

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS

Housing Trust Fund Corporation
Governor's Office for Small Cities
Agency Building 4, 6th Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York, 12223-1350

UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT (VILLAGE, CITY, TOWN OR COUNTY), EXCLUDING METROPOLITAN CITIES, URBAN COUNTIES AND INDIAN TRIBES; CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES HAVING A POPULATION UNDER 50,000, AND COUNTIES WITH AN UN-INCORPORATED POPULATION OF UNDER 200,000

2004 Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program; Annual Competitive Round and Economic Development Open Round

The Governor's Office for Small Cities (GOSC) of the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) announces the availability of approximately \$52 million for the 2004 Competitive Round and the 2004 Economic Development Program. As of the date of issuance of this announcement, the exact amount of funds available for the 2004 Program Year is not known. To the extent possible, the State will allocate these funds to eligible applicants according to the following approximate allocations, annual round competition involving the funding categories of Housing, Public Facilities and MicroEnterprise (60%) and open round Economic Development (35%).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The New York State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Program is a federally funded program authorized by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The CDBG Program provides funding to assist communities to ensure decent affordable housing for all, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities and to create jobs and expand business opportunities to implement a wide variety of community and economic development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and the provision of improved community facilities and services. Applicants of the program must ensure that the activities funded under the Small Cities Program benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight or meet community development needs having a particular urgency. 70% of funds requested must benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are units of general local government (village, city, town or county), excluding metropolitan cities, urban counties and Indian Tribes. Cities, towns and villages having a population under 50,000, and counties with an un-incorporated population of under 200,000 are eligible to apply for Small Cities funding. Questions regarding eligibility of applicants should be directed to the GOSC.

USE OF FUNDS

Competitive Round Grants

Funding under the 2004 Annual Competitive Round may be used

by municipalities for projects in three categories: Housing (rehabilitation, homeownership, private water/wastewater system assistance or construction of new affordable housing), Public Facility and Microenterprise. A community may propose a program that is "single purpose" in nature, addressing only a particular area of need or may propose a program that undertakes a strategy that deals comprehensively with the problems of a particular area. GOSC encourages communities to propose programs that are creative and innovative in addressing their needs.

For the purposes of the Annual Competitive Round, economic development projects, other than microenterprise, will only be considered as part of a comprehensive grant proposal. Economic Development proposals may be made under the separate Open Round for economic development funding.

Open Round Grants

Funding under the 2004 Open Round may be used by municipalities for general economic development activities that create and/or retain permanent, private sector job opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons, through the expansion and retention of business and industry in New York State.

Under the Economic Development Program, the GOSC provides grant funds to eligible units of general local government for the following purposes:

1. To provide financial assistance to a business for an identified CDBG eligible activity which will result in the creation or retention of permanent, private sector job opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons; or
2. To construct publicly owned infrastructure improvements, which are necessary to accommodate the creation, expansion or retention of a business which will result in the creation or retention of permanent, private sector job opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

Typical eligible activities are:

1. Grants for publicly owned infrastructure/off-site improvements.
2. Financial assistance to businesses.
3. Any justifiable and eligible business purpose.

CDBG Small Cities grant funds may only be used for the construction or rehabilitation of commercial property, or its supporting infrastructure (e.g., water or sewer lines), when a private business has committed itself to utilizing the property for a business purpose that will result in the creation or retention of the requisite number of low- and moderate-income jobs.

Market driven businesses (e.g., restaurant, retail) will only be considered when development of that business is an integral part of a comprehensive or geographically- targeted community revitalization effort. Startup businesses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible units of general local government must apply to the GOSC on behalf of the end user of the CDBG funds. The CDBG grant is awarded directly to the unit of local government. The GOSC does not make direct loans or grants to businesses. CDBG funds are considered gap financing and are designed to leverage the maximum feasible amount of private and/or other public financing.

Questions about the applicability of either program for a local project should be directed to GOSC at the earliest opportunity.

FUNDING LIMITS

Competitive Round Grants

The maximum grant amount for competitive projects is \$400,000 for towns, villages and cities and \$600,000 for counties. The maximum grant amount for joint applications is \$600,000 for Public Facilities and \$400,000 for Housing. The maximum grant amount for all eligible applicants for Microenterprise projects is \$400,000. The maximum grant amount for comprehensive grants is \$650,000.

Open Round Grants

The maximum grant for an Economic Development project is \$750,000 per applicant and the minimum is \$100,000. The maximum grant amount per full time equivalent (FTE) job created/retained is \$7,500.

The GOSC may approve applications which exceed the maximum FTE job created/retained or the funding limit where it is found that a project or projects may have a significant impact beyond the immediate benefit of jobs created or retained inasmuch as the project/business may realize a potential for regional or even statewide economic impact. However, the State will not approve an application where the maximum expenditure per FTE job created/retained exceeds \$35,000.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Competitive Round Grants

The 2004 application will be available on or about January 7, 2004 from the Governor's Office for Small Cities, Agency Building 4, 6th Floor, The Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. If you would like an application mailed to you, please call (518) 474-2057. Applications will also be available on or about January 7, 2004 via the GOSC website, www.nysmallcities.com.

Applications are due to GOSC by April 5, 2004. If mailed, applications must be postmarked no later than April 5, 2004. If hand-delivered, it must be delivered on April 5, 2004, no later than 4:00 p.m.

The above-stated application deadline is firm as to date and hour. In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, GOSC will treat as ineligible for consideration any application that is not received by 4:00 p.m. on, or postmarked by, April 5, 2004. Applicants should take this procedure into account and make early submission of their materials to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays or other delivery-related problems.

Open Round Grants

Interested applicants must first contact the GOSC to complete the preliminary evaluation process in order to determine that the economic development project, as proposed, meets CDBG program and GOSC selection requirements. Based upon the information provided during the preliminary evaluation process, the applicant may then be invited to submit an application for funding.

Beginning January 7, 2004 eligible applicants may start the preliminary evaluation process. To obtain a copy of the Local Governments' Guide to The Governor's Office for Small Cities CDBG Economic Development Program, please visit our website at www.nysmallcities.com or contact: Stephen McGrattan or Chris Hunsinger, Economic Development Program Administrators at the above address or call (518) 474-2057, fax (518) 474-5247

APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

The GOSC held Application Workshops for the 2004 Application Round at various locations across the State during the month of November. An additional Application Workshop is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2003 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany in Meeting Room #1 at 1:00 PM.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Passenger Transportation Division

State Campus, Bldg. 4, 134

Albany, New York 12232-0414

PRIVATE NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS; RURAL PUBLIC BODIES

Vehicles to Provide Passenger Transportation Services for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities Under 49 USC, Chapter 53, Section 5310

Applications will be accepted through April 15, 2004, for vehicles to provide passenger transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities under Section 5310 of Chapter 53, Title 49, United States Code. Requests for application information must be made prior to March 1, 2004. Only private non-profit corporations, public bodies in rural counties that are approved by the State as the coordinator of transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities, and public bodies in rural counties which certify to the Governor that no non-profit corporations or associations are available in an area to provide transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities are eligible to apply. Designated coordinated service operators in counties participating in the New York State Rural Public Transportation Coordination Assistance Program are not eligible for funding under this notice. A total of \$6.5 million, which includes a required 20 percent local share, will be made available for capital purchases.

For an application, contact: Specialized Transit Section at the above address or e-mail: mbaker@dot.state.ny.us include "Section 5310 Application Request" in your Subject Line, or call (518) 457-8335