

## CDBG How to Apply Questions and Answers

April 24, 2024

The following questions are from the 2024 CDBG How to Apply presentation on April 24, 2024. If you have additional questions about the CDBG Program, or project-specific questions, please contact DCHD at: [CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov).

#	Question	Answer
1	When I tried to access the application on the CAMS website I received a message that read, "Your organization is not eligible for this program based on your organization type/activity type." Is there a way around this?	Virginia DHCD funds can only be awarded to non-CDBG localities, so your organization would not be eligible for this funding-- you'd have to go through your locality. We'd love for you to stay on this session to learn about the program and then collaborate with your local government to identify opportunities to apply for CDBG funding!
2	Do IRF or ARC grants count in the \$3 million CDBG cap?	No, they do not. We will want to make sure we are not overburdening a locality's capacity to successfully complete projects.
3	Is BABA applicable to housing rehab?	Yes, including Iron; Steel; Non-ferrous metals; lumber; plastic; and polymer-based composite building materials; pipe and tube. Please refer to the Federal Register Notice about BABA Materials, posted by HUD: <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/13/2024-02900/request-for-information-regarding-iron-steel-construction-materials-and-manufactured-products-used">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/13/2024-02900/request-for-information-regarding-iron-steel-construction-materials-and-manufactured-products-used</a>
4	Can you give examples of what Local/Regional Innovation project would be?	One example of a Local Innovation project is funding for a program at a Community College that might help support a new skill or a new training program being rolled out by that Community College. For example, DHCD has funded the Power Lineman Program at Mountain Empire Community College under the Local Innovation Program.

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5	For Public Services food/health: how focus is specifically infrastructure/construction?	Public Services funding (open submission) is for projects that operate these activities, if it was an infrastructure/construction project you would want to apply for a Community Service Facility grant (competitive).
6	Is preference given to Innovation projects that have completed a Planning Grant first?	Not directly, but in a roundabout way. Planning Grants help get documents together to have readiness if a project is funded, which readiness is something that is scored in applications.
7	Our occupancy rate is higher than 50% in our business district. Will this make us ineligible for a CDBG Planning Grant?	A occupancy rate higher than 50% in the business district will not make you ineligible for a Planning Grant. However, it may make the project ineligible for a Competitive or Open Submission grant. Please contact DHCD directly for additional questions at: <a href="mailto:cdbgprogram@dhcd.virginia.gov">cdbgprogram@dhcd.virginia.gov</a>
8	Is Community Economic Development Grant application to be made by CDFIs that finance business that would help create jobs or directly by the businesses that create jobs?	The CDBG Application to DHCD must come from a unit of local government. A CDFI may be involved with the project but the application itself must come from the locality. Applications creating jobs or creating business that create jobs are desirable. We want to make sure our application and contracts go to support jobs for low-moderate income people
9	For Public Services, the manual says it must be for a "new service or increase of existing service provided by state or another entity on its behalf?" Could you please explain or define that? What is an example of an existing service provided by the state? For context, I am with a network of food banks.	For example, if you have an organization that serves 50 people a week, through a particular program. We want to see an increase in the number of people served by the particular program. Public Service projects are not meant to fund the continuation of a project without an increase to services. If you have a brilliant idea for a program and don't have funding, the project could be eligible. Contact DHCD directly for additional questions at: <a href="mailto:CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov">CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov</a>
10	Can a locality apply for both a Community Service Facility grant and a Public Infrastructure grant?	It depends. Contact DHCD for project and locality specific questions at: <a href="mailto:CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov">CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov</a>

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11	Habitat has a workforce development program, so I assume innovation grants would cover such a program?	Innovation grants could cover this project, but it could also fit on another project category. Contact DHCD for project and locality specific questions at: <a href="mailto:CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov">CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov</a>
12	Would broadband be eligible for Public Infrastructure if the municipality is the ISP?	Contact DHCD for project and locality specific questions at: <a href="mailto:CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov">CDBGProgram@dhcd.virginia.gov</a>
13	Do the new lien periods for housing rehab projects apply for CDBGs being submitted by 6/12, or on any new planning grants that are applied for 7/1 or after (thus CDBGs submitted in 2025)?	The new lien requirements will be applicable to anything funded through 2024 or 2024 and beyond. If you had a 2023 planning grant, the new lien requirements will apply to 2024 applications. For the planning grants, you would just have to look at the liens during the planning process, but it would be in effect unless a construction project was awarded.
14	We have developed a Parks Improvement Plan with ARPA funds. The total estimate is very daunting. Are there any CDBG programs that can address physical improvements and play equipment through a CDBG grant, particularly if the project would be in a low-mod census tract?	The project may not be the best fit for CDBG, but there are some playground grants out there, especially for making equipment more accessible.
15	The Innovation Grant falls under the Economic Development umbrella - how closely tied to job or business creation do innovation grant proposals need to be?	Very closely aligned (usually the main benefit) - it can be providing job training so that LMI people can get jobs (such as, for example, Power Linemen and Automotive Service Excellence, two we've done before under LI)
16	We plan to partner with a CDBG locality. Will they have to supply us with the application since the Foodbank cannot access it through CAMS, or can it be emailed to me?	The locality has a profile in CAMS, you would have to be added as a consultant to the locality's profile to work on the application through their profile
17	Can we access the application questions and requirements in CAMS without starting an application	You will need to start an application to access the application questions and requirements in CAMS. However, you can withdraw an application.

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18	Do PDCs qualify for CDBG funding?	PDCs can assist with the creation and implementation of a CDBG Application. However, the locality must be the entity that submits the application to DHCD. DHCD encourages a project management team that can manage the project and have multiple team members that have access to CAMS
19	Do you know when a webinar/guidance will be issued concerning BABA compliance? Our housing contractors are going to be overwhelmed by it.	DHCD is awaiting clear information from HUD regarding BABA before DHCD sends information to applicants and grantees.
20	I see one of the CDBG application questions under Targeted Housing Site is "Please describe your progress in clearing titles on the properties to be rehabilitated. " Can you elaborate on any new expectations for clear title?	Clear titles are not required, but strongly encouraged.
21	How can you execute a Deed of Trust without a clear title?	You can execute clear titles but cannot enforce it against those who do not sign. Having clear titles is advantageous.