1. What is the Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing (RCB) program?

- A HUD funded grant program serving applicants with capacity building expertise in affordable housing and community development in high-need rural communities.

2. Where can I locate an RCB application?

- You must refer to grants.gov and carefully follow the instructions to download the RCB application. Once you are on GRANTS.GOV website go to the “Funding Grants Opportunities” and select the tab for “Browse Agencies.” Once you are on the Browse Agencies click on the Department of Housing and Urban Development. There is a listing of current grants with hyperlinks that will take you directly onto the page with information about the grant. Look for the tab that reads “Related documents” this is where you will find the RCB Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

- The RCB NOFA can be found at this website. http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html

- Upon following the steps to open the application package a zip file will open up with several attached files, including the General Section of the NOFA for the application forms. Should you have any trouble obtaining the application files, please let us know by emailing CapacityBuilding@hud.gov

3. What are the eligible activities for an RCB grant?

- RCB funds can be used to provide training and education, financial assistance and technical assistance to rural housing development organizations, community development corporations (CDCs), community housing development organizations (CHDOs), local governments and Indian tribes.

- A complete list of eligible activities can be found under the section entitled “Program Specific Requirements.”

4. Who is eligible to receive funding for a Rural Capacity Building grant?

- HUD awards grants to national organizations.

- A national organization is defined as a non-profit entity or consortium that has ongoing experience in rural housing, including experience working with rural housing development organizations, CDCs, CHDOs, local governments, and Indian tribes, as evidenced by past and continuing work in one or more states in five or more of the federal regions described on HUD’s website at
Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing (RCB)

Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs)


- HUD does not award grants to individuals.

5. If my application was incomplete can I resubmit?

- If an application is received by Grants.gov before the deadline, but is rejected with errors, applicants have a grace period of 24 hours beyond the application deadline to submit a corrected application that is received and validated by Grants.gov.

- If you would like to make changes to a previously submitted application, you are welcome to resubmit up until the application deadline.

- Those applications that do not receive an award will also be notified and be giving an opportunity for debriefing.

6. How long is the competition open?

- HUD is currently accepting applications for the FY16 RCB competition.

- Completed applications are due on September 13, 2016 at 11:59:59 p.m. eastern time.

7. What does the RCB review process entail?

- All applications will be reviewed for compliance with threshold requirements.

- Applications that satisfy threshold requirements will be evaluated based on responses to Factors 1 through 5.

- Applications that receive a minimum score of 75 points will be eligible to receive bonus points for a total possible score of 105.

- Applicants that satisfy threshold requirements will receive a second review where a final score will be issued. For more information, see Section V.B “Reviews and Selection Process.”

8. How will the results of the competition be announced?

- Following the review process HUD will notify successful applicants of their selection for funding.

- Notifications will be sent by email, delivery receipt requested, to the person designated in item 8F of the SF424 and to the person listed as authorized representative in item 21 of the SF424.
9. Is past experience with HUD programs required?
   • No, however, all applicants must meet the threshold requirements.
   • Including satisfying the definition for national organization Section II.C. Other

10. What is the threshold criteria to be eligible for an award?
   • timely submission of application,
   • meet the definition of a national organization,
   • satisfy the criteria listed in Section III.C.1 entitled “Threshold Requirements”.

11. What is the minimum score needed to be eligible for an award?
   • The minimum number of points needed to be eligible for an award for a rural capacity building grant is 75, not including bonus points.

12. What is the timeframe to expend award funds?
   • If you are awarded, RCB funds are to be expended within 48-months from the date that grant agreements are executed.

13. When can grantees begin incurring costs?
   • The funds become available when HUD receives the executed grant agreement.
   • Grantees are eligible to incur program and administrative costs once the RCB grant agreement has been executed.
   • Grantees must submit and secure HUD approval for a specific work plan and budget for each approved activity it proposes as identified in its application, showing when and how the federal funds and leveraging funds will be used.

14. Do grant awards need to be spent in the same year funds are received?
   • No, grant awards are to be expended over the course of a four-year period.
15. What are the formatting requirements for submitting an application?

- Narratives addressing Factors 1 through 5 are limited to no more than 34 typed pages of single-spaced text based on an 8.5 by 11-inch paper, using a Times New Roman standard 12-point font.

- HUD will not review more than 34 pages for all five factors and NOFA policy priorities combined, except that the page limit does not include the form HUD-2995 in support of the Preferred Sustainable Communities Status Bonus points.

16. If I have a question on a specific program requirement who do I contact?

- Questions regarding specific program requirements for this NOFA should be directed to.

  [CapacityBuilding@hud.gov](mailto:CapacityBuilding@hud.gov)

  Or

  (202) 708-0667

- Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.