



June 18, 2020

GENERAL NEWS

Opportunity and Revitalization Council Releases Report to the President

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has released a report to the President on behalf of the [White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council](#). The [69-page document](#) outlines Opportunity Zones best practices and examples of revitalization occurring across the nation. According to the press release, since the Council's one-year report was issued in December of 2019, the Council has taken approximately 80 additional action items, for a total of more than 270, to promote the mission of [Opportunity Zones](#).

The report is divided into the following five sections:

- Best Practices of Local Governments
- State-Level Actions Benefiting Opportunity Zones
- Foundations and Non-Profits Making an Impact in Opportunity Zones
- Best Practices for Qualified Opportunity Funds
- Paring Opportunity Zone Capital with Federal Resources

You can read a brief description of each section in the [press release](#).

The Council, comprised of 17 federal agencies, was created in December 2018 to target, streamline and coordinate federal resources to be used in Opportunity Zones and other economically distressed areas.

HUD Opens Applications for Veteran Housing Rehab Grants

Yesterday on [Grants.gov](#), HUD [announced](#) that it is making available up to \$9,445,980 in funding for the [Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program](#) (VHRM). Through the VHRM program, the funds are awarded to nonprofit organizations and may be used to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities or to provide grantees' affiliates with technical, administrative, and training support in connection with those services. Grants will be competitively awarded up to \$1 million each to selected applicants.

The application deadline date is **August 18, 2020**. More information on the VHRM NOFA can be found on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website. The NOFA itself has not yet been posted.

HUD Publishes 2020 SHOP NOFA

Yesterday on [Grants.gov](#), HUD [published](#) the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program ([SHOP](#)). The NOFA makes available \$10,000,000 "to facilitate and encourage innovative homeownership opportunities on a national, geographically diverse basis through the provision of self-help homeownership housing programs." Only national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia with experience facilitating innovative homeownership opportunities are eligible to apply. Applicants must propose to use a significant amount of SHOP grant funds in at least two states.

The application deadline date is **August 18, 2020**. You'll find additional information on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website. The NOFA itself has not yet been posted.

HUD Issues NOFA for Studying the Effectiveness of CDBG and HOME Programs

This week on [Grants.gov](#), HUD [issued](#) a notice of funding availability ([NOFA](#)) titled "Social and Economic Impacts of the CDBG and HOME Programs." The NOFA, which makes \$500,000 available in FY 2020 funding from the Office of Policy Development and Research ([PD&R](#)), aims to develop a better understanding of the effects of specific eligible Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and/or HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) activities.

As the NOFA states, "HUD recognizes that the local discretion allowed by block grant funding and the particular nature of HOME activities makes the evaluation of these programs difficult. However, HUD believes that in-depth evaluations and localized case studies would provide insights into the programs' effectiveness. HUD seeks objective, quantifiable outcome measures that can be attributed to activities supported by these programs in order to inform policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels."

The application deadline is **August 17, 2020**. You'll find a link to the NOFA on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website.



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