

Office of Community Development
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAY DARDENNE
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parties Interested in Recovery Housing Programs in Louisiana

FROM: Traci Watts
Director, Community Development Block Grant Program

DATE: January 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Notice of Funding Availability
Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) – Recovery Housing Program

The State of Louisiana was allocated funding under Section 8071 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, entitled Pilot Program to Help Individuals in Recovery From a Substance Use Disorder Become Stably Housed, herein referred to as the Recovery Housing Program (RHP), the Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD-LGA) was allocated \$1,321,548.00 for FY 2023 and has \$205,059.00 reallocated from previous years funding. The Recovery Housing Program is designed to support low- and moderate-income persons as they recover from a substance use disorder and begin a path to self-sufficiency by providing stable housing for a period of not more than 2 years or until the individual secures permanent housing, whichever comes first.

Housing stability is fundamental to recovery and a critical factor contributing to positive outcomes. For many individuals, achieving and maintaining recovery from a substance use disorder is hindered by a lack of safe, affordable housing that is supportive of recovery. Recovery housing provides support to individuals as they initiate, stabilize, and maintain long-term recovery in the community. This funding would help the residents secure housing during their recovery process, which would be beneficial to the long-term recovery process.

All interested parties **must** complete the Letter of Intent (LOI) process and submit a separate LOI for each organization in which funding is intended to be utilized. The LOI serves to inform the OCD-LGA of an organization's intent to apply for RHP funding for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation. This is **not** an application. The LOI must be submitted by email to Fenishia Favorite at Fenishia.favorite@la.gov no later than midnight February 6, 2024. Once your organization's LOI has been reviewed and approved and the application becomes available, your organization will be notified via email.

These guidelines will help explain the expectations for your organization's LOI, and how they will be reviewed. Remember, an organization cannot receive an application without having an approved LOI.

Who is Eligible to Submit a Letter of Intent to Apply?

Nonprofit organizations are eligible to submit a letter of intent to apply.

Office of Community Development Priorities

1. Projects in areas with the greatest need of assistance identified by OCD-LGA with the partnership of Louisiana Department of Public Health (LDH) (Jefferson Davis Parish, St. Bernard Parish, West Feliciana Parish, and Orleans Parish)
2. Projects must be able to articulate an annual operations budget for the last 5 years
3. Funding may not exceed \$1,460,530.00 per project
4. Organization's experience working with federal funds; previous collaborations with OCD-Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), or Disaster Recovery
5. Organization's experience providing substance abuse and recovery residence services

Project Details – Please respond to the following questions in the LOI

1. What are the service areas unmet needs and planned components of the proposed project? Provide supporting data and a detailed explanation.
2. Is rehabilitation needed on the proposed property? If yes, please identify amount requested for both acquisition and rehabilitation.
3. Are there private sector loans on the property being acquired?
4. What are the ongoing operational costs planned for the project? How will the organization cover these costs?
5. How many beds will become available once the project is complete?
6. Explain the current structure of the organizations substance abuse treatment program.
7. What is the proposed timeline to complete the project? Can the project be completed within 3 years with 30% of funding spent within 1 year?
8. Identify previous experience working with federal funds, also list previous collaborations with state agencies.
9. Total cost of the project by activity including RHP funding as well as any other federal, state, local, or other funding? Please identify all other funding partners if any and their proposed investment.

Federal Requirements

1. In accordance with 24 CFR 570.489(j) the organization may not change the use or planned use of any such property (including the beneficiaries of such use) from that for which the acquisition or improvements were made using RHP funds. These standards shall apply from the date RHP funds are first spent for the property until five years after closeout of the grant.
2. Section 8071 of the SUPPORT Act (Section 8071) required funds appropriated or made available for the Recovery Housing Program be treated as community development block grant (CDBG) funds under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, unless otherwise provided in Section 8071 or modified by waivers and alternative requirements.
3. Environmental Requirements at 24 CFR Part 58 will apply.
4. The SUPPORT Act requires all grantees to distribute RHP funds giving priority to entities with the greatest need and ability to deliver effective assistance in a timely manner. Grantees must use RHP funds in a manner that reflects these priorities.

5. The organization will be required to provide annual outcome measures including the proposed number of individuals assisted with RHP funding, proposed number of individuals able to transition to permanent housing and how the project measures success.
6. The organization must adhere to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 the federal law, codified at 29 U.S.C. § 794, that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in federally-assisted programs or activities.

Non-English speaking persons and persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact the Office of Community Development at 225/342-7412, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095, or fenishia.favorite@la.gov.