STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ROUND 1
APPLICATION TUTORIAL WEBINAR

September 1, 2020

Application submission deadline is September 28, 2020 at 3:00pm CST
STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND BACKGROUND

- Established by Rebuild Illinois capital plan (funded through Build Illinois Bonds)
- $10 million available for this round, IHDA anticipates three rounds of this Program
- The purpose of the Program is to use funding from the Build Illinois Bond Fund to make grants to municipalities, counties, and land banks to assist with their costs incurred for the acquisition, maintenance, rehabilitation and demolition of abandoned residential property in their jurisdiction.
OTHER IHDA COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS – BRP, APP, LBCP

Blight Reduction Program
Abandoned Property Program
Land Bank Capacity Program
OTHER IHDA COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS SFR AND HAP

Single Family Rehabilitation Program

Home Accessibility Program
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible Applicants for the Program must be either:

- A County or Municipality
- A Land Bank
- A Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the governments (i.e. counties or municipalities) they serve

A county or municipality may join with other counties/municipalities and together submit a single application; however, each county/municipality may only apply once per funding round. Regional Planning Commissions are also able to apply on behalf of the governments they serve.
ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES

- 1-6-unit residential properties in the State of Illinois
- Properties must meet the definition of Abandoned Residential Property under the Program (see this in the Application Guide)
- Manufactured homes taxed as real property with a foundation, but no hitch or wheels are eligible, if they also meet the definition of Abandoned Residential Property

**Commercial properties are not eligible under this Program**
**Mixed-use properties are not eligible under this Program**
ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

Grant funds may be used for acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation of vacant and abandoned residential properties. A list of specific activities is included below. **Maximum costs per individual PIN for all eligible uses cannot exceed $40,000.***

***To be eligible, the main activity on the PIN must be either demolition or rehabilitation.***

- **Acquisition** (not to exceed $5,000 per property to allow for abandonment petition for Judicial Deed, tax sale purchase and legal costs, etc.)
- **Rehabilitation** (can include interior and exterior rehab activities)
- **Demolition** (note that exceptions to the maximum per property cost of $40,0000 may be considered on a case-by-case basis for remediation requirements, and strategic demolition aligned with local planning efforts)
- **Tree, Shrub and Debris Removal** (excluding grass cutting)
- **Grass Cutting** (not to exceed 5% of grant amount)
- **Lot Treatment and Greening** (i.e. sod, level and grading, shrubs, native plantings, community gardens, stormwater management projects)
- **All reasonable hard and soft construction costs** related to the activities listed above, which may be approved or denied in IHDA's sole and absolute discretion
- **Administrative costs** (maximum general admin fees consist of 5% of the total grant for admin costs related to general management, oversight, and coordination, including staff and overhead)
FILING YOUR APPLICATION
APPLICATION

https://df7qosnywqs6g.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SCP-R1-Application-FINAL.pdf

- Program information is included in the Application Guide. Please review this section in full, before completing your application.

- Review the application in its entirety before completing your submission.

- IHDA intends to provide an FAQ for the Program later this week.

- Send any questions to SCPinfo@ihda.org
APPLICATION

- Applicant Information (including Grant Request)
- Jurisdictional Information
- Criteria Questions #6 - 34
- Exhibit Checklist
- Standard Requirements and Certifications

The maximum funding request per applicant is $250,000.
The minimum funding request per applicant is $40,000.
APPLICATION FORMAT

- Application is in a fillable PDF format.
- Mix of data entries, and short narrative responses.
- Narrative response questions are character limited.
- Please fill out the document electronically and submit in PDF fillable format.
- The document can be signed electronically. If you are unable to provide an electronic signature, please print, sign, and scan the signature page and provide as an additional attachment to your application materials.
**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

- Please include contact information for your organization
  
  In addition to entering information on this page, please also complete the Application Jotform Link. This will ensure IHDA has the correct contact information for your organization.
  
  [https://form.jotform.com/92393539417971](https://form.jotform.com/92393539417971)

- Include your Grant Request Amount
  - Maximum request: $ 250,000
  - Minimum request: $ 40,000

- Include the specific census tracts and geographies you intend to cover with this grant. If there are specific target areas, please include a description. Note that this field is limited to 1500 characters.
**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION**

- Please include some basic information about your jurisdiction.
  - For many areas, information on population and housing units can be found by using the U.S. Census QuickFacts Tool [https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/data-tools/quickfacts.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/resources/data-tools/quickfacts.html)

- For questions 2 and 4 please reference the definition of abandoned residential property in the Application Guide.
  - Vacant Residential Lots should be a subset of abandoned residential properties.
  - % Abandoned and % Vacant will automatically calculate from the data entered in questions 1-4

- In Question 5, indicate the activities you intend to perform, and the number of properties you estimate to be affected under each expense category.
Applications will be ranked against others submitted to determine points to be awarded in the following categories:

**Strong Communities Program**

- Need  
  Maximum 20 Points
- Capacity  
  Maximum 20 Points
- Impact  
  Maximum 20 Points
- Budget and Cost Reasonableness  
  Maximum 20 Points
- Readiness to Proceed  
  Maximum 20 Points

Total: 100 points
SCORING CATEGORY 1: NEED (20 POINTS)

- Foreclosure activity and abandoned residential properties
- Time and resources expended on maintaining and demolishing abandoned residential properties
- Financial burden placed on your jurisdiction
- Specific areas within jurisdiction most affected by foreclosures and abandoned properties
- Narrative responses in Question 8 are limited to 500 characters
- Question 9 allows space to provide a narrative to address any additional information that has not been included in responses to the previous questions.
SCORING CATEGORY 1: NEED (20 POINTS)

- Foreclosure activity and abandoned residential properties
- Time and resources expended on maintaining and demolishing abandoned residential properties
- Financial burden placed on your jurisdiction
- Specific areas within jurisdiction most affected by foreclosures and abandoned properties
- Narrative responses in Question 8 are limited to 500 characters
- Question 9 allows space to provide a narrative to address any additional information that has not been included in responses to the previous questions.
SCORING CATEGORY 2: CAPACITY (20 POINTS)

- Provide most recent independent financial audit (within two years, if available)
- Previous experience managing grants
- Experience managing housing grant or program
- Experience managing compliance with historical preservation, lead-based paint laws, and prevailing wage
SCORING CATEGORY 2: CAPACITY (20 POINTS)

- Provide most recent independent financial audit (within two years, if available)
- Previous experience managing grants
- Experience managing housing grant or program
- Experience managing compliance with historical preservation, lead-based paint laws, and prevailing wage
SCORING CATEGORY 2: CAPACITY (20 POINTS)

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SCORING CATEGORY 3: IMPACT (20 POINTS)

- Existing or planned local revitalization efforts (include these with application, if applicable)
  - For large Comprehensive Plan or other files, please indicate relevant pages to your proposed activities under this Program.
  - If Plans are too large to attach to an email, but are publicly available on your website, please provide a link.

- Quantified positive effects of past and current revitalization efforts
SCORING CATEGORY 4: BUDGET AND COST REASONABLENESS (20 POINTS)

- Complete and reasonable budget
- Third-party vendor and in-house expected costs
- Process used to procure third-party vendors
- Process used for ensuring reasonable costs
SCORING CATEGORY 4: BUDGET AND COST REASONABLENESS (20 POINTS)

- Complete and reasonable budget
- Third-party vendor and in-house expected costs
- Process used to procure third-party vendors
- Process used for ensuring reasonable costs
SCORING CATEGORY 5: READINESS TO PROCEED
(20 POINTS)

- Reasonable work plan for expeditious completion of proposed activities
- Properties identified that you either have or intend to perform work on with this grant
- Reimbursement for documented, previously-performed eligible activities will be considered (January 1, 2020 to present)
SCORING CATEGORY 5: READINESS TO PROCEED
(20 POINTS)

- Reasonable work plan for expeditious completion of proposed activities
- Properties identified that you either have or intend to perform work on with this grant
- Reimbursement for documented, previously-performed eligible activities will be considered (January 1, 2020 to present)
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Completed application
2. Most recent independent financial audit
3. Revitalization plan(s), if applicable
4. Certification of municipality, county, or land bank status
5. Any other appropriate document to support your proposal

*Name each exhibit as stated in the application, and electronically submit all documents as PDFs contained within a single zipped folder, if possible, to SCPinfo@ihda.org. (email attachments cannot exceed 35MB)*
STANDARD REQUIREMENTS & CERTIFICATIONS

1. Applicant certifies that all statement herein are true, accurate, and complete;

2. Applicant will not permit any discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability in connection with its participation in the Program;

3. Applicant will ensure expenditures of grant funds are for Eligible Uses under the Program;

4. Applicant will maintain records in connection with administration of the Program for five (5) years after the date of termination of the Commitment;

5. Applicant will comply with the terms and conditions of the Program;

6. Applicant will comply with monitoring and evaluation of the Program through the full Commitment period;

7. Applicant will comply with all Illinois prevailing wage requirements;

8. Applicant will comply with all federal/state/local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to historical preservation, environmental, demolition, and lead based paint laws; Applicant agrees and acknowledges that it is its responsibility to determine which laws and regulations apply;

9. Applicant certifies that all procurements/vendor contracts comply and will continue to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including applicable municipal procurement policies and procedures;

10. Applicant certifies that they have legal authority and rights to complete the demolition for all properties proposed.

11. Neither the applicant, nor its affiliates or related entities are delinquent in the payment of any debt to the State of Illinois (or if delinquent, has entered into a deferred payment plan to pay any debt)
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

IHDA’s website contains additional guides, FAQs, and presentations for your reference.
Navigate to the following website:

→ https://www.IHDA.org
→ Community
→ Revitalization and Repair Programs
→ and Strong Communities Program (SCP)

https://www.ihda.org/my-community/revitalization-programs/#collapseSix

Note that a Strong Communities Program FAQ is forthcoming. A document comparing SCP and the Abandoned Property Program is available for your reference.
CONTACT INFORMATION

SCPinfo@ihda.org

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Bill Erdmier 312-836-7448
Senior Program Officer werdmier@ihda.org

Evan Ponder 312-836-7341
Program Officer eponder@ihda.org
Please zip all of your application materials and send as a single attachment. All applications and their accompanying materials should be submitted within a single email. After IHDA has received your application, we will send you a confirmation of receipt in response – ensure that you receive this confirmation, and that there were no errors in transmission.

Submission deadline is **September 28, 2020 at 3:00pm CST**

Q**E**U**S**T**I**O**N**S**?