

NYS CDBG Exit Conference Webinar Questions

Q1: Will all communities be required to register through the Grants Gateway prior to the application deadline?

A1: As of August 1, 2013, all not-for-profit organizations must complete the pre-qualification process through Grants Gateway. This is a State requirement for any organization seeking funding opportunities through the State. While municipalities are not currently subject to the pre-qualification requirements, it is the policy of the OCR that any not-for-profit that will partner with a CDBG eligible unit of local government, as a consultant, sub-recipient, etc., must also pre-qualify in the Grants Gateway. This policy will become effective for all future funding rounds.

The use of the Grants Gateway system for additional functions beyond pre-qualification may vary moving forward. Additionally, pre-qualification requirements may change before OCR's next funding round to potentially include requirements for municipalities. Any and all changes to the Grants Gateway system that impact applicants for NYS CDBG funding will be shared as information becomes available. Information about the Grants Gateway is available online, here: <http://grantsreform.ny.gov/>

Q2: Is it possible to find out if an application was deemed ineligible, or if it was unsuccessful for other reasons such as REDC score?

A2: If, after reviewing this presentation and your organization's review of an unsuccessful application, you still have questions about the process or your individual application, you may email us at ocrinfo@nyshcr.org, and we can schedule a time to discuss the application further. However, please be advised that at no point will the OCR provide scores for unsuccessful applications.

Q3: Please describe the cost benefit analysis requirement.

A3: A cost benefit analysis needs to be performed to determine the justification of the project and if it is feasible. You must compare the total expected cost of each option against the total expected benefits, to see whether the benefits outweigh the costs, and by how much.

Q4: You mentioned open round economic development funding may be available this year. Would this be applied for through the CFA or would we contact HCR directly regarding possible projects?

A4: Open-round Economic Development funding is only available as funding permits. Please contact an OCR Economic Developer regarding potential projects. Potential projects should have an identified business and be ready to implement upon award.

- Q5: Is the Microenterprise program available in 2014?
- A5: As of today's date, the funding categories have not been announced for Program Year 2014. A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be issued later this year, which will identify this information. Please check our website www.nyshcr.org and the Regional Economic Development Council website <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/> for updates.
- Q6: Is it possible for counties to apply for CDBG funding and create their own Microenterprise Program if funding is not available through the CFA?
- A6: Applications can only be submitted for funding categories which are made available in the 2014 Notice of Funding Availability. Applications submitted for a category that is not available will not be reviewed.
- Q7: Would creation of a county-wide Microenterprise Program be an eligible use for some of a region's Community Renewal Fund?
- A7: In addition to the 2014 NOFA, a separate notice will be issued by the Office of Community Renewal which will identify the eligible funding categories for the Community Renewal Fund. Please check our website www.nyshcr.org for updates.
- Q8: How long does a job need to be "retained" through the micro enterprise program?
- A8: Under the NYS CDBG Microenterprise Program, we require that at least one full-time equivalent job be created for a low- to moderate-income person. The intent of the Program is to create long-term permanent positions. A low- to moderate-income job retention activity is not available under this Program.
- Q9: For economic development and small business projects, is owner equity cash or can something else apply?
- A9: Under the Economic Development Program, including traditional Economic Development, Small Business, and Microenterprise Programs, equity is cash which can be demonstrated through a commitment letter from the business owner(s). In-kind services or previously purchased property or equipment cannot be used as equity. Equity must not be associated with debt of any kind.