

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4344-N-02]

**Community Development Block Grant
Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska
Native Villages Fiscal Year 1998 Notice
of Funding Availability; Revision,
Correction, and Extension of
Application Deadline for Applicants in
Alaska**

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA); revision, correction, and extension of application deadline.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is amend the Fiscal Year 1998 Notice of Funding Availability for the Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages to implement a single application process for the FY 1998 funds allocated to the Alaska Area Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) and, subject to appropriation for FY 1999, those that may be allocated to the Alaska Area ONAP in FY 1999. This single application process was proposed in the initial NOFA published on June 1, 1998. This notice extends the application deadlines for applications being submitted to the Alaska ONAP. This notice also clarifies the application submission procedures by resolving discrepancies in the June 1, 1998 NOFA regarding the deadlines. This notice also corrects an error regarding the points assigned to one of the rating factors in the June 1, 1998 NOFA.

APPLICATION DUE DATE: The application due date for applicants in Alaska, whose applications must be submitted to the Alaska Office Native American Programs (ONAP), is extended to *October 1, 1998*. For all other applicants, the application due date remains *September 1, 1998*, as provided in the June 1, 1998 NOFA.

Mailed Applications. Applications will be considered timely filed if postmarked on or before 12 midnight on the application due date and received by the appropriate Area ONAP on or within 10 (ten) days of the application due date.

Applications Sent by Overnight/Express Delivery. Applications sent by overnight delivery or express mail will be considered timely filed if received on or before the application due date, or upon submission of documentary evidence that they were placed in transit with the overnight delivery service by no later than the specified

application due date and received by the appropriate Area ONAP on or within 5 (five) days of the application due date.

Hand Carried Applications. Hand carried applications to the appropriate Area ONAP will be accepted during normal business hours before the application due date. On the application due date, business hours will be extended to 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES FOR SUBMITTING

APPLICATIONS: All applicants must submit their applications to the Area Office of Native American Programs specified in the June 1, 1998 NOFA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this notice, contact Robert Barth, Office of Native American Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, P.O. Box 36003, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 436-8122. The TTY number is (415) 436-6594. (These are not toll-free numbers.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 1, 1998 (63 FR 29834), HUD published the Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages (ICDBG) Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Section I.(C)(4) of that NOFA (63 FR 29836) proposed biennial funding for applications in the Alaska Area Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) in order to reduce the considerable administrative burden to applicants. The proposal would establish a single application process for the FY 1998 funds allocated to the Alaska Area ONAP and funds that may be allocated to the Alaska Area ONAP in FY 1999, subject to appropriations. The June 1, 1998 NOFA asked for public comment on this proposal and indicated that if, after considering the comments, HUD decided to implement the proposal, HUD would publish an amendment to the NOFA.

The Alaska Area ONAP received 18 comments on this proposal. Most commenters favored the single application process. Many of the commenters favoring the single application approach recommended a one-month extension of the application due date, because more time would be needed to prepare an application to cover two year's funding. Therefore, HUD has decided to amend the June 1, 1998 NOFA to implement the single application process for applications submitted to the Alaska Area ONAP as proposed, and to extend the application

due date for such applications by one month.

Alaska Area ONAP Single Application Processing for FY 1998 and FY 1999

HUD will screen, review, and rate all applications received from applicants in Alaska by the Alaska Area ONAP under the provisions and requirements of the June 1, 1998 NOFA. After HUD has completed the rating and developed a ranked list of projects, HUD will make grant awards of FY 1998 allocated funds until these funds are exhausted. HUD will make funding announcements for those ICDBG grant offers made with FY 1998 funds. The Alaska Area ONAP will retain applications not funded.

Subject to appropriations, HUD expects to use any FY 1999 funds allocated to the Alaska Area ONAP for grant offers to those applicants with the highest ranking retained applications until those funds are exhausted. HUD will not make FY 1999 ICDBG program grant offers or announcements until the FY 1999 appropriations are enacted and made available. The FY 1999 grant offers will also be contingent upon the applicant confirming in writing and providing such supporting documentation as is required to the Alaska Area ONAP within 30 days of the offer that:

(a) The applicant continues to meet performance threshold requirements;

(b) The project still meets all community development appropriateness and project specific threshold requirements; and

(c) No changes have occurred since the submission of the application that would affect the rating or viability of the project.

Clarification Regarding Application Due Dates/Times

Under the heading "Application Due Date," the June 1, 1998 NOFA (63 FR 29834) provided specific procedures and deadlines for submitting applications, according to the method of submission (through the mail, by overnight/express delivery, or hand carried). Under the heading "Changes From FY 1997 NOFA," however, the June 1, 1998 NOFA provided application submission information that was inconsistent with the information described under "Application Due Date" of the NOFA. Therefore, this notice clarifies that applications will be considered timely filed according to the specific procedures and deadlines provided in this notice under the heading "Application Due Date," above. In summary, mailed applications must be postmarked on or before midnight on the application due date and received

by the appropriate Area ONAP on or within 10 days of the application due date. Applications sent via overnight/express delivery will be considered timely if received on or before the application due date, or upon submission of documentary evidence that they were placed in transit with the overnight delivery service by no later than the specified application due date and received by the appropriate Area ONAP on or within 5 days of the application due date.

Correction of Points for Rating Factor 3 (Leveraging) for New Housing Construction

This notice also corrects an error regarding the points assigned to one of the rating factors in the June 1, 1998 NOFA. In the NOFA under Rating Factor 3 (Leveraging) for new housing construction (63 FR 29845; 2d column), in the table describing non-ICDBG percent of project cost, the June 1, 1998 NOFA incorrectly lists the points for 15 to 19.9 percent as 16 points. The number of points for this percentage

range should be 6 points. HUD believes this may simply have been a printing error.

Finding and Certifications

All findings and certifications contained in the June 1, 1998 NOFA continue to apply.

Dated: July 31, 1998.

Deborah Vincent,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 98-20923 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-33-P