



## Addressing Rural and Tribal Data Gaps Grant

### Purpose

Reliable community data is a critical tool for planners, but rural and tribal practitioners face unique challenges in accessing and using data to support housing stability. Frontline and non-technical staff may come from organizations with limited capacity and have fewer of the rich open-source resources or data portals that are available in large cities. Individuals working in areas with small or dispersed populations may find standard data sources are unreliable. They may also find existing data do not accurately depict the needs or experiences of rural or tribal residents who are especially likely to be needing an affordable, safe home or vulnerable to changes in affordability.

The **Addressing Rural and Tribal Data Gaps Grant** is designed to help practitioners resolve some of the challenges of using data to expand housing stability for low-income people and other vulnerable populations in rural and tribal communities.

Projects or programs that expand housing stability may include (but are not limited to):

- coordinated efforts to assess local housing needs
- cross-partnerships to reduce homelessness
- administering surveys to measure the impact of affordable homes
- conducting analyses to solve affordability concerns
- developing needs assessments to mitigate overcrowded or unsafe conditions
- creating and using maps to close equity gaps

Through this grant opportunity, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (Enterprise) will provide \$150,000 in federal grant funds as well as technical support to community development corporation (CDC) and certified community housing development organization (CHDOs) that are supporting the collection and/or analysis of data (primary or secondary) to better understand community needs, design programs, and evaluate successes of programs or projects that improve housing stability for low-income and other vulnerable populations. For the purposes of this grant, data may include qualitative, numeric, or other forms, such as interviews, participant stories, surveys, images, maps, non-public datasets, and other forms. Data may be collected by organizations (primary data) and/or exist in already collected forms (secondary data).

The **Addressing Rural and Tribal Data Gaps Grant** will extend for a period of 12 months and will begin on the first of the month following the execution of the grant agreement (Enterprise and the Grantee). In proposals submitted in response to this RFP, organizations will be asked to describe the proposed work to be funded by the grant award and the specific data or information challenges they are seeking to address; articulate a clear implementation plan; and describe how the grant will expand their organization's capacity and ability to pursue its mission.

Grantees will be expected to complete and submit a progress update midway through the period of performance; complete and submit a Final Report and 2-3 page Case Study for sharing at the end of the period of performance; and provide high-quality, relevant pictures or images to help Enterprise more easily share grantees' experiences and efforts with practitioner audiences.



## Resources Provided

The **Addressing Rural and Tribal Data Gaps Grant** will provide the following resources to selected participating rural and/or tribal organizations:

- Up to \$60,000 in grant funds over a 12-month period of performance to CDCs and CHDOs serving rural and/or tribal populations, that are interested in or working to overcome challenges of data availability, reliability or sufficiency;
- One-on-one monthly technical support conference calls to receive direct technical assistance and guidance to carry out data collection and/or analyses work plans during the grant period. Technical assistance will be provided by Enterprise's Knowledge, Impact, & Strategy team, which focuses on topics of research, analysis, evaluation, and impact assessment in affordable housing and community development.
- Contribute to best practices through sharing grantees' work in an online format following the conclusion of the period of performance

## Eligibility

Funding is provided through The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 4 Capacity Building for Affordable Housing and Community Development program. General federal grant requirements apply to all organizational applicants (see [Appendices A to H](#)). In addition, all eligible applicants must:

1. Be a community development corporation (CDC) or certified community housing development organization (CHDOs). Other eligible organizations, determined by Enterprise, may include organizations serving Native American Populations with a defined mission that includes affordable housing such as Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) or Tribal Housing Authorities (THAs).
1. Have a physical presence in or primarily serve individuals located in Section 4-designated rural communities, as well as Indian reservations, or tribal trust lands; and/or primarily serve members of Native American populations.
2. Proposed community development projects or programs for which grantees are collecting and/or analyzing data must address the needs of families and persons of low income as required under the Section 4 program (80% Average Median Income or lower). Low-income families are defined as a single person who may be elderly, displaced, disabled, near elderly, or any other single person OR a group of persons residing together or households (any persons occupying a housing unit).

Under the Section 4 program, a rural area is a statistical geographic entity delineated by the Census Bureau that does not meet the definition of an urbanized area contained in the Office of Management and Budget's 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, 75 FR 37252 (June 28, 2010). That is, a rural area is an area that is NOT a statistical geographic entity delineated by the Census Bureau, which would consist of densely settled census tracts and blocks and adjacent densely settled territory that together contain at least 50,000 people.



To determine if the area where grant activities will take place qualifies as a Section 4-designated rural community, enter the zip code or city [here](#) to confirm eligibility. For this RFP, organizations seeking to qualify based on being in or primarily serving individuals living in Section 4-designated rural communities should have a physical presence in or primarily serve individuals located in the areas **not** shaded in pink. Areas shaded pink would be ineligible on this basis.

## Application Steps and Deadlines

### Step 1: Application Opens

- **Thursday, August 1, 2019**

The application will be available on the Enterprise website on Thursday, August 1, 2019. Applicants will have until Friday, September 6, 2019 to complete the application and gather the supporting documentation.

### Step 2: Introductory Webinar

- **Wednesday, August 7, 2019 from 3:00-4:00 PM ET**

This webinar allows for prospective applicants to learn more about the Enterprise data project, this Request for Proposals (RFP) and ask clarifying questions. The session will be recorded and made available on Enterprise's [Grants webpage](#). While it is strongly suggested that interested applicants participate, the session is NOT mandatory.

### Step 2: Question and Answer Period

- **OPENS: August 7, 2019**
- **CLOSES: September 6, 2019**

In addition to the webinar, applicants may submit questions related to the Request for Proposals through September 6, 2019. Questions should be submitted via email to Enterprise's RFP mailbox at [rfp@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:rfp@enterprisecommunity.org). Answers to questions will be provided as soon as possible, usually within one business day. Questions received after September 6, 2019 will not be accepted.

### Step 3: Submit Proposal

- **Application OPENS: August 1, 2019**
- **Application CLOSES: 11:59 p.m. EDT (8:59 p.m. PDT), September 6, 2019**

All proposals must be received by Enterprise no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT (8:59 p.m. PDT) on **September 6, 2019**. No late proposals will be accepted.

Applicants must complete an online application, which includes an application form and the submission of required documents, including a proposal narrative and a proposed project budget. All application information, resources and the application portal are located on the Enterprise [Grants webpage](#).



#### **Step 4: Funding Award Announcements**

- **October 10, 2019**

Funding award announcements will be made to applicants through email by Thursday, October 10, 2019. For applicants not selected, opportunities for feedback will be offered upon request.

#### **Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria for a possible total of 100 points:

- **Statement of Problem [up to 20 pts]**

Selected organizations should be able to describe the data limitation(s) or problem(s) they are trying to overcome with their proposed data collection and/or analysis efforts. In this description, they will need to include how these grant funds and voluntary monthly one-on-one technical assistance calls will help them better understand community needs, design programs, or evaluate successes of projects or programs that improve housing stability for low-income and other vulnerable populations.

- **Proposed Use of Funds [up to 20 pts]**

Selected organizations will need to describe how they will plan to use their grant funds and how these expenditures will help them address the data limitation(s) or problem(s) described above.

- **Implementation [up to 15 pts]**

Selected organizations should be able to clearly describe how they will implement the work to be funded by this grant award. In this description, they will need to identify key staff that will work on the project and demonstrate organizational capacity to implement the proposed work with limited, monthly support from Enterprise staff.

- **Knowledge Sharing & Facilitating Change [up to 10 pts]**

Selected organizations will demonstrate a willingness and ability to share their knowledge and experiences from the funded work with internal and/or external audiences to promote broader learning.

- **Building Organizational Capacity [up to 35 pts]**

Selected organizations will demonstrate that their receipt of the grant funds and participation in monthly technical support calls will improve organizational capacity through (1) facilitating improvements in the organization's ability to access reliable, sufficient or available forms of data or information; (2) fostering improvements in the organization's ability to undertake future efforts to collect and/or analyze data and inform broader organizational decisions or strategy.

#### **Request for Proposal Application Questions**

All application information, resources and the application portal may be found on the Enterprise website at <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/financing-and-development/grants>.



**Additional Information**

**Period of Performance** –The grant period of performance (POP) will begin on the first of the month following the execution of the grant agreement. No costs may be incurred prior to the start of the grant.

**Executed Grant Agreements** – Grant commitments/agreements are not finalized until the conditions of the award are satisfied and a grant agreement is executed by Enterprise and the grantee organization.

**Work Products** – All work products (i.e. reports, work plans, etc.) developed through grant funding shall be shared with Enterprise at specified times during the project and at the end of the grant term.

Applicants must be aware the Enterprise-funded grants, through Section 4 funding from HUD, have the following requirements with respect to work products and data. HUD has the right to:

- a. Obtain, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the data produced under the Federal Grant Agreement and
- b. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.

All work created with HUD funding must also be made accessible to the public at no charge and include the following statement on all work products:

“The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of HUD.”

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Questions related to this Request for Proposals should be directed to the Enterprise RFP Mailbox at [rfp@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:rfp@enterprisecommunity.org). Please reference “Rural/Tribal RFP” in the subject line.