

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
CITY OF BATON ROUGE & PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge Mayor’s Office of Community Development is undertaking the process to select projects to be funded under its new 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Action Plans. Projects under this NOFA must meet eligibility requirements under one of four HUD entitlement grant programs; Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA).

Funding Sources

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, to improve and/or enhance public facilities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of **\$3,284,286.00** in CDBG funds and is seeking proposals to assist in the following program areas:

I. Public Services

- a. Preferred public service projects will serve low- to moderate-income persons by providing new or quantifiably increased public services to:
 - i. carry out job training to expand the pool of health care workers and technicians that are available to treat disease within a community; or
 - ii. provide testing, diagnosis, or other services at a fixed or mobile location; or
 - iii. increase the capacity and availability of targeted health services for infectious disease response within existing health facilities; or
 - iv. provide equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to carry-out a public service; or
 - v. delivery meals on wheels or provide feeding services to quarantined individuals or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities; or
 - vi. employment services (e.g., job training); or
 - vii. crime prevention and public safety; or
 - viii. youth services and services for senior citizens; or
 - ix. health services; or
 - x. homeless Services and Prevention:
 - 1. outreach and case management services for homeless persons; or
 - 2. transitional and permanent affordable housing services for homeless persons; or
 - 3. community educational campaign activities; or
 - 4. programs addressing formerly incarcerated people (FIP) and Reentry Approaches
 - xi. community based technical assistance programs designed to aid residents

in targeting neighborhood blight, public safety, and homelessness.

II. Housing Activities

- a. Preferred services in connection with housing projects will serve low-to moderate-income persons by providing:
 - i. Housing Counseling
 - ii. Minor Home Rehabilitation
 - iii. Pre-Construction Activities for Affordable Housing Development

III. Economic Development Activities

- a. Preferred services in connection with economic development assistance projects to small business and/or microenterprises will focus on:
 - i. providing microenterprise grants or forgivable loans to support new businesses or business expansion to create jobs and manufacture medical supplies necessary to respond to infection disease; or
 - ii. providing assistance to avoid job loss caused by business closures related to social distancing by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons; or
 - iii. providing technical assistance, grants, loans, and other financial assistance to establish, stabilize, and expand microenterprises and DBE/MBE businesses

IV. Capital Improvement Activities

- a. Preferred public facility proposals will be in qualifying low- to moderate-income census tracts for the following activities:
 - i. Infrastructure Improvements (water/sewer lines, drainage systems, etc.)
 - ii. Neighborhood Facility Improvements (e.g. parks, libraries, recreational facilities, public schools, playground, senior centers, etc.)
 - iii. Special Needs Facilities (e.g. homeless or domestic violence shelters, nursing homes, or group homes)
 - iv. Code Enforcement
 - v. Demolition and Clearance

2. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

The ESG program provides funding to engage homeless individuals and families living on the street, improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families, help operate these shelters, provide essential services to shelter residents, rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of **\$277,199.00** in ESG funds and is seeking proposals to assist in the following program areas.

I. Street Outreach

- a. The street outreach component includes:
 - i. Engagement
 - ii. Case Management

- iii. Emergency Health
- iv. Emergency Mental Health Services
- v. Transportation

II. Emergency Shelter

- a. The emergency shelter component program participant services include:
 - i. Case Management to Coordinate Individualized Services
 - ii. Child Care
 - iii. Education Services
 - iv. Employment Assistance and Job Training Services
 - v. Outpatient Health Services
 - vi. Legal Services
 - vii. Life Skills
 - viii. Outpatient Mental Health Services
 - ix. Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Services up to 30 days, excluding inpatient treatment
 - x. Transportation
 - xi. Renovation, Rehabilitation, or Conversion of Buildings to use as Emergency Shelter
 - xii. Certain Costs for Operations of Emergency Shelters
 - xiii. Assistance Required Under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

III. Homelessness Prevention

- a. The homelessness prevention component includes:
 - i. Housing Relocation and Stabilization for Financial Assistance
 - ii. Housing Relocation and Stabilization of Services
 - iii. Non-duplicative Rental Assistance Provided to Persons At-Risk of Homelessness

IV. Rapid Re-Housing

- a. The rapid re-housing component includes:
 - i. Housing Relocation and Stabilization for Financial Assistance
 - ii. Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services
 - iii. Non-duplicative Rental Assistance Provided to Persons At-Risk of Homelessness

V. HMIS

- a. The HMIS component includes
 - i. Hardware, Software, Equipment, Office Space and Utility Costs
 - ii. Salary and Staff Costs for Operation of HMIS, including technical Support
 - iii. HMIS Training and Overhead Costs, including travel to HUD sponsored and approved HMIS training programs and travel costs for staff to conduct intake
 - iv. HMIS Participation Fees Charged by the HMIS Lead Agency

- v. HMIS-comparable Databases for Victim Services Providers or Legal Services Providers

3. Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Program

The HOPWA program was established to provide housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of **\$2,542,851.00** in HOPWA funds and is seeking proposals in the following program areas.

- I. Housing Development** to provide housing services
 - a. Acquisition
 - b. Rehabilitation
 - c. Conversion
 - d. Lease

- II. New Housing Construction**
 - a. Single Room Occupancy
 - b. Community Residences

- III. Housing Operating Costs (direct housing assistance)**
 - a. Maintenance
 - b. Security
 - c. Operation
 - d. Insurance
 - e. Utilities
 - f. Furnishings
 - g. Equipment
 - h. Supplies
 - i. Other Incidental Costs (emergencies)

- IV. Rental Assistance, including shared housing arrangements (direct housing assistance)**
 - a. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance including assistance for shared housing arrangements. Maximum monthly assistance for an eligible person may not exceed HUD approved subsidy standards. The rents shall be established by the Project Sponsor and shall not be more than the published Section 8 fair market rent rates (FMR) for this Baton Rouge Metropolitan Statistical Area. ***Funds will be paid directly to the project sponsor, not the client.***

 - b. Facility-Based Housing Assistance including master-leased units and project-based rental assistance; operating costs for housing including maintenance, security, operation insurance, utilities, furnishings, equipment, supplies, and other incidental costs; capital funds for the acquisition, rehabilitation, conversion, lease, and repair of facilities to provide housing and services; and capital funds for the new construction of single-room occupancy units or community residences.

V. Short-Term Housing Assistance

- a. Short term temporary shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility payments to prevent homelessness of the tenant or mortgager of a dwelling. A short term supported housing facility may not provide residence to more than fifty (50) families or individuals at any single time or to any individual for more than sixty (60) days during a six (6) month period. Short-term rent, mortgage, and emergency utility payments (STRMU) cannot be applied to cost accruing over a period of more than twenty-one (21) weeks in any fifty-two (52) week period. (Does not include security deposits, first-month rent, food, transportation vouchers, etc.)

VI. Supportive Services

- a. Health (alternative/complementary, HIV test counseling, dental, home health, hospice, medications, partner counseling/referral, primary & specialty care, rehab)
- b. Mental Health (Psychiatric, Other Counseling: Peer/Spiritual/Support group)
- c. Assessment
- d. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment and Counseling
- e. Day Care (respite care, foster care)
- f. Personal (buddy/companion, childcare, legal, transit, interpreter-translator, emergencies)
- g. Nutritional Services (food bank)
- h. Intensive Care
- i. Government Benefits Access Assistance (job/vocational rehab, insurance/other benefits)

- i. Permanent Housing Placement (direct housing assistance)

- 1. Application fees
 - 2. Credit Checks
 - 3. Security deposits
 - 4. 1st month rent

- ii. Housing Information Services to locate, acquires, finance and maintain housing (client advocacy)

- 1. Counseling (e.g., fair housing counseling for eligible persons who encounter discrimination on the basis of race, color religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status, LGBT or handicap.) (non-medical case management)
 - 2. Information
 - 3. Referral

(Does not include housing placement services such as security deposits, first-month rent, relocation costs, etc.)

VII. Resource Identification to establish, coordinate and develop housing resources

- a. Preliminary research
- b. Feasibility study costs

- VIII. Technical Assistance to establish and operate a community residence
 - a. Planning
 - b. Pre-Construction
 - c. Community Outreach
 - d. Community Education

- IX. Administrative Expenses: No more than 7% of funds awarded to sponsor.
 - a. General Management
 - b. Staff Training
 - c. Oversight
 - d. Coordination
 - e. Evaluation
 - f. Activity Reporting

4. HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program

The HOME program was established to expand the supply of decent, safe, and affordable housing, and strengthen public-private housing partnerships between units of local governments, public housing authorities, nonprofits, and for-profit entities. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of **\$1,446,021.00** in HOME funds and is seeking proposals in the following program areas.

I. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program

The Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program funds local nonprofits wishing to provide the following services to individuals within the City-Parish:

- a. Security and Utility Deposits
- b. Rental Subsidies (for up to 24 months while the household engages in a self-sufficiency program)

II. Single and Multifamily Family Housing Development Gap Financing

HOME provides funding to nonprofits, nonprofits certified as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and for-profits for the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable single-family homes to be sold to qualifying lower income households. Entities may also use funds to provide for the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental developments.

Funding is typically provided in the form of low interest rates, repayable loans. Multifamily developments must comply with long-term rent and income restrictions. All funding must be layered with additional funding sources. All projects are subject to all required HUD environmental review and subsidy layering requirements.

5. COVID-19 Pandemic Response

CDBG, ESG, HOPWA and HOME funding may be used to support activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Technical Assistance

A Technical Assistance (TA) Workshop for all proposers will take place on **Monday, November 16, 2020 at 10:00 am at the City Hall located at 222 St. Louis Street, 8th Floor, Room 804, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.**

This TA Workshop will provide all interested parties with an opportunity to review the application with OCD and Build Baton Rouge staff and to ask questions about the Request for Proposals, potential project ideas, and the corresponding process.

Request for Proposals

The Request for Proposals (RFP) package will be posted on City-Parish Office of Community Development website and available for download at <https://www.brla.gov/1509/Announcements> on **Monday, November 2, 2020**. The RFP package will also be posted on the Build Baton Rouge website at <https://buildbatonrouge.org/our-work/federal-grants/>.

Consideration for project funding under the 2020 Action Plan will require submittal of a completed RFP package by **Wednesday December 2, 2020**. All completed projects must be submitted to:

City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge
Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor-President
Office of Community Development – PY 2020 NOFA
c/o Build Baton Rouge
620 Florida Street
Suite 110
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Email: ocd@brgov.com (*Please Include “PY 2020 NOFA” in subject field of email)
Phone: (225) 387-5606 ext 503 TDD: (225) 387-0780
Fax: (225) 389-3939



We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the Nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.