

Research and Evaluations, Demonstrations, and Data Analysis and Utilization NOFA Questions & Answers

Conflict of Interest

Question: If an organization has provided technical assistance to a Public Housing Authority (PHA), is it ineligible to apply for funding under the Research and Evaluations, Demonstrations and Data Analysis and Utilization NOFA?

Answer: Ineligibility is defined for each of the projects outlined in the 2014 Research and Evaluations, Demonstrations and Data Analysis and Utilization NOFA with a particular focus on apparent and explicit conflicts of interest.

Organizations that are Ineligible by Project

- **Jobs Plus:** an organization that has provided or is in the process of providing technical assistance on the design and/or implementation of programs to increase work and earnings among public housing residents to any of the nine (9) grantees awarded funding under the 2014 Jobs Plus Pilot Program NOFA.
- **Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinators (ROSS-SC):** an organization that has provided or is in the process of providing technical assistance on the design and/or implementation of service coordination and delivery of supportive services (via Service Coordinators) to any of the grantees awarded funding under the 2014 ROSS-SC NOFA.
- **Small Area Fair Market Rent Demonstration (SAFMR):** an organization that has provided or is in the process of providing technical assistance on the implementation of Small Area FMRs to any of the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) awarded funding under the 2012 Small Area FMR Demonstration NOFA or any of the PHAs in the Dallas, TX metropolitan area operating with SAFMRs under a 2010 federal court settlement agreement.
- **Moving to Work (MTW):** an organization that has provided or is in the process of providing technical assistance to any of the 39 existing MTW PHAs specifically on the design and/or implementation of innovative practices to help PHAs manage cost efficiencies, help residents of HUD-assisted housing find employment or become self-sufficient, or increase housing choice for HUD-assisted families.

ROSS

Question: Are the PHAs who received ROSS in 2014 required to participate in the assessment and provide contact information for their service coordinators?

Answer: No. The FY 2014 ROSS-SC NOFA did not include a requirement for recipient PHAs to participate in an evaluation of the program, nor will the PHAs be required to submit to HUD the names and/or contact information of the service coordinators themselves. Contact information for the PHAs that have been awarded FY 2014 ROSS-SC funds will be provided by HUD to the research team selected to conduct the evaluation, but the research team will be responsible for reaching out to the PHAs and engaging them in this research effort, including the identification of the service coordinators to be surveyed. For additional information, see HUD's Press Release at:
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2015/HUDNo_15-021

Small Area FMRs

Question: As PHAs currently in the demonstration were selected from an original pool based on eligibility, would comparison PHAs need to come from that same pool?

Answer: The description of the PHA groups is discussed in the Federal Register Notice that announced the Small Area FMR Demonstration Program (<http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr/smallarea/index.html>) and the same restrictions that apply to PHAs eligible for the demonstration program apply to the comparison PHAs. HUD will provide the grantee with a list of PHAs in each bucket or comparison pool and the grantee will select the comparison PHAs or control group. All PHAs that were selected but declined to participate in the demonstration will be removed from the list of PHAs and these PHAs will be in the "selected but untreated group."

Question: Are PHAs participating in the demonstration (and those in Dallas) required to cooperate with an evaluation?

Answer: There are no requirements for the PHAs in Dallas to cooperate with an evaluation, but the PHAs in the demonstration have additional required reporting requirements, as discussed in the same Federal Register Notice that is discussed above (<http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr/smallarea/index.html>) and this required data collection will be used in the evaluation.

Question: What specific data elements can HUD provide about voucher holders in the SAFMR demonstration, Dallas, and comparison PHAs?

Answer: HUD's administrative data, as it pertains to Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) tenants in HUD form 50058 will be available for the Demonstration PHAs, Dallas and the comparison PHAs. This data will include the demographic characteristics of HCV families, the time they entered program, cost of units and payments by HUD and tenants (rent burden), income of HCV tenants, geocoded to ZIP code and/or tract level with personally identifiable information removed.

Question: Does HUD collect the same data from the Dallas area PHAs as it does from the demonstration PHAs?

Answer: The Dallas PHAs were not required to collect the additional data under the PHA Reporting Requirements of the SAFMR Demonstration Notice, but information on administrative costs (impact on staffing and resources, funding related impact, software/system issues, additional housing counseling) was used to determine how much HUD would reimburse the Dallas area PHAs. The court case In Dallas concerns the mobility of non-Hispanic blacks and so HUD and the litigant have done some work on the racial and poverty make-up of the ZIP code areas of Dallas (using ACS data), but the PHAs were not required to collect information on the reasons given by new and existing participants for their location choice.

Question: What data does HUD not have access to that may need to be obtained directly from PHA administrative records?

Answer: Success rate and lease-up rate information for new families must come from PHA administrative records. Factors affecting where an HCV locates or relocates may have to be collected from survey of tenants in the PHAs that are not part of the SAFMR Demonstration program. This would probably be most useful in Dallas.

Question: What are the reporting rates for this information?

Answer: PHAs eligible for the Small Area Demonstration program and those that would be in the comparison group must have reporting rates of 95 percent or more, in addition to the other eligibility requirements.

General Budget Questions

Question: Is there any requirement for bidders to breakout costs by task when completing the Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet?

Answer: No, there is not a requirement for applicants to break out costs by task when completing the Detailed Budget Worksheet. However, as discussed in the NOFA under Rating Factor 2, item b, Research Design and Work Plan, there is a requirement to provide a detailed allocation of resources by task in the work plan.

Question: Are subcontractors or consultants under the prime required to complete the Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet? If so, does their information need to be included as supporting documentation or should the total cost be listed as a line item on the prime's budget worksheet?

Answer: No, subcontractors or consultants are not required to complete the Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet.

Question: Does HUD require the bidders to provide any additional supporting budget information along with the budget worksheet?

Answer: No, there are no additional requirements. All of HUD's budget-related requirements are outlined in the NOFA package.

Question: Our budget for direct labor cost includes a merit increase for projects lasting more than one year. Should we include a separate line for each position or individual for projects lasting more than one year?

Answer: Applicants should determine how best to reflect projected expenses.

Question: Our budget for other direct costs includes an inflation factor for projects lasting more than one year. Should we include a separate line for each direct cost for projects lasting more than one year?

Answer: Applicants should determine how best to reflect projected expenses.

Question: Is the administrative budget the same as the Grant Application Detailed Budget Worksheet? If not, what is the difference between the two budgets?

Answer: Administrative costs should be reflected in the Detailed Budget.