. No, applicants are encouraged to focus their efforts on either a Downtown Stabilization Project or a Target Area Building Renovation Program. For this reason, NYMS Downtown Stabilization Project funds may not be requested in addition to a NYMS Target Area Building Renovation Program.

Q. Can we just apply for streetscape funds?

A. No, NYMS Streetscape funds may not be requested as a standalone activity. Streetscape funds must be ancillary to a target area building renovation program.

Q. What is the total amount of funding available for NYMS?

A. Up to \$5 million is available for the statewide New York Main Street Program.