

## GLOSSARY

### **Annual Action Plan (AAP)**

The Annual Action Plan updates the Nebraska Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan, a five-year plan addressing the state's housing and community development needs.

### **Assessment Abatement**

To pay fees levied against private property for the costs of public facilities activities (see special assessment). In order to maximize benefit to low- and moderate-income households, funds may be used to abate the assessments for these owner-occupied households.

### **Beneficiary**

The ultimate consumer of HUD programs who receives benefits from a HUD Recipient or Sub-recipient.

### **Community Development Need**

A demonstrated deficiency in housing stock, public facilities, economic opportunities, or other services that is necessary for developing or maintaining viable communities.

### **Comprehensive Strategic Approach**

A comprehensive strategic approach is one that effectively utilizes community needs assessments, stakeholder participation, and planning processes. A comprehensive approach should include: significant needs identification, adopted or updated Comprehensive Plan, housing study, and capital improvement plan.

### **Consolidated Plan**

The Nebraska Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning document identifying the state's needs in housing, homelessness, community and economic development. The State is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to complete a Consolidated Plan every five years to receive federal funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), National Housing Trust Fund (HTF), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. Two other State funded programs are included in the plan, Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) and Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF).

### **Department or DED**

Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The state agency that administers the federal Community Development Block Grant State Program for communities under 50,000 population with funds allocated to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### **Disability**

Any condition or characteristic that renders a person an "individual with disabilities" as defined in 24 CFR Part 8.3 (Code of Federal Regulations). An "individual with disabilities" means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment.

**Elderly**

For purposes of this program and qualifying a project as meeting the low- and moderate-income national objective by principally benefitting seniors, a senior citizen is a person aged 62 or older.

**Eligible Activities**

Those activities authorized in Section 105(a) of the amended 1974 Housing and Community Development Act. However, the State and local participants have developed priorities, listed in *Section 3.01*, that best serve their interests and increase the likelihood of being funded.

**Family**

A family is defined as all persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. An individual living in a housing unit that contains no other person(s) related to him/her is considered to be a one-person for this purpose. A dependent child who is living outside of the home (e.g. students living in a dormitory or other student housing), is considered for these purposes to be part of the family upon which he/she is dependent, even though he/she is living in another housing unit.

**Firm Public or Private Commitment**

An agreement by a private or public party to take part in a local community development project. The party must demonstrate the capacity to carry out the activity specified in the grant application. The agreement may take the form of a city council or county board resolution, letter from a governmental agency, or a letter of credit from a private lending institution.

**Flood and Drainage**

Facilities designed to influence or affect the flow in a natural water course (such as a river, stream, lake, or intermittent stream) and excludes storm sewers.

**Grant Closeout**

The process by that the department determines that the grant recipient and the department have completed all applicable administrative actions and all required work.

**Grant Agreement**

The legally binding Agreement between the state and a grant recipient. It consists of the notice of grant award, special conditions to the Agreement, certifications to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget, and the grant application.

**Homeownership Assistance**

CDBG funds may be used to provide direct homeownership assistance to low- or moderate-income households in accordance with section 105(a) of the Act. Section 105(a)(24) provision of direct assistance to facilitate and expand homeownership among persons of low and moderate income (except that such assistance shall not be considered a public service for purposes of paragraph (8)) by using such assistance to—

- a. Subsidize interest rates and mortgage principal amounts for low- and moderate income homebuyers;
- b. Finance the acquisition by low- and moderate-income homebuyers of housing that is occupied by the homebuyers;
- c. Acquire guarantees for mortgage financing obtained by low- and moderate-income homebuyers from private lenders (except that amounts received under this title may not be used under this

subparagraph to directly guarantee such mortgage financing and grantees under this title may not directly provide such guarantees);

- d. Provide up to 50 percent of any down payment required from low- or moderate-income homebuyer; or
- e. Pay reasonable closing costs (normally associated with the purchase of a home) incurred by low- or moderate-income homebuyers.

### **Household**

All the persons who occupy a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

### **Housing and Community Development Needs Assessment**

A statement by the applicant that lists the community's development needs, including housing needs and needs of low- and moderate-income persons and strategies to address the needs. Required of all applicants to be eligible for CDBG funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act.

### **Income**

The total gross income (before taxes) of all members of a family who are age 15 or older. Income includes all monies received by all members of the family such as gross wages and salaries, bonuses, tips, interest, dividends, social security, other retirement, supplemental security income, welfare, disability, VA payments, unemployment, alimony, other. A family that is involved in a business where the finances are interrelated with the family budget (such as a farmer) should consider their income as net after expenses, as reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

### **Language Assistance Plan (LAP)**

A written implementation plan that addresses identified needs of the LEP persons served.

### **Leverage**

Funds that are committed to the project activities exceeding the required match. Leverage may include public and private funds, or in-kind services, such as materials, labor, or other items that are *directly* related to the project. The amount of Leverage must be given in dollars. Funds contributing to the project as Leverage must be expended within the agreement effective dates (i.e. CDBG Agreement Time of Performance) and documentation provided to the Department prior to project closeout.

### **Limited English Proficient Person (LEP)**

Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English because of national origin.

### **Low- and Moderate-Income**

For CDBG, a person is considered to be of low income only if he or she is a member of a household whose income would qualify as "very low income" under the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments program. Generally, these Section 8 limits are based on 50% of area median. Similarly, CDBG moderate income relies on Section 8 "lower income" limits, which are generally tied to 80% of area median.

### **Low- and Moderate-Income Person**

A member of a family having an income as described under the Low- and Moderate-Income definition.

**Lower-Income Person**

A member of a family having an income equal or less than the Section 8 “lower income” limit established by HUD (80% or less of the area median). Unrelated individuals shall be considered as one-person families for this purpose.

**Municipal Equalization Fund (MEF)**

The Municipal Equalization Fund (MEF) was created in 1996 as a needs-based method of providing state aid to cities. The program is administered by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, with data provided by the Department of Revenue’s Property Assessment and Research Divisions, and the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts. Final aid calculations for Nebraska communities are posted in June of each year.

This aid formula provides a way of looking at needs and resources while at the same time ensuring that local governments provide a level of local resources. DED will incorporate the MEF calculation into the scoring criteria for this program.

Each city’s population is multiplied by the average per capita property tax levy for the relevant population group. Then each city’s property tax valuation is multiplied by the state average property tax levy. These numbers are used to make the preliminary determination for state aid under the MEF formula. If a city’s population multiplied by the average per capita property tax levy is greater than the state-wide average levy multiplied by its valuation, the community will earn points. If the difference is negative, no points will be awarded under the MEF scoring criteria for this program.

All of the incorporated cities in a state are divided into three population groups:

1. Municipalities with a population of 5,000 inhabitants or more;
2. Municipalities with a population between 800 and 5,000 inhabitants; and
3. Municipalities with a population of 800 inhabitants or less.

Populations are based on the last decennial census including those modified by annexations that have taken place since the last census and any special censuses completed by the US Census Bureau.

**Neighborhood**

A geographic location with the jurisdiction of a unit of general local government (but not the entire jurisdiction) designated in comprehensive plans, ordinances, or other local documents as a neighborhood, village, or similar geographical designation; or the entire jurisdiction of a unit of general local government that is under 25,000 population.

**Neighborhood-based nonprofit organization**

An association or corporation, duly organized to promote and undertake community development activities on a not-for-profit basis within a neighborhood. To be considered neighborhood-based, the majority of the organization’s membership, clientele, or governing body are residents of the neighborhood where activities assisted with CDBG funds are to be carried out.

**Non-administrative costs**

Costs associated with administration are those of general administration, construction management, and housing management. All other costs are considered CDBG project activity costs OR non-administrative costs.

**One-page Project Summary**

Applicants are required to submit a one-page project summary describing the nature and scope of the project. This summary is utilized to determine eligibility of project activities and provides overall context to the selection criteria for scoring of applications. This summary should include a how the project proposes to address at least one objective and one outcome as described in *Section 2.03*.

**Project Cost**

Costs to complete the project and not associated with general administration of the grant (i.e. 0181 General Administration) or supporting project costs (i.e. 0380 Construction Management, 0580 Housing Management – Rehabilitation Management, and 0580a Housing Management – Lead-based Paint testing, risk assessment, and clearance testing).

**Project Description**

Applicants are required to submit a one-page project description identifying the nature and scope of the project. This description is utilized to determine eligibility of project activities and provides overall context to the selection criteria for scoring of applications. This description should include how the project proposes to address at least one objective and one outcome as described in *Section 2.03*.

**Service Area**

Area within the community designated to benefit from the project.

**Single Purpose Project**

One or more activities designed to meet a specific community development need.

**Special Assessment**

A fee or charge levied or filed as a lien against a parcel of real estate as a direct result of benefit derived from the installation of a public improvement or a onetime charge made as a condition of access to the improvement. The amount of the fee represents the pro rata share of the capital costs of the public improvement levied against the benefitting properties.

**Supporting Project Costs**

Costs that support project costs (i.e. 0380 Construction Management, 0580 Housing Management – Rehabilitation Management, and 0580a Housing Management – Lead-based Paint testing, risk assessment, and clearance testing). For reporting purposes, beneficiaries are not reported separately rather they are associated with the most appropriate activity. Supporting project costs do not include grant administration (i.e. 0181 General Administration).

**Target Area**

A defined geographic area within which an applicant has determined that, based on community plans or other studies, a need for community development activities exists. A target area may be a neighborhood of 100 or more families in a community or an entire community. The target area must encompass the entire area served by the project.

**Units of Accomplishment**

Awarded projects must report on accomplishments specific to project outcomes. There are seven accomplishment types, the number of accomplishments will depend on the project activities to be undertaken. These types include People, Households, Businesses, Organizations, Housing Units, Public Facilities, and Jobs. For reporting purposes, at the time of application, the number of accomplishments is

considered “proposed” and upon completion of project activities, the accomplishments are considered “actual”.

**Vital Document**

Any document that is critical for ensuring meaningful access to the Recipient’s major activities and programs by Beneficiaries generally and LEP persons specifically.