

Division of Housing and Community Development

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Affordable Rental Housing Preservation December 2016

The Division of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) are soliciting proposals to finance the preservation of subsidized multi-family affordable housing developments serving low-and moderate-income households. Eligible projects under this Request for Proposals (RFP) include subsidized rental developments (LIHTC, 811, 202) that are in need of capital improvements to maintain operations and affordability.

The City will provide gap financing with Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund (HTF), federal HOME and/or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. In addition, PHA may make available public housing operating subsidy under its Annual Contributions Contract (ACC). Developers are encouraged to leverage other available resources including Four-Percent Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

Proposals received in response to this RFP will be reviewed by an interagency group comprised of representatives of DHCD, PHA, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA), the Office of Homeless Services, and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. Proposals submitted to the RFP should be generally consistent with the Rental Selection Criteria, Appendix pp. 17-29 in the *Year 42 Consolidated Plan*, which is available at www.phila.gov/dhcd.

CDBG and HOME funds are available to for-profit developers and nonprofit developers. Housing Trust Fund earnings are available only to nonprofit developers. Since Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments are structured as for-profit entities, nonprofit entities seeking HTF earnings are eligible only if they meet the HTF partnership requirements and other HTF requirements detailed in Attachment B (page 6).

General Program Requirements

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be for-profit or nonprofit organizations or partnerships. While LIHTC projects are structured as for-profit partnerships in order to syndicate tax credit proceeds, the controlling entity of the partnership must be an eligible nonprofit entity in order to qualify for HTF earnings. See Attachments B (page 6) and C (page 7) for specific HTF and visitability requirements. Other types of entities are eligible for CDBG or HOME funds, as applicable.

Design Consideration

Developers are encouraged, to the greatest extent possible, to incorporate sustainable elements to maximize energy efficiency, indoor air quality and long-term sustainability.

Accessibility and Special Needs

For projects requiring substantial rehabilitation, developers are required, to the maximum extent feasible, to provide 10 percent of the total number of units readily accessible to individuals with mobility impairments and 4 percent accessible to individuals with sensory impairments. In addition, to the maximum extent feasible, developers are encouraged to make 10 percent of the units available to individuals with Special Needs. Please be advised that elderly persons are not considered Special Needs for purposes of this requirement. All referrals for Special Needs units are required to come from the Permanent Supportive Housing Clearinghouse. Projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Leveraging

Priority will be given to projects that highly leverage the City's gap financing. Projects that leverage higher amounts will be ranked higher.

Proposal Format

Applicants must submit an unbound original and six (6) copies of the proposal. Proposals should be limited to twenty (20) pages of double-spaced text, excluding the required forms and exhibits.

Qualified applications must include the following sections, which should be clearly identified and submitted in the following order:

1) Project Summary

Provide a short summary of the project on the Project Summary form (Exhibit A). Include the project name, developer, project location, number of units, number of accessible, special needs and visitable units, total project costs, and amount of CDBG, HOME and/or HTF subsidy requested.

2) Project Description

Describe the type of project and scope of activity being proposed, indicating:

- Population to be served by this development, including an estimate of the number of housing units to be rented to each of the following income groups:
 - Household income <30% of area median
 - Household income >30% and <80% of area median
 - Household income >80% and <115% of area median

If the project proposes to serve households with incomes less than 30 percent of area median, the applicant must explain how these households will afford rents and describe any rental reserves, rental assistance, etc., to be provided.

- Description of properties (square footage, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, parking, lot size, etc.) Please provide renderings, site plans and floor plans if available.
- Green and/or sustainable elements.

3) Neighborhood Context and Sustainability

Describe the project within the context of current neighborhood conditions and assets. Does the project support past private or public investment in the community? How is the project expected to affect long-term affordability and neighborhood stability?

4) Budgets

Complete the budget forms listed below, which identify anticipated development and other costs for the project.

- The Development Pro Forma (Exhibit B), which identifies the total development cost and the sources and uses of funds.
- The Operating Budget (part of Exhibit B), to provide operating costs and cash flow over a 15-year period.
- If the project is seeking tax credits complete the Tax Credit Summary (Exhibit B) to provide details on the amount of tax credits being requested from PHFA, the equity raise (as cents on the dollar), and the amount of funds being requested (if any) from PHFA.
- If a project is proposing capital improvements for a development please provide a capital needs assessment that outlines the work to be performed including the cost.

Provide supporting evidence of all funding commitments received, and a list of pending applications with dates of submission and expected awards. Applicants with preliminary or firm commitments of LIHTC syndication proceeds should submit copies of the commitment letter indicating the amount of equity expected to be raised.

5) Timetable

Identify key benchmarks for project development, including financing, pre-development activities, construction start, and construction end.

6) Development Team

Provide a description of each member of the development team, such as developer, attorney, contractor, architect, consultant, etc. Describe the development entity (partnership). For HTF-funded developments, indicate how a qualified nonprofit entity will be the controlling interest in the project. How does this venture further the developer's long-term mission?

7) Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

The attached "Economic Opportunity Plan" (Exhibit C) details the procedures that must be followed regarding participation ranges. Complete the required forms (OEO Forms, Exhibit D), and include them in the RFP response. If Exhibit D cannot be completed because contractors, subcontractors, suppliers or vendors have not been solicited, complete the Contractors Certificate of Compliance (Exhibit E). Please provide a narrative about the proposed plan and process to solicit MBE/WBE contractors. Include in narrative past experience/performance in meeting MBE/WBE participation goals.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Neighborhood Context and Design

Appropriateness of preserving the proposed development for the neighborhood and residents.
Impact on other public or private investment. Green or sustainable design elements.

Developer Capacity and Track Record

Strength and track record of the development team. Ability to secure financing and complete the project on time and within budget.

Population Served

Long-term affordability. For HTF funding, priority will be given to proposals serving households at or below 30 percent of AMI.

Project Feasibility/Sustainability

Project feasibility. Total City subsidy required. Committed leverage of other resources. Per unit and per square foot development and subsidy costs.

OEO Responsiveness

Track record in meeting MBE/WBE participation goals.

Briefing Session

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend a briefing session:

Thursday, December 15, 10 am

DHCD Board Room
1234 Market St., 17th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

This room is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodations in order to participate are required, please contact James O'Toole at 215-686-9760 (TDD 215-686-9803) or email him at james.o'toole@phila.gov. Advance notice of 72 hours is required for sign-language interpreter services.

Proposal Submission

Proposals must be in the format described above. An unbound original and six (6) copies of the proposal must be delivered no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2017 to:

Division of Housing and Community Development
1234 Market St., 17th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Attention: Melissa Long, Deputy Director

Questions related to the RFP may be directed to Melissa Long, Deputy Director, at melissa.long@phila.gov. Questions must be submitted in writing by January 9, 2017. Answers to all questions received will be posted on the DHCD website by January 11, 2017.

Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted and will not be reviewed. The City assumes no liability for costs incurred in proposal preparation. The City reserves the right to accept or reject proposals or to seek additional information from any applicant. The City is under no obligation to award all available funds through this RFP, and reserves the right to reallocate funds between funding categories.

Attachment B -- Housing Trust Fund Requirements

Projects seeking HTF assistance from this RFP must meet the legal requirements of the HTF, including:

- Development by a nonprofit organization, or a joint venture in which a nonprofit organization is the controlling partner with demonstrated capacity. No funding will be provided for a project sponsored by a nonprofit entity that is controlled by either a for-profit or a public entity. Adherence to the “Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Requirements and OHCD Policies” set forth in the *Year 41 Consolidated Plan* available at <http://www.phila.gov/dhcd/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/year-41-consolidated-plan-for-web.pdf>.
- Selected developers must comply with other requirements, such as the Equal Opportunity Plan required by ordinance 060226-AA, as applicable.
- Meeting the accessibility and visitability requirements of the HTF as defined in local ordinance and the Mayor’s Executive Order. All new construction units must be made visitable or, alternatively, an amount equal to \$3,000 multiplied by the total number of new construction units built in the project is required to be spent to make as many of the units as possible visitable. Visitability and/or accessibility requirements may be waived or reduced for a project if such requirement(s) renders the project financially infeasible, or if site conditions are unsuitable, but any such waiver does not exempt the project from any other applicable requirements regarding visitability and/or accessibility. See Attachment C for a definition of “visitable.”
- Meeting the requirement that households benefiting from the housing development pay no more than 30 percent of their income for housing, unless allowed by another federal or state funding source.
- Serving households with a maximum income of 115 percent of area median income.

The HTF requires that 50 percent of all program funds, including housing production, home repair and homeless prevention, on a yearly basis be used for programs and projects that benefit households with incomes, adjusted for size, equal to or less than 30 percent of the Philadelphia area median income, and 50 percent be used to benefit households with incomes between 30 percent and 115 percent of area median income. Serving households at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income is not only a requirement of the HTF, but a goal of this RFP. Proposals serving that population will be given priority in funding awards. In making HTF awards, the City reserves the right to adjust funding among affordable housing development categories, based on responses received through Requests for Proposals.

Attachment C – Visitability

“Visitable” shall mean the following amenities in a dwelling unit:

- One zero-step entrance to the dwelling that will permit a visitor using a wheelchair to enter the main level floor of the dwelling through a doorway entrance that has a minimum 32” opening.
- A usable path of travel throughout the interior main level floor that is no narrower than 36” at any point except for interior doorway openings with a minimum 32” opening.
- A powder room on the main level floor that has a doorway entrance with a minimum 32” doorway opening, sufficient space to close the door while inside the powder room, a minimum 30” x 48” floor space clearance, and reinforced walls for future installation of grab bars to provide access to the toilet if necessary.