

Summary of Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies (LHHTS) Grant Program FY2024 (FR-6800-N-15)

Purpose

The Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies (LHHTS) Grant Program aims to advance the recognition and control of priority residential health and safety hazards and examine the link between housing and health. The program focuses on developing and evaluating cost-effective methods for identifying and reducing housing-related health hazards, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Funding Availability

- **Total Funding:** Approximately \$10 million
- **Awards:** Typically range from \$300,000 to \$1 million
- **Period of Performance:** Up to 36 months

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- State and local governments
- Federally recognized tribes
- Academic institutions
- Nonprofit organizations
- For-profit organizations, provided they forgo any profit

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities under this NOFO include:

1. Development and evaluation of cost-effective test methods and protocols for identifying and assessing housing-related hazards.
2. Development and assessment of methods for reducing or eliminating housing-related hazards.
3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of housing interventions, and barriers and incentives affecting future use of the most cost-effective strategies.
4. Translational and implementation research studies involving the adaptation and use of effective healthy homes intervention strategies.
5. Investigation of the epidemiology of housing-related hazards and illness and injuries associated with these hazards, emphasizing vulnerable populations.
6. Analysis of existing data or generation of new data to improve knowledge regarding the prevalence and severity of specific hazards in various types of housing and by demographic characteristics of residents.
7. Improved understanding of the relationship between residential exposure and illness or injury of vulnerable populations.

Ineligible Costs

- Entertainment expenses
- Lobbying activities
- Fundraising
- Legal expenses for claims against the federal government

Merit Criteria and Rating Factors

- 1. Capacity of the Applicant and Relevant Organizational Experience (20 Points)**
 - Evaluates the qualifications and experience of key personnel, including past performance on similar projects.
- 2. Need/Extent of the Problem (30 Points)**
 - Assesses the need for the proposed study based on how it will address important gaps in knowledge related to lead hazards or other residential health issues. Factors include the severity and prevalence of the hazard, economic impact, and effect on vulnerable populations.
- 3. Soundness of Approach (38 Points)**
 - Considers the quality and feasibility of the proposed study design, including the logic of the study phases, statistical power, data management and analysis plans, and the involvement of affected communities.
- 4. Achieving Results and Program Evaluation (12 Points)**
 - Focuses on the applicant's ability to achieve measurable outcomes, including clear benchmarks and milestones for study completion and impact.
- 5. Budget Proposal (11 Points)**
 - Evaluates the thoroughness and justification of the budget, including the efficiency of resource use, alignment with project goals, and clarity of cost estimates.
- 6. Leveraging Resources**
 - Although no points are awarded for leveraging, applicants are encouraged to integrate HUD's grant funds with other resources to support the study activities.

Match Requirements

There are no specific match requirements mentioned for this program. However, leveraging additional resources to supplement HUD's funding is encouraged.

Partnership Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships, especially with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) or other organizations with substantial involvement in the study. Partnerships can enhance the capacity and broaden the impact of the proposed research.

Deadlines

- **Application Deadline:** August 6, 2024
- **Award Announcements:** Typically made a few months after the application deadline

Conclusion

The LHHTS Grant Program supports research that addresses significant housing-related health hazards, with a particular emphasis on cost-effective methods, vulnerable populations, and practical applications of findings to improve health outcomes. The merit criteria and rating factors ensure that funded projects are well-planned, impactful, and aligned with HUD's goals.

For further details, please refer to the full NOFO document.