



RIHousing Comprehensive Community Development Program and Project Funding

RIHousing seeks proposals from eligible applicants to fund community development programs and projects that support specific housing-related activities. Funding may be used as seed money for new initiatives or for expansion of current initiatives. Programs must demonstrate sustainability following this grant round. Please see below for a list of the eligible uses and examples of qualifying programs.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Non-profit and for-profit organizations, public housing authorities, municipalities, faith-based organizations and community housing development organizations are eligible to apply. Applicants may submit more than one proposal.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Proposed programs and projects must belong to at least one of the following categories:

- Programs/projects that support the viability of housing financed by RIHousing, such as tenant education, youth programming, or asset management strategies that promote stable tenancy;
- Programs/projects that are designed to promote homeownership opportunities, such as a “mortgage ready” program that aims to help potential homebuyers who have been denied mortgages due to credit or debt to income reasons;
- Programs/projects that are designed to promote homeownership opportunities, especially those with outreach strategies to increase racial and ethnic diversity, such as communications efforts targeted to diverse populations, initiatives aimed at promoting access to RIHousing loan products including down payment assistance, or other programs aimed at bridging the gap in minority homeownership;
- Programs/projects that promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability;
- Programs/projects that stabilize housing for Rhode Islanders, such as post-purchase homeowner education, financial literacy training, job training, tenant education, and education for new homeowners on maintaining homes and properties;
- Programs/projects that would broaden inclusivity and create opportunity within low-income and/or racially and ethnically diverse communities by bringing investment and resources to initiatives that would complement housing to increase quality of life, such as health-related initiatives or placemaking projects.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Proposals are due by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021. Proposals must be submitted via email to swasserman@rihousing.com in Adobe PDF format or Microsoft Office files (Word, Excel).

No proposals, including electronic submissions, will be accepted after 3:00 PM on Friday, February 26, 2021.

All questions must be submitted via email to swasserman@rihousing.com. All answers will be posted on <https://www.rihousing.com/rfps-rfqs/>.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Applicants should submit proposals on organization letterhead. Proposals must clearly describe the following:
 - Program/project proposed for funding, including demonstrated need
 - Which eligible activities the program/project is aligned with
 - Expected beneficiaries (please provide a specific number and justification)
 - Program/project anticipated outcomes and metrics for measuring anticipated outcomes
 - Program/project sustainability beyond the grant terms
 - Program/project timeline
- Applicants must complete and submit Attachment A: Community Development Program Budget and Outcomes-Beneficiary Worksheet with the proposal.
- Applicants must include resumes of all staff proposed to administer the program/project.
- Proposal narrative must not exceed 4 pages.
- Incomplete and incorrectly submitted proposals will not be evaluated.
- Applicants may submit references (encouraged if no prior working experience with RIHousing).

PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA:

A committee comprised of RIHousing staff will review all submissions in accordance with the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Score
Alignment with Eligible Activities – Which eligible activity(ies) does the program/project align with? Please describe.	30*
Need – Does the program/project meet a demonstrated need in the community?	5
Proposed Outcomes/Metrics – What are the expected results at the end of the grant period? How will those be measured?	5
Program Sustainability – How will the program sustain itself once the grant funding is depleted?	5
Leveraged Funds – Identify additional <u>committed</u> funds raised for the program/project (<u>must include proof of commitment</u>)	3
Matching Funds – Include any organizational contribution to program/project	3
Budget – Is the budget clearly detailed, with appropriate costs and sources outlined for each item?	3
How many people will the program/project reach - Provide justification or data to support this reach, including estimated cost per person reached	3
Organizational and Staff Capacity – Does the organization have the ability to implement the program/project as demonstrated by prior working experience with	3

RIHousing or through references? Is there an appropriate level of staffing in place? Is there a clear plan for executing the program/project, including adequate timeline?	
RIHousing financed property residents (<i>encouraged, but not required, unless noted in eligible use category</i>)– Will the program or project be targeted to residents of RIHousing financed properties? If so, how will you ensure residents are engaged?	3
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE	63*

*Each eligible use of funds has a maximum score of 5; 30 points represents a program/project that fully aligns with each eligible use noted on page 1.

RIHousing reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to repost the original or an amended Request for Proposals. RIHousing reserves the right to make those decisions after receipt of responses. RIHousing’s decision on these matters is final.