2019 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT SERVICES
PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

SECTION A. GENERAL INFORMATION

A.1 INTRODUCTION

The City and County of Denver’s Office of Economic Development (OED), Division of Neighborhood Equity, and Division of Business and Workforce Development receive annual allocations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Funding for the 2019 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is expressly contingent upon final budget approval of the U.S. Congress, written authorization from HUD, and approval of the City and County of Denver Mayor and City Council.

The OED NOFA process specifically solicits proposals for projects that provide services or activities in the program areas of community development, such as neighborhood public services, neighborhood development, small business support and lending, and other associated services and activities. As a change from NOFAs published in recent years, this 2019 NOFA will be split into two separate NOFA processes, one each for Neighborhood Support Services and Housing Services. Therefore this NOFA is only soliciting proposals for Neighborhood programs, and does NOT solicit applications for Housing public service programs. The Housing public services NOFA will be published separately, with a separate application process.

In addition, this NOFA does not solicit specific Neighborhood Improvements, Public Facilities and Improvements, Brownfield Environmental Clean-Up, Catalytic projects, Housing Development projects, or Small Business/Entrepreneurial Development lending under a formal deadline. These program areas accept applications for lending on a rolling, year-round basis depending on the availability of funds, and consequently, are NOT subject to the submittal deadline requirements of this NOFA. Please see the chart below listing the various lending projects and the links to application and guideline resources.

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OED continues to implement the management system, WizeHive, which will simplify the application process. Completion of an application includes selection of a program area and activity (as applicable) which will guide specific questions and requirements related to the proposed project. Organizations may submit more than one project proposal. Additional proposals for different projects can be accessed after the first proposal has been submitted through the WizeHive system. Detailed instructions are provided in the 2019 Neighborhoods NOFA Proposal Checklist, located on OED’s Funding Opportunities website.

A.2 BACKGROUND

OED is dedicated to advancing economic prosperity and equity for the City and County of Denver’s businesses, neighborhoods, and residents through purposeful and intentional community economic development that: broadens the tax base; stimulates balanced economic growth through business assistance, neighborhood revitalization and the development of a skilled workforce; and focuses on innovation, sustainability and education. OED works with a variety of community partners to achieve these goals.

In these efforts, OED builds on and supports Denver priorities, as articulated in various documents, including but not limited to, Mayor Hancock’s State of the City and stated priorities and goals, OED’s strategic work plans, and the Denver HUD Consolidated Plan and Annual Plan. These documents and other policy/program descriptions are available on the City’s and the OED web site.

In July 2018, Mayor Hancock explained called for city agencies and outer community partners to take a strong role in connecting people to opportunity, the Equity Platform. This equity-focused approach requires OED, and our partners, to deliver high quality, outcome-orientated programs and service – with a priority around extending job opportunities, business growth, and city services to more residents, businesses and neighborhoods.

Specific actions already being started or strengthen including, but not limited to:

- Launch the Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization Team (NEST) – part of OED’s Neighborhood Equity Division,
- Expand the financial empowerment and resource centers and financial navigators to help residents (several OED Divisions provide staff and assistance), and
- Ensure local residents and minority- and woman-owned businesses benefit from the $6 billion plus in capital projects (led by OED’s Division of Small Business Opportunity (DSBO) and supported by other OED work teams).

OED undertakes its work of community economic development through an integrated and sustained approach. The organization is split across programmatic or topic areas, including housing development and programs, neighborhood projects and support services, business and workforce development, and small business opportunity.

Business and Workforce Development

- Preserve and strengthen Denver-based companies, ranging from business curious to economic foundational companies. Specific programs range from neighborhood business support to small business lending, from assisting startups and business scale-up to increasing employment and career opportunities for LMI residents.

Small Business Opportunity

- Increasing business opportunities for Denver’s minority and woman-owned businesses – both through connecting to public contract opportunities and enhancing these firms’ ability to competing in Denver’s growing economy.
- Implement a new service delivery model and new workforce development team to provide programs for youth, industry-focused training, veterans, and career pathways.

Housing

- Support development of new affordable and workforce housing units, preserve the affordability of a majority of near-term covenant restricted units, and develop a community participation plan that supports analysis of fair housing.

Neighborhood Equity

- Concentrate resources in identified target neighborhoods with an emphasis on increasing opportunities and choices within Denver’s neighborhoods, leading to family and resident success/sustainability. Examples
of projects and services range from early childhood education, retail revitalization, and community services and access.

This 2019 NOFA specifically solicits proposals for community development activities or services to fund in the program areas indicated below:

**Neighborhood Public Services (CDBG Funds)**

Neighborhood Public Service applications will be considered from organizations that provide services in one of the following focus areas:

1. At-risk populations
2. Access to community amenities and services – i.e. youth education/opportunity, healthy living access (food, wellness and health care),
3. Job and career training/coaching and placement
4. Neighborhood business support

Priority consideration will be given to applications that have a geographic focus on the East Colfax, Elyria Swansea, Five Points, Globeville, Montbello, Northeast Park Hill, Sun Valley, Valverde, Villa Park, West Colfax, and Westwood neighborhoods.

A.3 **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**2019 NOFA APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE** Friday, August 31, 2018

**2019 NOFA GENERAL INFORMATION MEETING** Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 3:30 – 5:00pm (MDT)
Parr-Widener Room, City and County of Denver Building, 1437 Bannock Street, Denver
This will be a joint meeting to discuss both the Neighborhood Support Services NOFA and the Housing Services NOFA. Representatives from each division and other OED staff will share the City’s Guiding Principles, OED priorities and regulatory requirements and address questions about the 2019 NOFA and its process.

**QUESTIONS ON NOFA GUIDELINES DUE** Monday, September 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (MDT)
Questions must be submitted via email at: oed_neighborhoods.proposals@denvergov.org

**ADDENDUM TO NOFA RELEASED** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (MDT)
OED will release via the [OED Funding Opportunities Website](https://www.denvergov.org/Departments/OED/Funding-Programs/Funding-Opportunities)

**COMPLETED PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE** Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. (MDT)

A.4 **APPLICATION, GUIDELINES, CHECKLIST AND ACRONYM REFERENCE, TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

OED continues to implement the grant management system *WizeHive* for the NOFA application process. All proposals must be submitted via the Wizehive system. Any application materials submitted outside the Wizehive application will not be accepted nor reviewed. The *Online Application* allows all program areas to use one document to gather general data and information; applicants must answer specific questions and requirements related to the proposed project. The application contains helpful background and clarifying information in yellow highlighted text boxes, while yellow highlighted question marks indicate that additional information is available. **All uploads except budgets must be in .pdf format; budgets must be uploaded as an Excel file (.xls or .xlsx).**

Data entered by organizations must be clear, concise, and realistic about performance objectives. Organizations may submit more than one project proposal. Additional proposals for different projects can be accessed after the first proposal has been submitted through the WizeHive system.

Three documents have been created to assist you in the application process. This *Proposal Guidelines* document provides background and instructions about the NOFA, a *Proposal Checklist* itemizes the documents to be downloaded and uploaded as attachments to the online application and defines the process to submit one or more project proposals. An *Acronym Reference, Terms and Definitions* document is also provided for clarification purposes. It is very important to have all three documents accessible when completing the application.
A.5 APPLICATION QUESTIONS

General questions regarding the 2019 NOFA will be addressed at the General Information Meeting (See A.3 – Schedule of Events). Technical questions (only) regarding use of the online application must be submitted in writing by email: oed_neighborhoods.proposals@denvergov.org.

A.6 FUNDING SOURCES AND APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The CDBG program has specific federal rules and regulations, applicable laws, etc. Applicants are strongly advised to become familiar with specific and appropriate program eligibility and overall requirements before submission of a proposal.

A limited list of sources includes:

- System for Award Management (SAM): [http://www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)
- Colorado Secretary of State: [http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/business/businessHome.html](http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/business/businessHome.html)

Application reviews and awards are also contingent upon applicants being current to the City on any loan, contractual, or tax obligation as due, or with any rule, regulation, or provision on existing or past City contracts. Additionally, please note the City complies with open record statutes and so proprietary information should be identified as such.
SECTION B. SCOPE OF SERVICES

B.1 NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT SERVICES BENEFIT

The CDBG Program is the primary source of funding for the Neighborhood Support Services program area in this NOFA. OED is seeking proposals in Neighborhood Public Service (NPS) programs that will provide services to homeless and at-risk populations; youth educational and enhancement programs; healthy living programs/projects (food, recreation/activity, or health care) access and/or affordability; or job/career training and employment support activities. Proposals outside of these focus areas may be considered, but may be a lower priority for funding support. Additionally, the OED will give priority consideration to applications that have a geographic focus on the East Colfax, Elyria Swansea, Five Points, Globeville, Montbello, Northeast Park Hill, Sun Valley, Valverde, Villa Park, West Colfax, and Westwood neighborhoods. In all cases, either program areas or targeted neighborhoods, the proposal should consider and discuss how this project, program or service will assist in extending neighborhood stabilization, equity and opportunity for all.

Applications awarded for NPS programs may be made for up to a period of two years and initial awards will be based upon 2019 budgets. However, contracts will be executed with a one-year term, with renewal for the second year at OED’s discretion based upon satisfactory contractor performance and available funding. OED may in its sole discretion adjust the contract program year to better respond to the priorities of the Mayor and the City and County residents.

Neighborhood Public Service programs under this NOFA must qualify as meeting the CDBG national objective of benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. This requires that each proposed program or activity meet specific tests for benefiting low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons (households with an annual income at or below 80% AMI). Applicants are required to collect and maintain documentation used to determine the eligibility of program beneficiaries based on income and household size.

The criteria for how an activity or program may be considered to benefit LMI persons are divided into the following subcategories:

Area Benefit:
This is an activity that benefits all the residents of a primarily residential area, in which at least 51 percent of area residents are LMI persons. Areas of Denver that qualify as low-and moderate-income for area benefit purposes are available here:
https://egis-hud.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/3bd6767dccc5e4937a6232d9db04dd447_0/features/8396?basemap=primary

Program that provide an area benefit are usually neighborhood facilities and examples include:
- Community services/resource centers
- Public gardens

Limited Clientele:
This is an activity that provides benefits to a specific group of persons rather than everyone in an area, in which at least 51 percent of beneficiaries are LMI persons based on annual household income. Applicants are required to collect and maintain documentation regarding the household size and income program beneficiaries to demonstrate the limited clientele criteria has been met. Please see this webpage for current income limits (select CO and then Denver):

Some groups presumed to be limited clientele include:

- Abused children
- Disabled adults
- Elderly persons
- Illiterate adults
- Battered spouses
- Persons living with AIDS
- Homeless persons
- Migrant farm workers
Examples of limited clientele activities include:

- Public services at a youth center
- Public services for the homeless
- Meals on wheels for the elderly
- Job training and placement for severely disabled adults
- Self-sufficiency programs

B.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC SERVICE

Neighborhood Public Service (NPS) awards will assist neighborhood-based non-profit organizations to build capacity by funding existing or new public service programs that provide services to address community needs. Funding must be used to enhance and or expand these services. Possible program areas to be considered for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Further organizational capacity building /asset building;
- Develop community employment and training programs;
- Expand health and wellness services; and
- Provide critical infrastructure, logistics, education, or other methods to facilitate access to healthy food choices.

OED’s Neighborhood Equity Division will only consider applications that request between $50,000 and $130,000 in funding. NPS applications should encompass programs or services that address one of the following five focus areas:

1. Adult and youth job training and placement
2. Early childhood care, youth education, and youth opportunities/access
3. Basic adult education (examples include literacy programs, English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Development (GED))
4. Community based wellness programs: healthy eating and living behaviors, and family support activities
5. Micro-business and entrepreneurial development and technical assistance

Priority consideration will be given to applications that have a geographic focus on the East Colfax, Elyria Swansea, Five Points, Globeville, Montbello, Northeast Park Hill, Sun Valley, Valverde, Villa Park, West Colfax, and Westwood neighborhoods.

Ineligible uses of CDBG funds for Public Service include:

- CDBG funds cannot be substituted for any recent City or State funds that were supporting public services. The service must be a “new service” or a "quantifiable increase in the level of service" above that provided by or on behalf of the City through City or State funds.
- Ongoing grants or non-emergency payments to individuals for food, clothing, rent, utilities or other income payments.

NPS Outcomes:

Neighborhood staff will work with successful proposers to develop outcomes specific to the program funded which may be based on the following structure:

- Participants in funded programs will have increased access to one or more of the following service areas:
  - Services at risk populations
  - Neighborhood and healthy living services and programs
  - Job training and placement services
- This increased access to services and programs will result in one or more of the following goals:
  - Greater self-sufficiency and functional independence
  - Greater physical health and mental well-being
  - Increased workplace readiness skills, employment rates, job-retention and wages
  - Greater awareness of post-secondary career and educational opportunities
SECTION C: ADDITIONAL APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

C.1 ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS AND AUDITS
Organizations awarded funds will be required to provide accounting system and audit-related information based upon the amount of the OED grant and the expenditure of federal assistance in the entity’s annual fiscal year.

C.2 DAVIS-BACON ACT
Contracts with the City and County of Denver, Office of Economic Development may or may not be subject to The Code of Federal Regulation Title 29 Part 5 also known as the Davis Bacon Act. The Davis-Bacon Act requires the payment of prevailing wage rates (as determined by Department of Labor) to all laborers and mechanics on construction projects in excess of $2,000. For Davis Bacon purposes, the definition of laborers and mechanics means anyone who is performing construction work on the project including trade journeyman (for instance, carpenters, plumbers, sheet metal workers.) The definition for construction includes alteration and or repair of public buildings or public works such as alteration, repair, painting and decorating of public buildings or public works. In addition, Davis Bacon includes two other laws:

1. The Contract Work Hours and Safety Act (CWSSA) requires payment of overtime at time and a half.
2. The Copeland Act which makes it a federal crime for an employer to require kickbacks from employees.

C.3 SECTION 3
The requirements of Section 3 apply to contractors or subcontractors that receive HUD Community Planning and Development funding in excess of $100,000 for Section 3 covered projects/activities. Section 3 covered projects are those investments into activities involving housing construction, demolition, rehabilitation, or other public construction—i.e., roads, sewers, community centers, etc. Accordingly, the applicant must attempt to reach the Section 3 minimum numerical goals found at 24 CFR Part 135.30 by:

1. Awarding 10% of the total dollar amount of all covered construction contracts to Section 3 businesses;
2. Offering 30% of new employment opportunities to Section 3 businesses.

Section 3 is triggered when the normal completion of construction and rehabilitation projects creates the need for new employment, contracting, or training opportunities. Each applicant (and their covered contractors and subcontractors) are required to comply with the requirements of Section 3 for new employment, training, or contracting opportunities resulting from the expenditure of covered funding.

C.4 SECTION 504
Funding under this NOFA is subject to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Programs funded by HUD cannot discriminate against persons with disabilities. Applicants must allow persons with disabilities to fully participate in programs. Applicants may be required to modify policies, practices and services so that persons with disabilities may participate in programs and benefit from services. Recipients of HUD financial assistance must take all steps necessary to ensure that their programs, services and activities comply with Section 504 to the maximum extent possible. However, a recipient is not required to take steps that it can demonstrate will cause an undue financial and administrative burden or change the fundamental nature of the program.

C.5 UNIFORM RELOCATION ACT
The Uniform Relocation Act (URA) is implemented under 49 CFR Part 24. URA’s protections and assistance apply to the acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition of real property when CDBG or HOME funds are used in the project. The URA establishes minimum standards for eligibility and relocation in cases where acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition displaces persons from their homes or businesses.

C.6 CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS
As part of the City contracting process, there are several requirements that are mandatory for all contractors:

• All contractors receiving an award of funds will be required to execute a contract with the City. Sample contract documents are listed below:
All Proposers are strongly advised to seek legal counsel to review the agreement. The City reserves the right to accept or reject in its sole discretion any proposed modifications to the sample contract. The City reserves the right to modify any term or condition of the draft Agreement, and to add, delete or modify terms and conditions as deemed necessary, prior to execution of a final agreement. Applicants will be presumed to have submitted their applications based upon all the information set forth in the contract and in a manner fully cognizant of the requirements of the contract. The City reserves the right to contemporaneously negotiate the final terms of the proposed contract with the selected contractors. If the City is unable to reach an agreement as to final contract terms with any selected contractor, the City expressly reserves the right to terminate negotiations and enter into contract negotiations with one or more of the other applicants. As the best interests of the City may appear in the City’s sole judgement, the City reserves the right to reject any or all applications at any time during this selection process or terminate, cancel or modify this selection process.

- All contractors must have a current IRS Form W-9 available. If the entity receiving the funds is new to the City of Denver contracting system, contractors must submit the W-9 to OED upon an award of funds in order to receive funding.

- All contractors receiving Federal funds must be registered in the System for Award Management Database (www.sam.gov). This requires a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number. Dun & Bradstreet issues unique nine digit DUNS Numbers without charge for all businesses required to register with the US Federal government for contracts or grants. Please see http://www.dnb.com/get-a-duns-number.html for more information.

- All contractors must be registered with the Colorado Secretary of State and have an active Certificate of Good Standing prior to submitting an application. See http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/business/businessHome.html for more information.

- Certificates of Insurance evidencing the following coverage are required of all City Contractors:
  - Workers’ Compensation/Employer’s Liability Insurance: Contractor shall maintain the coverage as required by statute for each work location and shall maintain Employer’s Liability insurance with limits of $100,000 per occurrence for each bodily injury claim, $100,000 per occurrence for each bodily injury caused by disease claim, and $500,000 aggregate for all bodily injuries caused by disease claims. Contractor expressly represents to the City, as a material representation upon which the City is relying in entering into this Agreement, that none of the Contractor’s officers or employees who may be eligible under any statute or law to reject Workers’ Compensation Insurance shall effect such rejection during any part of the term of this Agreement, and that any such rejections previously effected, have been revoked as of the date Contractor executes this Agreement.
    - If the contractor is a sole proprietor, a waiver may be filed with the City for Workers’ Compensation requirements.
      - If the sole proprietor is an LLC or Corporation, an additional State waiver is required. Please review the waiver and all instructions here: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/dwc
        - However, sole proprietors who are not LLCs or Corporations need only complete a form for the City to waive Workers’ Compensation requirements. This form will be provided to all selected contractors that are sole proprietors during contract negotiations.
  - Commercial General Liability: Contractor shall maintain a Commercial General Liability insurance policy with limits of $1,000,000 for each occurrence, $1,000,000 for each personal and advertising injury claim, $2,000,000 products and completed operations aggregate, and $2,000,000 policy aggregate.
- Sexual Abuse and Molestation Exclusion (SAME) language: Any contractor working with youth and/or a vulnerable population will require SAME coverage as a part of the contractor’s commercial general liability coverage.
  - Business Automobile Liability: Contractor shall maintain Business Automobile Liability with limits of $1,000,000 combined single limit applicable to all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles used in performing services under this Agreement.
    - If the contractor is a sole proprietor, the contractor may elect to use his or her personal automobile liability coverage instead of obtaining a business-specific policy.
  - Upon discretion of the City, additional coverage or changes to the above coverage language may be required upon award if needed.

- All selected contractors are required to complete the Diversity and Inclusiveness in City Solicitations Information Request Form. The information provided on this form will provide an opportunity for City contractors/consultants to describe their own diversity and inclusiveness practices. Contractors/consultants are not expected to conduct intrusive examinations of its employees, managers, or business partners in order to describe diversity and inclusiveness measures. Rather, the City simply seeks a description of the contractor/consultant’s current practices, if any. Diversity and Inclusiveness information provided by City contractors/consultants in response to City solicitations for services or goods will be collated, analyzed, and made available in reports consistent with City Executive Order No. 101. However, no personally identifiable information provided by or obtained from contractors/consultants will be in such reports. A link will be provided for selected contractors to complete an e-form.

- All selected contractors must submit certification that no funds have been paid by or on behalf of the organization to influence funding decisions regarding this NOFA. The form is available at:
  
  http://denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/690/Funding%20Opportunities/c4%

- All selected contractors must submit certification that the organization will provide a drug-free workplace in compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act. The form is available at:
  
  http://denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/690/Funding%20Opportunities/c3%20Drug-Free-Workplace.pdf
SECTION D: EVALUATION

D.1 EVALUATION TEAM

All applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Team comprised of OED staff and other evaluators. All data and information from the applicant must be submitted through the online application and documents uploaded before submission of the application. No additional information, documents or inquiries pertaining to the proposal submittal, including email and phone calls, will be considered during the selection process.

D.2 EVALUATION PROCESS

Proposals will be scored and ranked utilizing the WizeHive Evaluation Tool based upon the information contained in the application itself and uploaded attachments. The areas of review are: Project Plan, Project Outcomes, Organizational Capacity, Financial Capacity, and Community Impact and Alignment with the City’s Guiding Principles.

Performance outcomes of prior contracts with OED will be considered in the overall rating of proposals submitted by applicants who currently have, or have previously had, contracts with OED. Application evaluation and awards are also contingent upon applicants being current to the City on any loan, contractual, or tax obligation as due, or with any rule, regulation, or provision on existing or past City contracts. Additionally, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.331 of the Uniform Grant Guidance, applicants will be evaluated based on the following risk factors:

- Prior experience with HUD funds or other Federal awards
- Results of previous Single Audits
- New personnel or new or substantially changed systems
- Extent and results of Federal monitoring in previous years

Before an application is awarded, an applicant may be invited to a meeting with OED staff to discuss the proposed project, to review compliance required under applicable Federal regulations and to determine the eligibility of proposed costs.

D.3 DECISIONS

Based upon the information provided by the applicants, the Evaluation Team will evaluate applications. The evaluations will be ranked according to scores in WizeHive and forwarded to OED Senior Management.

Funding is limited. Applications that meet all of the NOFA’s general guidelines and requirements may not necessarily receive an award. OED may recommend funding a project or service for the full amount requested, or less than the full amount, or not at all. There are no requirements or expectations that OED must award all or any funds through the NOFA process.

OED reserves the right to postpone or cancel this NOFA, if it deems it to be in the best interests of OED to do so. OED reserves the right to waive any technical or formal errors or omissions, and to reject any and all proposals, or to award contracts, either in part or in whole, if deemed to be in the best interests of OED.

Successful applicants shall be in complete compliance with all of the specifications, terms and conditions of the proposal. OED shall have the right to inspect the facilities and equipment of the successful applicant to insure such compliance. OED shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of proposals or for any work performed in connection therein.

Successful applicants will be invited to enter into contract negotiations and development of a final scope of services. Contract negotiations may involve additional requirements, such as environmental reviews. Application reviews and awards are contingent upon applicants being current to the City on any loan, contractual, or tax obligation as due, or with any rule, regulation, or provision on existing or past City contracts.