

## CDBG RFA Questions

1. Pace, Center for Girls asked if the following are eligible activities before they did a full grant application. These are our current major capital funding needs:
  - a. Building out new offices to expand our Reach therapy program

This could be eligible, as long as the offices are providing services for LMI individuals, not administration offices, and are not new construction.

- b. Replacing our roof and HVAC system, both of which are in disrepair and necessary to continue providing services in our building

These are both eligible activities.

- c. Improving safety and security in our building (surveillance camera installation, door lock upgrades, etc.) that will directly benefit the staff and students we serve

There are a variety of types of repairs that are eligible to be made to public facilities owned by non-profits. These upgrades may be eligible if they are properly justified, support the increase or continuation of services and are reasonable. Refer to 24 CFR 570 for a complete list of eligible costs and improvements.

- d. Replacing dilapidated carpet and paint around the building

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2. Valerie's House is in the process of building its forever home in Lee County to greatly increase capacity to serve the needs of bereaved children and families, the majority of whom fall into the LMI category. The home (phase 1) is anticipated to be completed in August 2023. Additionally, estimated for completion in 2026 / 2027, phase 2 of the forever home will include approximately 5,000 additional square feet to create more rooms for serving additional children and families and providing additional services. has the following questions:

- a. Would this project (phase 1 to be completed by September 2023) be inappropriate because it is anticipated to be completed in several months (rather than being shovel ready)?

While the new construction of a public facility is an eligible project, projects that are already underway are not able to be funded with CDBG funds per local decision. The reason for this is that all the necessary cross cutting requirements would need to have been fulfilled when planning for phase 1 (i.e. the procurement processes, environmental reviews, Davis Bacon, exc.) When these requirements are not met from the beginning there is no way to go back and time to make the project compliant.

- b. If phase 1 is not appropriate for funding because it is nearing completion, would phase 2 be appropriate despite the fact that it is not anticipated to be complete within 24 months of the time of an award?

New Construction of facility for persons with special needs is eligible. Projects should be able to ensure occupancy/completion within 24 months or less following an award of funding. For most project types, the Project should begin within 3 months following the award of funding.

3. Our project idea would be to replace fencing and gates for the entire association complex. We suffered Hurricane Ian damage to our garden fence, and our existing fence is old and should be replaced in order to maintain a secure facility. Would this project meet the eligibility requirement?

Yes, fencing replacement is an eligible expense per the regulations at 24 CFR 570.201(c). Every application requesting rehab funding should show how the improvements will benefit the community, perhaps in terms of safety or other justifiable reasons.

4. Does a CPA peer reviewed letter satisfy the audit requirement?

A peer reviewed letter is sufficient to meet our internal audit requirements to apply for this funding. However, please keep in mind that if an organization receives over \$750,000 of federal funds in a year, they are required by federal regulations to have a single audit.

5. Is acquisition of land an eligible expense?

No, this is not an eligible expense.

6. Time frame for funds?

We prefer shovel ready projects, ready to go within 3 months of award and spend by 24 months or sooner.

7. How are the applications scored consistently across the scoring committee?

There is a reference scoring guide that all scoring committee members receive to ensure each item is considered on a consistent scale.