

**Universal Funding Application Cycle
Fiscal Year 2021 – 2020
Grant Guidelines**

Introduction

The City of Tampa has released the Universal Funding Request for Application (RFA) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), program. This application has been designed for all of the above referenced funding sources to be included in the City of Tampa's FY21/PY20 Annual Action Plan.

Eligible CDBG activities are described in Title 24 CFR Part 570. Eligible ESG activities are described in Title 24 CFR Part 576 and eligible HOPWA activities are described in Title 24 CFR 574.

Please note:

- Applications are due Wednesday, May 7, 2020 by 5:00PM EST
- Applications must be submitted online through ZoomGrants™. Incomplete, hand-delivered, emailed, mailed, faxed, or late applications will be deemed ineligible.
- **Must be in business for no less than three years (must be documented on page where they enter name, address and other info about agency)**
- Applications for ESG and HOPWA will need to contain a three (3) year budget
- Minimum Funding Request for CDBG Public Service funding: \$100,000
- Funds will not be granted to reduce existing deficits, entertainment, lobbying expenses, audits, or other ineligible expenses under the Universal Funding Application Guidelines.
- **Organizations must demonstrate the financial viability to operate a federally-funded program strictly on a reimbursement basis. City of Tampa funds are provided to awarded projects on a reimbursement basis only. This means that funds will be available to the organization after it has paid for eligible project costs. However, no costs incurred prior to contract approval may be reimbursed. A financially viable organization is one that is able to:**
 - Operate for a minimum of 90 days pending reimbursement without financial hardship;
 - Demonstrate an existing and consistent cash flow; and
 - Have a separation of duties for personnel time allocations, etc.
- **Applicants who previously received funding from the City must report the status of that funding, including actual accomplishments, previous Monitoring results and any outstanding findings or concerns. Applicants with open Monitoring Findings with the City that are unable to be resolved prior to the deadline for funding applications will be ineligible to apply for this RFA.**

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- All applicants approved for funding must attend a post-award conference with City staff and provide a project budget based on the 2020-2021 pending grant award amount. Additionally, policies and procedures, sample client files, and other documents may be requested in a form acceptable to the City prior to the post-award conference.
- Projects must meet all applicable grant requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Applicants must demonstrate adequate management, fiscal controls and staffing capacity within its current organization to undertake the proposed project.
- Applicants must report the status of all funds that are requested or proposed from other sources.

Webinar Workshops

Webinar Workshops will be available on our website www.tampagov.net/hcd from April 2nd through April 14th.

Tentative Schedule of Events*

- | | |
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| • RFA Release- CDBG, ESG, HOPWA | April 1st , 2020 |
| • Technical Assistance Webinar | April 2nd -14th |
| • Workshop questions Due | April 14th & April 20th |
| • First Public Hearing- FY2018 Action Plan | May 28th , 2020 |
| • RFA Submission Deadlines (All programs) | May 7th , 2020 |
| • Proposal Review and Recommendations | May 21st – May 22nd |
| • Draft and Action Plan and Second Public Hearing | July 16th , 2020 |
| • Council Approval of Plan | August 6th , 2020 |
| • Final Plan Deadline to HUD | August 15th , 2020 |

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- Fiscal Year 2021 begins. Contract period from
October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

October 1st, 2020

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Funding

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The City of Tampa solicits the submission of project proposals for funding consideration under the City of Tampa's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, based on annual entitlement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The purpose of Public Service funds is to create a quality living environment that increases access to quality facilities and services, improve the safety and livability of neighborhoods, restore and preserve natural and conserve energy resources.

The funds must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income persons (80% Area Median Income or below), low income areas, or to eliminate slum or blight conditions. CDBG funding cannot replace local funding of low-income activities, but is meant to supplement other funding sources.

City of Tampa will not reimburse costs incurred in applying for CDBG funding. Beginning project costs before funds are officially released will result in project ineligibility and no reimbursement from the City of Tampa.

More detailed information on the CDBG program can be found at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development web site at the following address: <https://www.hudexchange.info/>

The City of Tampa is currently accepting applications for the following projects under CDBG:

CDBG Housing Counseling

The City of Tampa is seeking applications from **501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that have been in business for at least three years**. In addition, the organizations **must be HUD approved housing counseling agencies for a minimum of three (3) years**. The City is seeking these organizations to provide the following:

1. One on one housing counseling services to residents residing within the City of Tampa limits.
2. Home Buyer Education to area residents seeking to purchase a home in the City of Tampa limits.
3. Post purchase counseling to new homeowners within the City limits as they navigate the transition from renter to homeowner.
4. Application processing for the City's Mortgage Assistance Program.

The City seeks programs that offer day, evening and/or Saturday sessions to accommodate the program participants' availability **and MUST be a minimum of eight hours**.

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CDBG Public Services

The purpose of Public Service funds is to create a quality living environment that increases access to quality facilities and services, improve the safety and livability of neighborhoods, restore and preserve natural and conserve energy resources.

CDBG Public Service grants must be matched dollar for dollar.

The public service must be one of the following:

- Child Care,
- Health Care/Mental Health,
- Job Training,
- Recreation Programs,
- Education Programs,
- Services for senior citizens,
- Services for homeless persons,
- Drug abuse counseling and treatment,

CDBG Economic Development

The purpose of the Economic Development funds is to stimulate economic revitalization that will create jobs for low-income persons; provide access to credit for community development that promotes long term economic and social viability; and empower economically disadvantaged persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

The economic development project must either be:

- Technical assistance to for-profit businesses in low-income census tract or that serves low-income census tracts.
- Special Economic Development Activities – Loans and or grants to create and or expand for-profit businesses in low-income census tract or that serves low-income census tracts.

Emergency Solutions Grant

The ESG program is funded by HUD to increase the availability and accessibility to a suitable living environment by providing various types of assistance to homeless persons and persons at risk of becoming homeless. For the purpose of this RFA, the specific ESG program objectives, as amended by the HEARTH Act of 2009, are to provide shelter and rapid re-housing services for homeless persons and persons who are at-risk of homelessness. Persons eligible to receive ESG services as identified in the HEARTH Act of 2009 include, but are not limited to, the following: individuals and families who are currently homeless, individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless, and homeless persons with disabilities.

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Limited List of Eligible ESG Activities (24 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 576.104 to 24CFR 576.106) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by the HEARTH Act of 2009 include the following:

- (1) Provision of rental assistance to provide short-term or medium-term housing to homeless individuals or families or individuals or families at risk of homelessness. Such rental assistance may include tenant-based or project-based rental assistance.
- (2) Housing relocation or stabilization services for homeless individuals or families or individuals or families at risk of homelessness, including housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, legal services, credit repair, providing security or utility deposits, utility payments, rental assistance for a final month at a location, assistance with moving costs, or other activities that are effective at (a) stabilizing individuals and families in their current housing; or (b) quickly moving such individuals and families to other permanent housing.

Funding Guidelines:

- Proposed projects will only be eligible for funding October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Successful applicants will be funded for three (3) years based on subsequent allocations of the ESG funds. **(In Zoom you will need to identify the budget for each of the three years in the Budget Tab)**
- Project goals should be attainable within a defined period of time (typically one year) and should achieve measurable results.
- No more than 5% of Emergency Solutions Grant funds may be utilized for administrative costs.

ESG Project Sponsors must ensure the consistent participation in UNITY the local Homeless Management and Information (HMIS) system administered by the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative. Non-compliance with the UNITY Standard Operating Procedures may adversely affect the current and/or future cycles of the RFA recipient. Any violation of UNITY policies requires immediate corrective action.

Successful Applicants must utilize the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative's Coordinated Intake and Assessment System (CI&A). Further, the successful Applicant will establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the community organizations participating in the CI&A process established by the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative.

The awarded agencies must also agree to abide by the policies and procedures written and provided by the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative any subsequent amendments.

Finally, ESG grant funds must be matched, dollar for dollar. These local matching funds can come from the grantee or recipient agency or organization; other federal, state and local grants; and from

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"in-kind" contributions such as the value of a donated building, supplies and equipment, new staff services, and volunteer time.

More detailed information on the ESG program can be found at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development web site at the following address: <https://www.hudexchange.info/>

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

HOPWA funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been made available to provide housing assistance and supportive services to eligible persons residing in the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consisting of Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Eligible persons are of low-income who have HIV/AIDS, and their affected family members.

Funding Guidelines:

- Proposed projects will only be eligible for funding October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Successful applicants will be funded for three (3) years based on subsequent allocations of the HOPWA funds.
- Project goals should be attainable within a defined period of time (typically one year) and should achieve measurable results.

- No more than 7% of HOPWA Grant funds may be utilized for administrative costs.

More detailed information on the HOPWA program can be found at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development web site at the following address:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/>

Supplemental information is available on the City of Tampa's Housing and Community Development webpage, <https://www.tampagov.net/housing-and-community-development/request-for-proposals>.

Note: The City of Tampa will **not** reimburse costs incurred in applying for CDBG, ESG or HOPWA funding.

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RFA Questions

1. Which of the following activities best describes your project?
 - CDBG Housing Counseling
 - CDBG Public Service
 - Economic Development
 - ESG
 - HOPWA
2. Describe the project/program for which you are requesting funds, identify location and include specific information on what the dollars will be used for.
3. Describe the project/program and identify the location. If the project/program will address a service area, provide the outline of the area to include census tract and block group data.
4. Has the applicant ever had funding recaptured or deobligated? Please provide detailed information.
5. Describe the applicant's knowledge and capability to develop, implement, and administer the project/program. *Upload essential staff resumes, organizational charts, training, education, skill, and listing of prior similar projects/program.*
6. Describe your organization's fiscal capacity to manage financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, policies and procedures, and audit requirements.
7. Describe the project in detail. *Your response should include answers to the following questions: What unmet community needs will your project address • How did you determine the needs exist and how are they quantified • Have the needs changed in the past 5 years • What unique or innovative features, if any, are associated with your project?*
8. Who else provides the same services that are being proposed?
9. Describe any partner agencies/organizations involved and provide letters of collaboration that define roles and responsibilities of each. Upload scanned letters in the 'Documents' tab of your application. *If your application is contingent upon additional funding sources, please ensure all commitment letters are attached to your application.*
10. Describe your project/program timeline. Include start date, milestones, benchmarks, and completion date. *Timelines can be uploaded under the "Documents Tab".*
11. Please describe your project/program's goals, objectives and anticipated outcomes. *Please refer to the instructions and submit the required Goals, Objectives and Anticipated Outcomes located in the documents tab.* For example, a good performance measure for a home ownership program would be that 20% of program participants will increase credit score by 100pts.
12. Estimate the number of persons (OR) households that will benefit from the project/program.

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13. Does the applicant have a history of securing local, state, federal, and private dollars?

Please upload a list all funding sources, type of project related to the proposed project/program, provide program goals and outcomes.

Scoring Criteria

The City will not be under any requirement to complete the evaluation by any specific date and reserves the right to suspend or postpone the evaluation process should the need arise due to budget constraints, time constraints or other factors as directed by the City. However, it is anticipated that the review/evaluation process will be completed in a timely manner.

A Proposal Evaluation Committee will be established to review and evaluate all proposals submitted in response to this RFA. The Committee shall conduct a preliminary evaluation of all proposals on the basis of the information provided and other evaluation criteria as set forth in this RFP. The contract will be awarded to the most qualified contractor per the evaluation criteria listed below.

Following receipt of written proposals, the City may thereafter select those Proposers which, in the judgment of the City, qualify as finalists and request those Proposers to make oral presentations to the City and its representatives, prior to the final selection of the Successful Proposer.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and the issuance of this RFA and potential inclusion of a Proposer into the interview process shall in no way be deemed to create a binding contract or agreement between the Proposer and the City.

Proposers are advised that the City intends to select the Successful Proposer that the City determines is the most responsive and responsible.

Application of WMBE and SLBE Evaluation Points. During the evaluation of proposals for WMBE and SLBE participation, the Minority and Small Business Development Office will be responsible for assigning the points under this criteria. WMBE and SLBE points will be determined as follows:

1. A maximum of ten (10) rating points may be awarded when the Proposer is a City of Tampa certified WMBE Company participating as the prime contractor deemed underutilized within the industry category established by the RFP Construction and Construction-Related Services.

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2. A maximum of five (5) rating points may be awarded when the Proposer is a City of Tampa certified SLBE business participating as the prime contractor; or,
3. One to Seven (1-7) rating points may be awarded when the Proposer is not a City of Tampa certified SLBE prime contractor or a non-underutilized WMBE company but utilizes WMBE and/or SLBE certified firm(s) as Sub-contractors/consultants, and assigned to perform meaningful segments of the contractual services detailed herein and documented on the enclosed MBD Form 10-20 (4 pages total).

NOTE: The maximum number of points achievable for WMBE and/or SLBE participation will not exceed a total of 10 points.

Points	Guidance
Maximum points	More than adequate response
Middle points	Adequate response, no special insights
No points	Inadequate or no response

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Scoring Example [show/hide](#)

Title

Each Committee Member will enter their own score		Scoring Scale	Weight	Max Score
1	How well did the applicant describe the project/program?	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
2	Has the agency ever had compliance (monitoring) challenges?	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
3	Knowledge and capability to develop, implement and administer the project/program?	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
4	Fiscal capacity - financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, policies and procedures and audits.	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
5	Project detail - unmet community need, determinations of needs, change in needs, unique or innovated features of the project.	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
6	Does anyone else provide the same service?	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
7	Partner and collaboration descriptions and letters included?	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
8	Project timeline clear and sufficient?	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
9	Project/program goals, objectives and anticipated outcomes clear?	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
10	Budget - table completed, narrative in support of budget?	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
11	History of securing local, state, federal and private dollars	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
12	History of the Organization	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
13	Minority Business Forms	<input type="text" value="10"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	10
14	Leverage (applicable for HOPWA, Housing Counseling and Economic Development)	<input type="text" value="5"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	5
15	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	0
16	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	0
17	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	0
18	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	0
19	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	0
20	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	X <input type="text" value="1"/> =	0
Total Score Possible				105

Score Questions and points:

1. How well did the applicant describe the program/project? **5pts**
2. Has the agency ever had compliance (monitoring) challenges? **10pts**
3. Knowledge and capacity to develop, implement and administer program/project **10pts**
4. Fiscal capacity - financial reporting, record keeping, accounting systems, policies and procedures and audits. **10pts**
5. Project detail – unmet community need, determinations of needs, change in needs, unique or innovated features of the project. **5pts**
6. Does anyone else provide the same service? **5pts**
7. Applicant partner agencies and collaboration letters included? **5pts**
8. Project timeline clear and sufficient? **5pts**
9. Project/program goals, objectives and anticipated outcomes clear? **10pts**
10. Budget – table completed, narrative in support of budget? **10pts**

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11. History of securing local, state, federal and private dollars? **10pts**
12. History of the organization **5pts**
13. Minority Business Forms **10pts**
14. Leverage (applicable for HOPWA, Housing Counseling and Economic Development) **5pts**