



**FAQ:
2016 Floods State Competition**

Questions and Answers for the Week Ending 7/13/2018

- Will multiple locations and/or target areas of a municipality within the county, as is in this case, with the same activity (streets and drainage) be considered eligible so long as each target area meets the required LMI threshold, etc.?

Yes. In the Application Guidebook on page 30, "a project is defined as a discrete combination of: entity (i.e., city or county), activity (i.e., water, sewer, etc.), beneficiary population, and national objective. A site is defined as a discrete location for activities within a project. A project can have one or more sites. For example, one water project that consists of three generators throughout a city consists of three sites, one for each generator." Of course, each site must identify its own specific beneficiaries. These beneficiaries will be aggregated and the subrecipient/application will be required to show that at least 70 percent of their funds are benefitting low- and moderate-income populations.

- Confirm that a memorandum of understanding or interlocal agreement will be required in the submitted application.

Memoranda of Understanding, interlocal agreements, and other such documents may be required if the proposed project affects or is the responsibility of multiple entities or jurisdictions. Such documents must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each entity or jurisdiction during the implementation of the project and the final responsibilities once the project is complete.

Questions and Answers During the 2016 Floods Webinar on 7/19/2018

- What is the purpose of requesting annual financial statements and a single audit report during the application phase?

These documents are required for contracting. Requesting them up front will help to expedite the contracting process once eligibility has been established.

- Is there funding available for the 2018 storm event?

Watch the website regularly because there are going to be a variety of different funding announcements for the 2018 events. At this time, those funds are not available.

- Under housing what will be eligible? Rehabilitation? Elevation? Reconstruction? Deconstruction?

The Action Plan identifies multiple eligible housing activities. They are identified on page 28 of amendment 3 of the Action Plan.

- Okay. What about new construction?

Yes, if it is shown that the community has lost housing stock and needs to rebuild stock as a result of the event.

- If the streets needing repair are located in a public housing authority area, but are owned by the city, can we get the 5 points for doing something that benefits the PHA? Because the PHA cannot apply to work on streets owned by the city.

The purpose of providing an additional 5 points to PHAs is to encourage the creation of additional housing units. Unless the proposed project provides additional housing units, the 5 points will be reserved for PHAs.

- If we do not have pictures of damage, what is acceptable as proof of damage?

It's recommended that you submit as many photos of actual damage to the proposed project site as possible. Notices and duration of power and/or utility outages and weather reports for the particular event relevant to the proposed project(s), and other similar documentation can also be used. Any documentation you can provide will be considered.

- If procurement resolutions, public hearings, etc., were performed for the 2015 application, and the entity is applying for 2016 as well, do these activities need to be repeated? Or will the 2015 documents suffice?

It is recommended that you repeat these activities because it is a completely different storm and disaster event. Documentation must be submitted that supports all of your efforts specifically for the 2016 event.

- Is this seminar for infrastructure for the city of Prairie View or for the homeowners?

Actually, this is a combined competition, the one application you will find on our website has a housing element for those applicants, or you can select an infrastructure element for the cities and counties to identify an infrastructure project.

Are you asking if this webinar is for individual homeowners?

Yes

This webinar is for counties, cities, or public housing authorities to apply for grant funds and they would, then, have a process for homeowners to apply through them for this allocation of funding. There will be future opportunities for individual homeowners affected by Hurricane Harvey to apply for assistance.

- Can we build public housing with this grant?

Yes, if you can show that you lost public housing units to the 2016 flooding events.

- On page 16 of the NOFA, it states the following: citizen participation plan—a grant to locality under the CDBG-DR program may be awarded only if the locality certifies that it is following a detailed citizen plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation at all stages of the disaster recovery program. It appears through reading this section that a locality would have to have their own citizen participation plan that mirrors the process and policies of the state's plan and have that available for review if funded. Would the local plan need to be approved by local officials, i.e., city council or city manager?

On the housing side, yes. And on the infrastructure side, yes, too. We would want an officially adopted plan that the city is following.

- Does the GLO prefer that the project location maps be overlayed on the census maps?

That would be very helpful if it is practical for you to do that, it helps our review team to understand the Census tract and block groups identified to receive a benefit. The best map clearly identifies the project location(s) and populations receiving benefit in a logical format.

I have another question. At the beginning it was stated that a project—the example was street, and we had multiple street locations—that could be considered one project. Does the beneficiary group have to be the same for all the streets, or can we add up together if one street over here in one precinct and another street over in another precinct, and add all the beneficiaries together and that be considered one project?

Yes. Of course, each site would require its own beneficiary data, but the cumulative result would be considered eligible if at least 70% of the funding serves low- to moderate-income populations.

Okay. So we could do streets or roads all over a county as long as we did in the aggregate the beneficiaries?

Yes.

- Can I use my city engineer who is on retainer to complete the application and then procure engineer services if awarded? If so, can the engineer still submit RFQs through the procurement process?

A city engineer would be a regular employee of the city and would be eligible as force account labor. A vendor on retainer must have been procured following 2 CFR 200 regulations. In any case, any procurement of vendor services must clearly define the scope of work expected.

- Are funds available for buyouts of houses in the areas in floodplains?

Yes, as provided for in the Action Plan, the buyout and acquisition of single family residences in floodplains, floodways, or repetitive flood areas is eligible for consideration.

- If we use the funds to cover match on an HMGP project, can we procure services together?

There is a potential that you could procure those together as long as all regulations in 2 CFR 200 have been followed and the scope of work clearly defined.

- If I have already applied for small projects and received funding for DR 4272, can I apply for a project? Also, can I include two projects under one procurement phase for grant application and admin?

Only the communities identified as Most Impacted have been eligible to apply for DR-4272 funding to date. Most Impacted communities are not eligible to also apply in the competition.

- What documentation does GLO want to see in the application regarding FEMA coverage?

Thorough FEMA documentation, insurance documentation, SBA documentation, or any other funding source documentation that you have received for the proposed project must be provided. Our goal is to make the most of all federal and other funding made available to the proposed project. We must also ensure that we're not duplicating a benefit that another entity has already provided.

- Will the GLO prefer on the census maps the latitude and longitude be provided?

The goal of project maps is to show the specific site location and the beneficiaries of each project site. If it is practical, include the latitude and longitude information on the map. However, the data must be included in the application as well.

- Are non-profits eligible entities?

They would have to apply in conjunction with the city or county or housing authority.

Questions and Answers for the Week Ending 7/20/2018

- Can the city widen and deepen the nature flow of water? The ditches were 35 feet deep but due to erosion over time they are less than 5 feet deep.

Drainage facilities are certainly an eligible activity for HUD CDBG-DR funding assuming all other eligibility requirements are met (damage related to 2016 flood events; meets a National Objective; etc.). Refer to the 2016 Flood and Storms Application Guidebook on our website (starting on page 29) for more information on project eligibility.

- Can the city dig out the erosion to help the nature flow of the water and stop the back flow?

Same answer as above.

- Can I include two projects under one procurement phase for grant application and admin? Or would they be submitted as separate procurements and applications?

The competition only allows for one project per application (only two applications per entity). However, you may procure application and admin services under one solicitation, as long as the scope of work is clearly outlined.

Questions and Answers for the Week Ending 7/27/2018

- Can a county submit an application for multiple locations throughout the county?

Yes. In the Application Guidebook on page 30, "a project is defined as a discrete combination of: entity (i.e., city or county), activity (i.e., water, sewer, etc.), beneficiary population, and national objective. A site is defined as a discrete location for activities within a project. A project can have one or more sites. For example, one water project that consists of three generators throughout a city consists of three sites, one for each generator." Of course, each site must identify its own specific beneficiaries. These beneficiaries will be aggregated and the subrecipient/application will be required to show that 70 percent of their funds are benefitting low- and moderate-income populations.

- Can a county submit an application for a target area within a municipality in the county as long as the county and municipality have entered into a memorandum of agreement?

Yes. Memoranda of Understanding, interlocal agreements, and other such documents may be required if the proposed project affects or is the responsibility of multiple entities or jurisdictions. Such documents must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each entity or jurisdiction during the implementation of the project and the final responsibilities once the project is complete.

- Does the same project activity need to be in all locations?

Yes.

Questions and Answers for the Week Ending 8/03/2018

- The most pressing question that we have is since we would only be requesting 25 percent of the project cost in order to be able to meet our FEMA match, can we separate out the costs so that we are not using the CDR funds for the chip seal but instead for the aggregate base, or does the chip seal eliminate us from consideration since it is listed on every PW?

If an entity uses any CDBG funds, the entire project has to meet all eligibility requirements. To determine how the match is developed (global or otherwise), all involved parties need to establish draw processing expectations at the beginning of the process to ensure that all applicable requirements are met. Entities can consider carving out a piece of the project (25%) to be paid by the CDBG-DR funds (as in the chip seal example), or they can choose to separate each and every draw at a 25%/75% split assuming the project is otherwise eligible. It is essential, however, that only one method be selected and utilized for the duration of the contract.

Questions and Answers for the Week Ending 8/10/2018

- For the 2016 disaster applications, would matching the PW's for the 2015 disasters be an eligible cost to include in the 2016 app? The entity has 2016 PW's as well that they want to apply for the matching 25%. The entity applied in the 2015 round to include the 2015 PW's in that application, but did not receive funding.

The entity would have to have been impacted by both the 2015 and 2016 events for such an arrangement to be considered. Each would be considered on a case by case basis.

Questions and Answers for the Week Ending 8/17/2018

- We are in process of filing out SF-424 form and it is asking for the CCR for the City of Breckenridge, is this number the same as the Duns number or the Sams number or the npin number? Sorry to ask so many questions but we are having to make sure this is done correctly.

We have posted the instruction for completing the SF-424 form on our website at <http://texasrebuilds.org/Pages/2016Floods.aspx>. The link is labeled as: Instructions for Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 OMB Number: 4040-0004.