

Rural Gateway Peer-to-Peer Web Conference



An Overview of the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunities

May 18, 2021
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET





U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development
Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development
in Partnership with the
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration
Loan Guaranty Service



Purpose – HUD's Role

The purpose of the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP) is to explore the potential benefits of awarding grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities.



Funding

- HUD has awarded \$ 20.1 million to nonprofit organizations that provide nationwide or statewide programs that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals.
- Grants were competitively awarded up to \$1 million each to selected applicants.
- HUD has made 21 awards from the funds available under the Notice of Funding Available (NOFA).



Eligible Applicants

- Eligible applicants for the VHRMP pilot program are nonprofit organizations that provide nationwide or statewide programs that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals.
- Nonprofit organizations are limited to those described in section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and are exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.



Eligible Activities

- Modification and rehabilitation of the primary residence of an eligible veteran, which may include making physical modifications.
- Such as installing wheelchair ramps, widening exterior and interior doors, reconfiguring and re-equipping bathrooms, removing doorway thresholds, installing special lighting, adding additional electrical outlets and electrical service, installing appropriate floor coverings, lowering countertops and cabinets.



Beneficiaries

- Veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities in need of adaptive housing to help them regain or maintain their independence, are unable to fund significant home repairs, or are burdened by utility costs.
- **Low-income veteran** – The term “low-income veteran” means a veteran whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for an area, as determined by the Secretary of HUD.
- **Eligible veteran** – The term “eligible veteran” means a low-income veteran living with a disability.



Veterans Service Organizations

- **Veterans Service Organization (VSO)** – Any organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code. ” For the directory of Veterans Service Organizations, visit <https://www.va.gov/vso/>.
- HUD VHRMP applicant’s plan for working with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Service Organizations to identify veterans who are not eligible for programs under chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, and meet their needs.
- HUD VHRMP applicant’s outreach strategy must include a plan of action detailing outreach initiatives to (i) identify eligible veterans; (ii) engage eligible veterans and Veterans Affairs recognized-Veteran Service Organizations (*as described in I. Funding Opportunity Description, Section 4. Program Definitions of the FY2021 VHRMP NOFO, pages 9-10*); and (iii) reach underserved communities in an effort to promote equity, consistent with Executive Order 13985 on equity.



VA Specially Adapted Housing

VA's Role in VHRMP

- In support of VHRMP, the VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program reviews solicitation artifacts to maximize program and resource alignment across the agencies.
- SAH verifies the status of the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) references submitted as part of the application process by potential grantees.
- SAH can advocate on behalf of the VHRMP awardees and facilitate VSO engagement as needed to ensure maximum impact of VHRMP grant funds.
- VHRMP provides an additional opportunity for creative collaboration between HUD and VA, as well as new opportunities for VSOs to engage and assist Veterans via the VHRMP grant awardees.



VA Specially Adapted Housing

VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Background

- Responsible for Policy, Outreach, Delivery of the 3 SAH housing adaptation grants (SAH/SHA/TRA)
- Ambassadors for an additional 2 VA Housing Adaptation grants (HISA, VR&E IL)
- Deliver grants providing up to \$100,000 to our nation's Veterans and Servicemembers with serious, service-connected disabilities for the express purpose of adapting their homes, helping to:
 - Create a barrier-free environment
 - Live more safely and independently
 - Temporarily reside in the home of a family member



VA Specially Adapted Housing







VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Background

- Maximum of 6 grant usages totaling the maximum available grant amount
- Grant amounts are adjusted annually based on the Turner Construction Index
- Over 2000 grants approved each year / \$120M in projects
- Since SAH program inception in 1948, nearly 46,000 grants awarded totaling over \$1.4B
- Deliver Minimum Property Requirements (MPR) and Recommended Adaptations (RA)



VA Specially Adapted Housing

VA Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Background

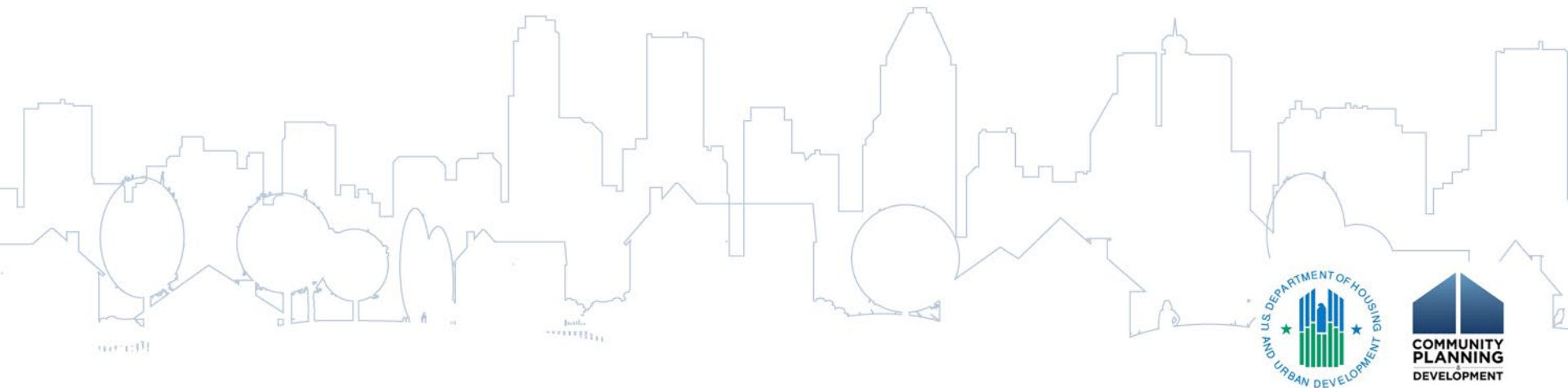
- 1. Specially Adapted Housing grants:** Help eligible Veterans and Servicemembers live more independently in a barrier-free environment.
 **Max Grant Amount**
\$100,896
- 2. Special Housing Adaptation grants:** Help eligible Veterans and Servicemembers adapt or purchase a housing unit to live more independently.
 **\$20,215**
- 3. Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grants:** May be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Servicemembers who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member.
 **\$40,437 (SAH TRA)**
\$7,256 (SHA TRA)
- 4. VR&E Independent Living Adaptation grants:** May be provided to individuals who are not currently able to work because of the effects of service-connected disabilities.
 **\$92,569**
- 5. Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grants:** Provides for medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to a Veteran or Servicemember's primary residence
 **\$6,800 50%**
\$2,000 40% 



VA Specially Adapted Housing

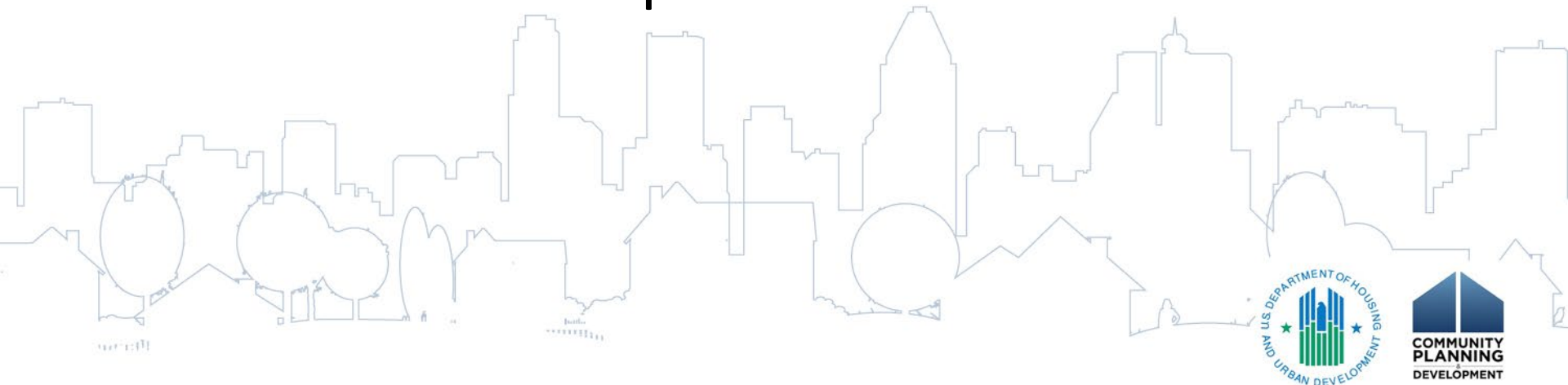
How Can We Help You Be Successful?

- Review VHRMP Grantee Outreach Plans
- Facilitate VSO Input/Feedback
- Review VHRMP Grantees/VSOs Strategy
- SAH artifacts posted to the VHRMP website



Funding

- Up to \$ 9.4 million awarded competitively;
- Approximately 9 awards;
- Minimum Award amounts = \$700 thousand;
- Maximum award amounts = \$1 million;
- 36-month award period.



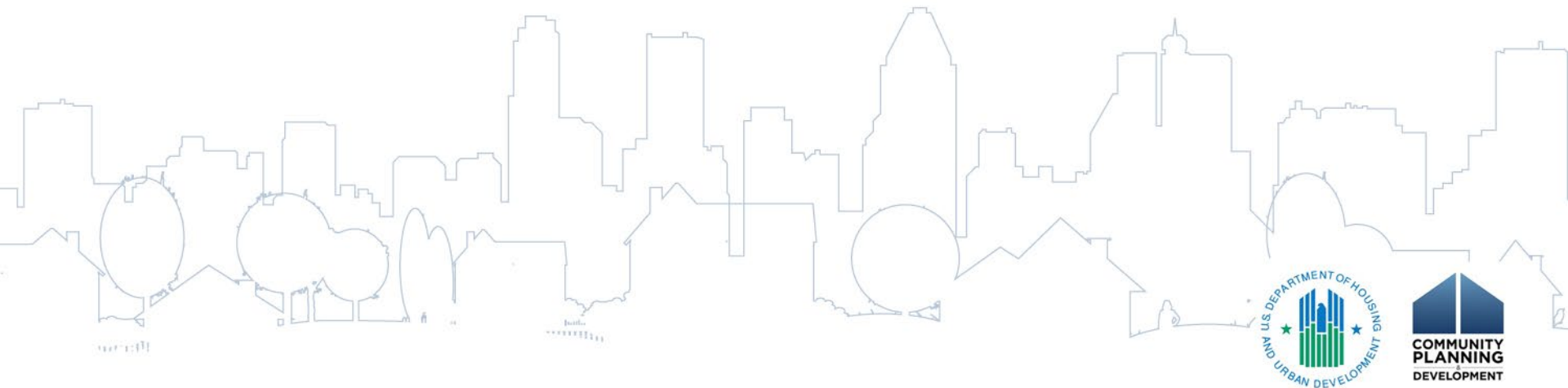
Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit organizations that:
 - provide nationwide or statewide programs that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals;
 - are limited to those described in section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and are exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.



Nationwide and Statewide

- Nationwide – The program's scope of service is throughout the **Country**.
- Statewide – The program's scope of service is throughout a specific **State**.



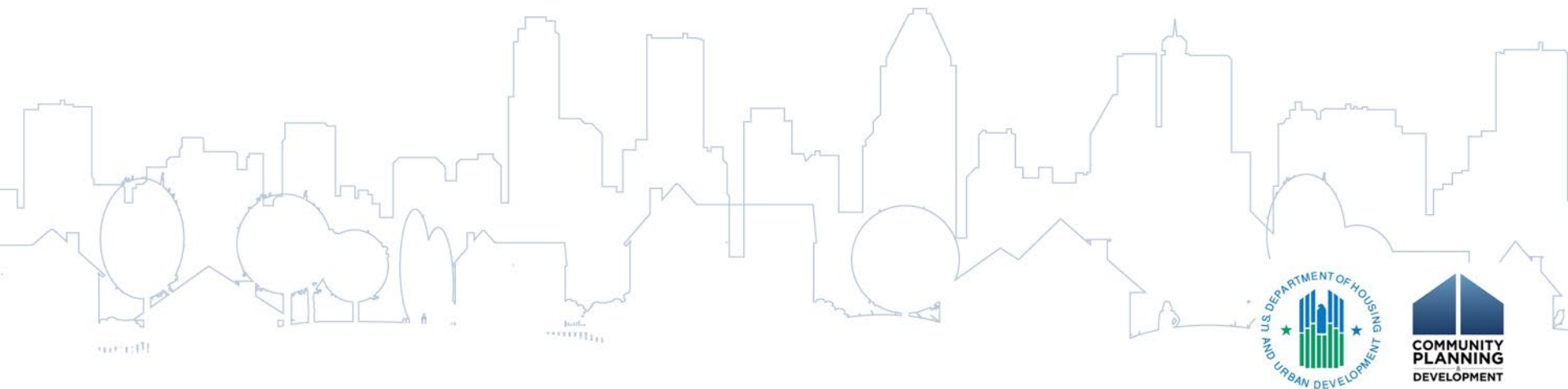
Eligible Activities

- Modification and rehabilitation of the **primary residence** of an **eligible veteran**, which may include making physical modifications.
- A Combination of activities can be proposed.
- Activities should relate to needs of eligible population.
- Activities should address needs that are not already met by existing programs.
- Provision of technical, administrative, and training support to affiliates.



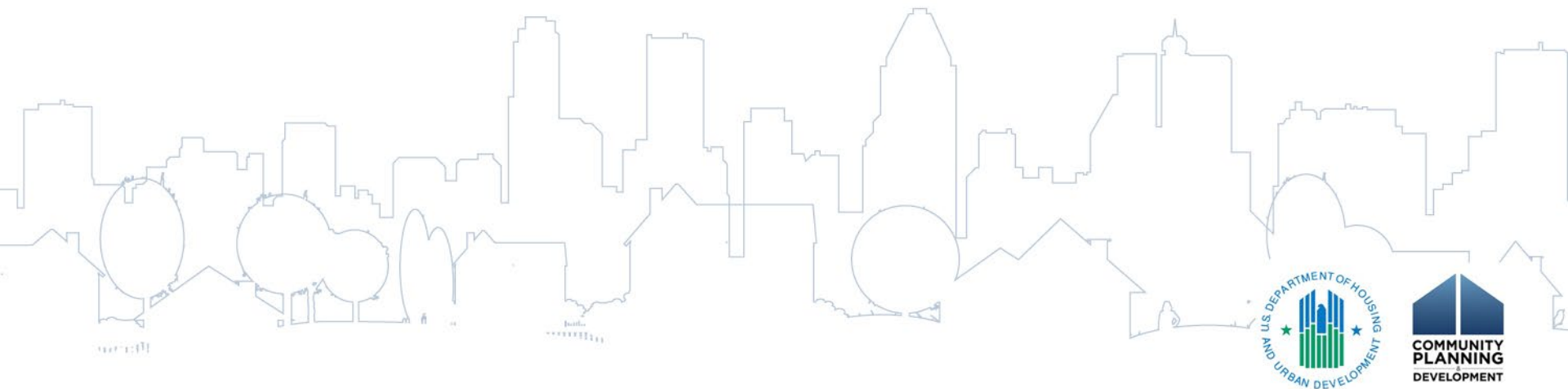
Important Terms Related to Beneficiaries

- Low-income Veteran
- Primary Residence
- Eligible Veteran



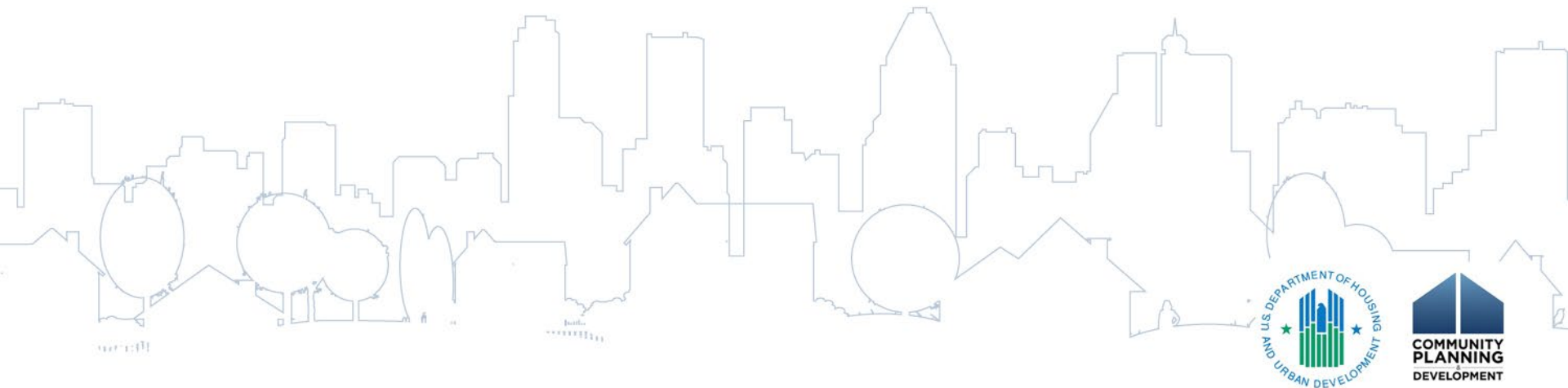
Low-Income Veteran

- A veteran whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for an area, as determined by the Secretary of HUD.



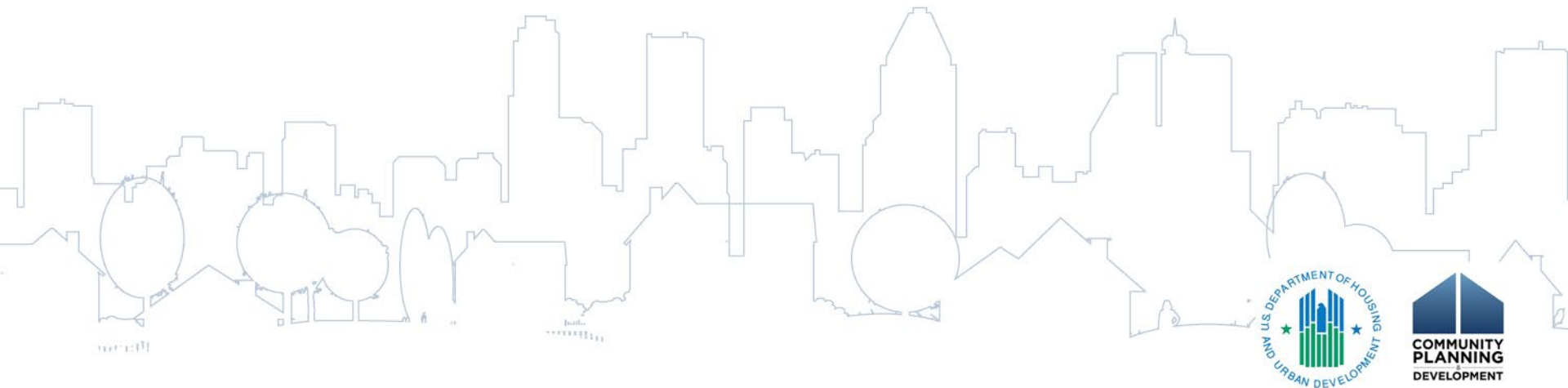
Primary Residence

- A single family house, duplex, or unit within a multiple-dwelling structure that is the principal dwelling of an eligible veteran and is owned by such veteran or a family member of such veteran.



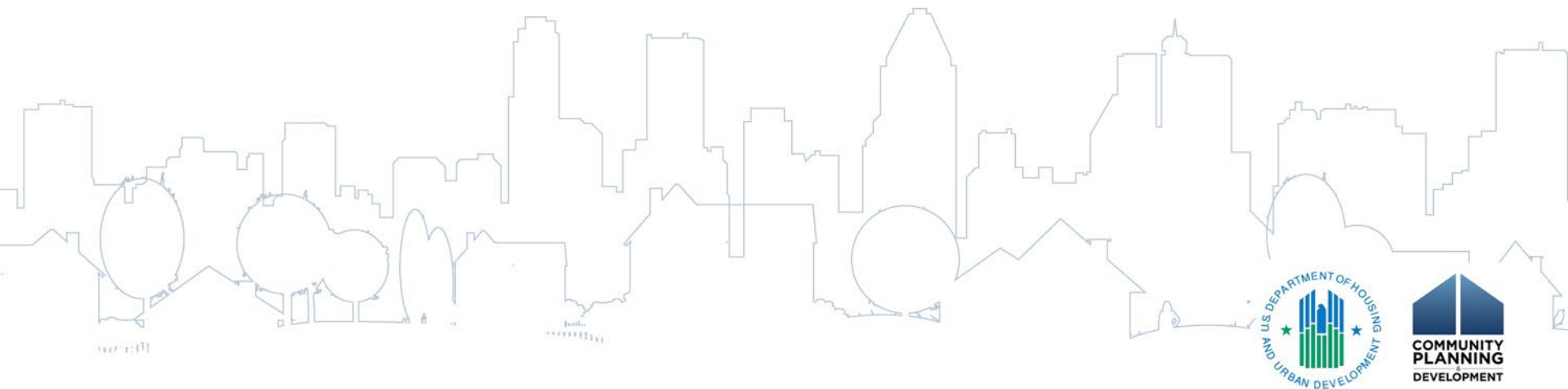
Eligible Veteran

- Low-income veteran living with a disability.



Content and Form of Application

- Verify download of correct NOFO.
- Download all required forms from [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
- Include an abstract or summary.
- Include non-form attachments.



Application Format and Form

- All eligible applications must include:
 - Pages numbered sequentially.
 - Table of contents.
 - 15-page narrative.
 - 12-point font.
 - Double lined spacing.
 - At least 1 inch margins on each side.



15 – Page Narrative

- **Includes:**
 - Response to all rating factors.
 - Workplan spreadsheet.
 - Any footnotes or other narratives related to factors.
- **Does not include:**
 - Table of contents.
 - Forms, assurances, certifications.
 - Letters of Firm Commitment.



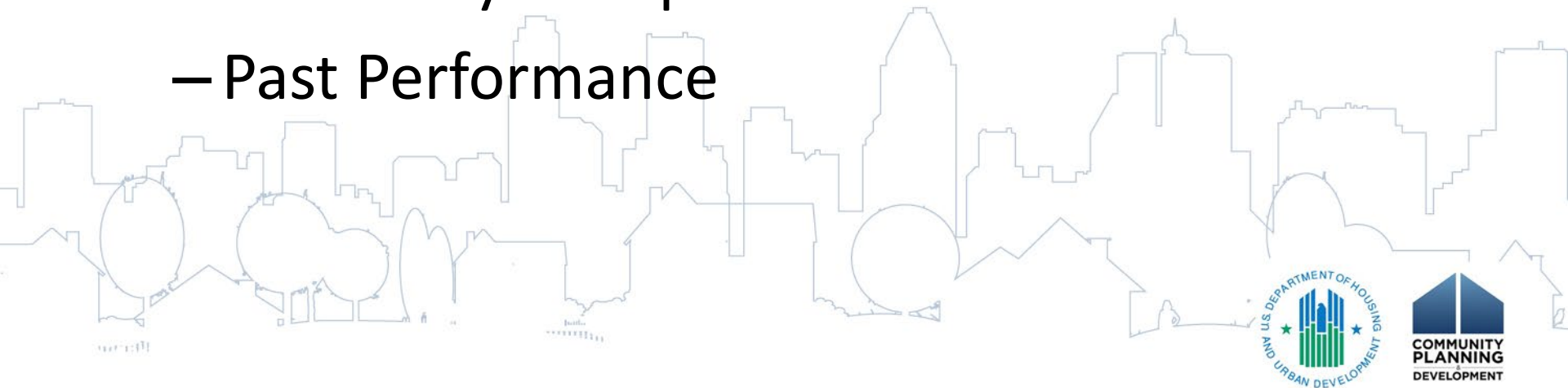
Rating Factors

- Rating Factor 1 - Relevant Organizational Experience;
- Rating Factor 2 - Need and Extent of the Problem;
- Rating Factor 3 - Soundness of Approach;
- Rating Factor 4 - Leveraging Resources; and
- Rating Factor 5 - Achieving Results and Program Evaluation.



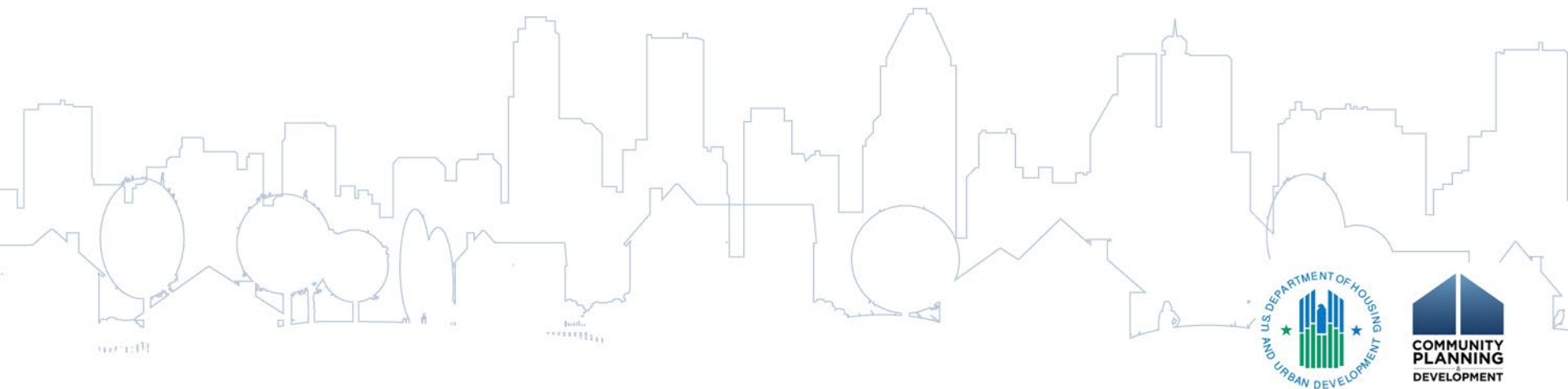
Factor 1: Relevant Organizational Experience

- 30 points maximum for this factor.
- Applicant will be evaluated on:
 - Organizational Structure
 - Work with Veterans Service Organizations
 - Relevancy of Experience
 - Past Performance



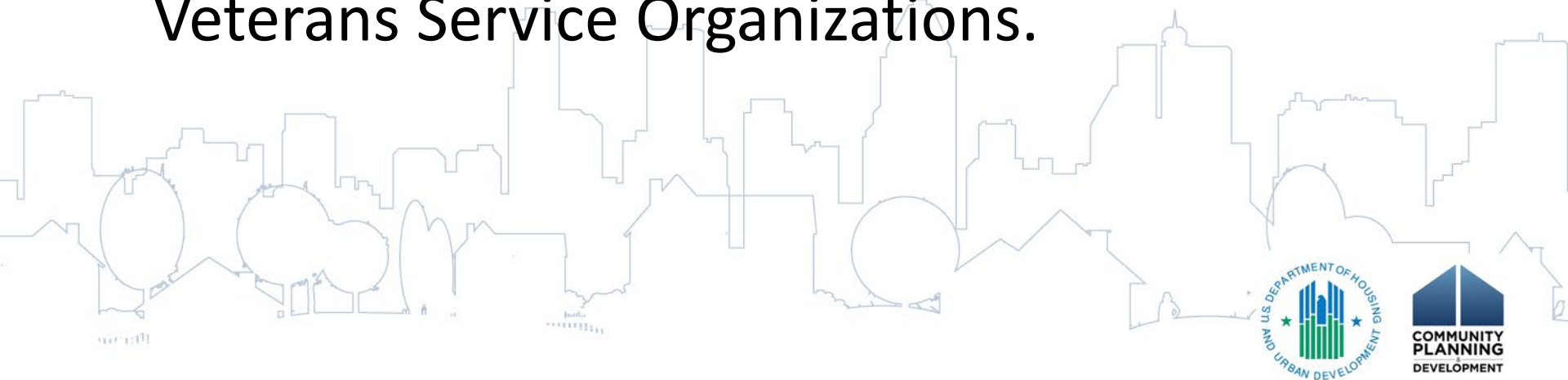
Factor 2: Need and Extent of the Problem

- 15 points maximum.
- Need for funding is related to proposed activity and approximate number of veterans served.
- Plan to target eligible applicants.



Factor 2: Need and Extent of the Problem con't.

- Approach that addresses significant need = higher points.
- Be consistent with workplan described in rating factor 3(a)(iv).
- Do not duplicate effort of VA and other Veterans Service Organizations.



Factor 3: Soundness of Approach

- 35 points maximum.
- Workplan elements:
 - Outreach plan of action.
 - Approximate number of veterans to be served.
 - Plan for working with VA and Veterans Service Organizations.



Factor 3: Soundness of Approach con't.

- Workplan elements con't.
 - Budget broken out by line item.
 - Timetable with measurable short term and long term goals.
 - Outreach strategy.
 - Section 3 compliance strategy.



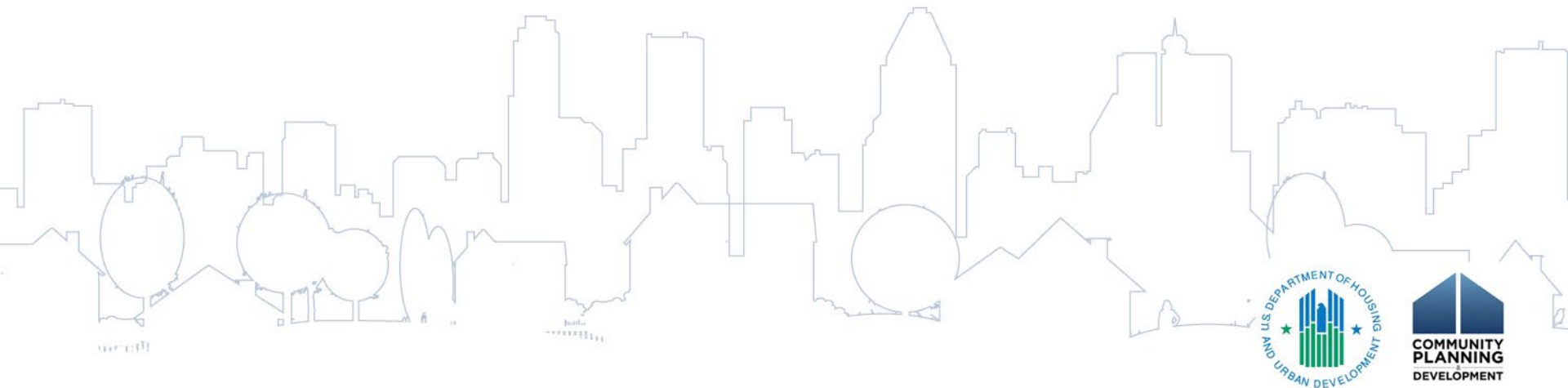
Factor 4: Leveraging Resources

- 10 points maximum.
- **Not** Matching
- Cash or in-kind goods or services
- Comparison of extent of leveraged funds
- Letters of firm commitment requirement
- 50% or more of funds = 10 Points



Matching

- Statutory requirement
- At least 50% of grant award
- May be in-kind services
- Must meet requirements of 2 CFR 200.306



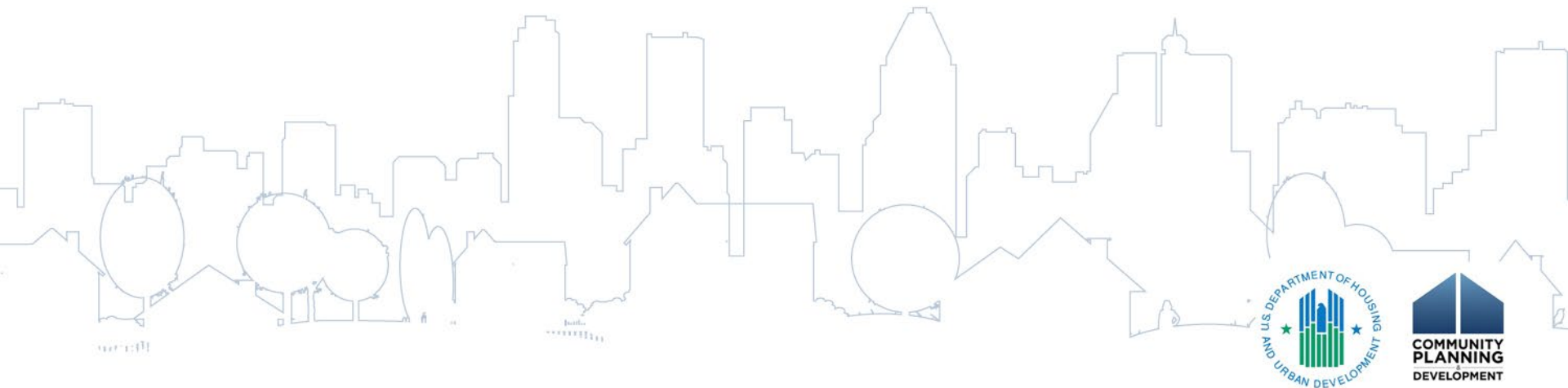
Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation

- 10 points maximum
- Outcomes
- Benchmarks
- Performance indicators w/ timelines
- Evaluation description
- Primary and secondary goals



Application and Submission

- Download application and instructions from grants.gov
- Verify download of correct application package
- support@grants.gov or 1-800-518-4726



Application Submission Dates and Time

- Application deadline is 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time July 30, 2021.
- Changes can be made before deadline.
- Application must be validated by grants.gov
- Submit application at least 48 hours before the deadline.
- support@grants.gov or 1-800-518-4726



HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) Staff Contacts:

Jovette Gadson

Senior Community Planning and Development Specialist

jovette.g.gadson@hud.gov

1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526)

Lisa Peoples

Senior Community Planning and Development Specialist

lisa.peoples@hud.gov

1-877-RURAL-26 (1-877-787-2526)



VA Specially Adapted Housing

Contact Us:

By email at SAHINFO.VBACO@va.gov

Download SAH artifacts on the VHRMP website here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/rural/veterans-housing-rehabilitation-and-modification-pilot-program/>

For more information on VA grants or to download the SAH Handbook for Design, visit our homepage here:

<https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants/>

