



No. 2006 - 02  
March 9, 2006

# PROGRAM GUIDANCE

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**PROGRAM:** Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)

**FOR:** Tribal Government Leaders and Tribally Designated Housing Entities

*T.D.H.A.*

**FROM:** Rodger J. Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary, PN

**TOPIC:** Publication of Fiscal Year 2006 Super Notice of Funding Availability for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this guidance is to provide tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHE) with a summary of the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) 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, published in the Federal Register on March 8, 2006. The General Section of the SuperNOFA was published on January 20, 2006, amended on March 8, 2006, and describes HUD's FY 2006 policy and submission requirements. Both documents can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov/FIND>.

**Program Description:** The purpose of the ICDBG program is the development of viable 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 this 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 2006 Funding Availability:** The total approximate amount of funding available for the ICDBG program for FY 2006 is \$59,400,000, less \$3,960,000 retained to fund Imminent Threat Grants, for a total of \$55,440,000. The Area Office of Native American Program (AONAP) allocations are:

Eastern/Woodlands	\$ 6,325,737
Southern Plains	\$11,846,746
Northern Plains	\$ 7,917,788
Southwest	\$20,525,637
Northwest	\$ 2,891,489
Alaska	\$ 5,914,603

**Major Changes from FY 2005 NOFA:**

- Total funding for the ICDBG program was reduced from \$68,427,300 to \$59,400,000.
- Maximum points for Rating Factor 1, Capacity of the Applicant, increased from 30 to 40 points. The minimum points that must be received for this Factor to be considered for funding has increased from 15 to 20 points.
- Less documentation is required for some threshold and rating factors. There is more emphasis on written statements provided by the applicant.
- HUD has added a new sub-factor (included under Rating Factor 3) that awards 2 points to applicants who demonstrate how they will incorporate Section 3 principles into their proposed projects. Section 3 requires grantees to ensure that, to the greatest extent feasible (but not in derogation of Indian Preference), training, employment, and other economic opportunities will be directed to low- and very-low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and business concerns that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low income persons.
- The Needs Table for Rating Factor 2 and the Application Checklist (previously included with the NOFA as Appendixes), are not published with the NOFA. These documents have been posted at [www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail/cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail/cfm) under the ICDBG program.
- Housing Rehabilitation Cost Limits have increased for the Southern Plains area from \$30,000 to \$35,000, and, for the Northern Plains area, from \$45,000 to \$50,000.
- Grant Ceilings (the maximum grant for an applicant) were revised for the Northern Plains area to reflect grant ceilings based on population levels. See NOFA for specific changes.
- The point spreads for several of the Rating Factors have changed.

**Application Submission Deadline:** Applications must be received and validated by Grants.gov no later than 11:59:59 p.m. eastern time on **May 31, 2006**. The validation check ensures that:

1. The application is virus free;
2. The application meets the deadline requirements;
3. The DUNS number submitted on the application matches the DUNS number in the registration, and that the Authorized Organization Representative has been authorized to submit the application for funding by the organization identified by its DUNS number; and
4. All the mandatory fields and forms were completed in the application.

The validation check occurs 24 to 48 hours after the application is submitted. Therefore, **HUD recommends that all applicants submit their application no later than 48 to 72 hours before the deadline of May 31.**

**How To Apply:** Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov unless the applicant has received a waiver of the electronic submission requirement. Instructions on how to complete a grant application are posted by Grants.gov on its website at <http://www.grants.gov/CompleteApplication>. Applicants are encouraged to also read carefully the Electronic Submission of Application requirements in the General Section of the SuperNOFA, and to access the following documents to assist you with the registration and submission process:

- **STEP BY STEP Brochure:** This brochure will walk you through the process of registering for and managing the Grants.gov registration process. You must be registered with Grants.gov before you can apply for grants online. HUD has also posted the brochure on HUD's website at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm#grants>.
- **CFDA Number:** Applicants will have to enter the Funding Opportunity and/or Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for the ICDBG program to access the application package and instructions. The CFDA number for the ICDBG program is **14.862**.
- **Pure Edge™ Reader:** In order to view the application package, applicants also have to download and install the PureEdge™.Reader, available free for download from Step 2 of <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>. Grants.gov has an updated version of the PureEdge Viewer (version 6.2), for applicants who have not upgraded their version of PureEdge Viewer. The new version must be upgraded before downloading an application package.
- **Browsers:** HUD recommends you submit your application using Internet Explorer or Netscape browsers. Grants.gov has been tested using these browsers, and HUD has found easier transmission with these browsers than others.
- **Customer Service:** Applicants having difficulty accessing the application or having submission problems may receive customer support from Grants.gov by calling its help line at (800) 518-GRANTS or sending an e-mail to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).
- **No Internet Access:** Applicants who do not have Internet access and need to obtain a copy of the NOFA can contact HUD's NOFA Information Center toll-free at 1-800-HUD-8929. Persons with hearing or speech impairment may also call toll free at 1-800-HUD-2209. Copies of the NOFA will also be available from your Area ONAP.

**Waivers:** Applicants seeking a waiver of the electronic submission requirement must request a waiver for good cause in accordance with 24 CFR 5.1005. Waivers must be submitted no later than May 16, 2006. Waiver requests should be submitted for processing to:

Dept. of HUD  
Robert C. Weaver Federal Building  
Office of Native American Programs  
Attn: Rodger J. Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
451 Seventh St., S.W., Room 4126  
Washington, DC 20410

To expedite the receipt and review of waiver requests, applicants may e-mail their requests to [Barbara\\_a\\_Gallegos@hud.gov](mailto:Barbara_a_Gallegos@hud.gov).

Applicants receiving a waiver are subject to the same application deadline of May 31, 2006; no additional time can be granted. If a waiver is granted, ONAP will request 1 original and 2 copies of your paper application. Paper applications may be submitted through the United States Postal Service or through any other delivery method. However, it is stressed that the application must be **received by** May 31, 2006, 5:00 p.m. local time. Applications delivered after this date will not be accepted. Applications postmarked by the application due date will no longer be accepted. There is no more 15 day grace period for paper applications.

A waiver request granted during the FY 2005 competition is not valid for FY 2006.

**Technical Assistance:** Contact staff at your AONAP for general guidance and technical assistance regarding the NOFA and electronic submission requirements. ONAP staff is not permitted to help you prepare your application.

**Additional Information/Training on ICDBG NOFA Requirements:** Training on the requirements of the FY 2006 ICDBG NOFA will be provided as follows:

- A broadcast training for the ICDBG NOFA will be held on March 29, 2006, at 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. EST. Applicants may view the broadcast live from the AONAP, or may access the broadcast at a later date at HUD's website at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>. The SuperNOFA Webcast schedule can also be found at HUD's website at <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm>.
- Training on the Logic Model, and on Registration and Submission through Grants.gov will be provided by HUD through Webcast. Links to these training sites will be available shortly.
- The AONAP in your jurisdiction will also conduct training specific to the ICDBG NOFA and electronic submission requirements. Contact your AONAP for training dates.

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