

## Choice Neighborhoods Round 2 NOFA Questions and Answers

- 1. Can we change the boundaries of the target neighborhood from how they were identified in the Round 1 submission?**

No, in accordance with the definition of “Neighborhood” in the Round 1 NOFA, HUD expects that applicants used neighborhood boundaries that are established and clear to local parties. Thus, the Round 2 NOFA does not provide for boundary changes. Furthermore, a change the neighborhood boundaries could impact the application's eligibility and rating.
- 2. Are we allowed to make any changes to the amount or composition of our funding request?**

Yes, you may change the total funding request (still subject to the grant limitations outlined in the NOFA) as well as the proposed uses for grant funds included in the Round 1 submission.
- 3. Can an entity identified as a Principal Team Member in Round 1 be named as a Co-Applicant in Round 2?**

Yes, as stated in the Round 1 NOFA (definition of Co-Applicant), “In Round 2, Lead Applicants may choose (they are not required) to add a Co-Applicant(s). For example, the Lead Applicant could choose to elevate a Principal Team Member identified in Round 1 or to identify an entity that was not identified in Round 1.”
- 4. The site control requirements refer to the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant having site control for all parcels proposed for replacement housing. Will HUD accept control resting with a partnership or limited liability company whose general partner or managing member is the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant or a subsidiary of those entities?**

Yes, if an applicant has a wholly controlled affiliate which is the GP or managing member of an entity that owns the land, then it meets the site control requirements in the NOFA.
- 5. If a CFFP application is planned to be submitted after the Round 2 application deadline, do we need to include opinion and projections? (The units that we are proposing to remove from inventory are not part of the CFFP application). The application has not yet been submitted to HUD nor will it be before June 2.**

No, though in accordance with the NOFA, HUD may request the certification if the CFFP application is submitted before Implementation Grant awards are announced. If you plan to submit the CFFP proposal prior to the grant award announcements, it is recommended that the Round 2 application includes the documentation required for this threshold.
- 6. Regarding the rating factor on Anchor Institution Engagement (V.A.1.c.4), the NOFA says that, “in order to receive full points the anchor institution must be located in the target neighborhood.” In our case an anchor institution is located on the neighborhood boundary street, but not actually enclosed within the boundary. Would that meet the NOFA requirement to be located “in the target neighborhood”?**

No, the definition of “Neighborhood” (as stated in the Round 1 NOFA), says “the neighborhood is the geographic area within which the activities of the Transformation Plan shall focus.” However, HUD recognizes that such institutions can still have a significant influence on a neighborhood and encourages you to engage them as a partner in the Transformation Plan.

- 7. For the LEED-ND rating factor (V.A.1.c.7), where do we include the letter required? For Attachment 23, the NOFA references the Housing Green Strategy. There is no attachment to reference the certification/letter for LEED-ND.**

You should submit it as a new attachment, Attachment 30.

- 8. Our project is registered with USGBC as a LEED-ND project, but it is not yet Stage 1 Certified. One option provided in the NOFA is the Stage 1 Certification. Can we show our LEED-ND registered status through a letter from USGBC or should we pursue the other avenue of an AICP, AIA certification letter?**

A status letter from the USGBC is not sufficient to earn points under this rating factor. If your project has not received the Stage 1 Certification, your application would need to include “an attestation ... that your project has been designed to comply with the goal of achieving at a minimum, LEED-ND Certification” in order to earn points.

- 9. In the Housing and People components, does the match also count toward leverage?**

Yes. The only prohibition related to match is that other funds appropriated under section 24 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, (the section under which HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhoods are funded) cannot be considered match. Leverage must meet the program requirements stated in the NOFA and be available for use in accordance with the rules governing its funding source.

- 10. For the CDBG commitment, is the commitment for the percentage of CDBG allocation each year for the five years of the grant or for the allocation in a single year?**

The NOFA only requires a one-time commitment based on a single year’s allocation of CDBG funding.