



Collier County Community and Human Services

Application Guide for Federal Funds
CDBG/HOME/ESG

Overview of Grant Application Priorities, Instructions, Rating
Criteria and other information for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

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OVERVIEW OF PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Collier County is an entitlement grantee and receives funds from the U.S. Department of Urban and Housing Development (HUD) through three (3) federal programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

HUD requires the County complete a Five-Year Consolidated Plan that includes a housing assessment, market analysis and assessment of community development needs. The Consolidated Plan is meant to address the needs of low and moderate income persons and families, including homeless individuals. It establishes the County’s program priorities, goals and objectives for community development programs and sets the framework for subsequent one year action plans that describe specific activities that will be funded through the County’s grant program.

Identified Priorities

Project strategies are identified below from the County’s FY2011-2015 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. All projects must qualify for one of the following:

CDBG	HOME	ESG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Community/Public Facilities • Public Service Initiatives • Economic Development • Special Needs Housing • Housing Rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New construction • Single family housing unit rehabilitation • Multi-family rental units rehabilitation • Tenant Based Rental Assistance • CHDO Set Aside Activities • CHDO Operating Funds • Homebuyer Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential services to homeless families and individuals • Shelter and Transitional Housing • operational costs • Homeless prevention activities • Emergency shelter rehabilitation, renovation or conversion

Program Highlights and Considerations Prior to Applying

CDBG Program Highlights

The primary objective of CDBG is the development of viable urban communities. These viable communities are achieved by providing the following, projects that principally support persons of low and moderate incomes for decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded

economic opportunities. These activities allow a wide range of eligible projects. Some examples are: **Housing** - homeownership assistance, rehabilitation; Other Real Property Activities - land/building acquisition, disposition, demolition, clearance, rehabilitation of publicly- or privately owned commercial or industrial buildings code enforcement, historic preservation, renovations of closed buildings, interim assistance to arrest severe deterioration or alleviate emergency conditions, privately owned utilities; **Public Facilities and Improvements** – streets, parks, sidewalks, water and sewer lines, community/neighborhood facilities, facilities for persons with special needs (i.e., group homes, homeless shelters, halfway houses); **Public Services** – job training and employment services, health care and substance abuse services, child care, crime prevention, fair housing counseling; **Economic Development** – Microenterprise assistance, commercial rehabilitation, special economic activities and more. For a complete list of eligible activities see 24 CFR 570.201. There is no match requirement for requesting funds. To ensure the CDBG project remains affordable, the County will place a lien on the property for 5 years following the completion of the project. Within that 5 year period, the applicant is required to submit annual reports that document the affordability of the project.

HOME Program Highlights

HOME provides a broad range of eligible activities, using HOME funds to provide home purchase or rehabilitation financing assistance to eligible homeowners and new homebuyers; build or rehabilitate housing for rent or ownership; including site acquisition or improvement, demolition of dilapidated housing to make way for HOME assisted development and payment of relocation expenses; tenant based rental assistance. There is a 25% match requirement from non federal sources. Match can be in the form of donated materials or labor, the value of donated property, proceeds from bond financing, in kind/volunteer time, cash and other resources. 15% of County's allocation will be set aside for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's). The County will ensure HOME funded housing units remain affordable in the long term (20 years for new construction of rental housing; 5-15 years for construction of homeownership housing and housing rehabilitation, depending on the amount of HOME subsidy). Annual reports will be required during the 5 – 20 year affordability period. Household eligibility varies with the nature of the funded activity. Rental housing and rental assistance – at least 90% of families/individuals must have incomes that are no more than 60% of the area median income (AMI), while rental projects with 5 or more assisted units, at least 20% of the units must be occupied by families/individuals with incomes that do not exceed 50% of the AMI. The incomes of households receiving HUD assistance must not exceed 50% of the HUD adjusted median. With the exception of tenant based rental assistance, all HOME applications must include a market study and project-based pro-forma.

ESG Program Highlights

The purpose of the ESG program provides support for local homelessness programs. Funds are available for 5 program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance and data collection through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). **Street Outreach** – engagement (locate, identify and build relationships with unsheltered homes people), case management, emergency health services,

emergency mental health services, transportation, services for special populations. Average poverty rates between 75% and 125% are applicable. **Emergency Shelter** – essential services, case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, services for special populations, renovation, shelter operations, assistance for Uniform Relocation Assistance. Sixty percent (60%) of the County’s yearly allocation may be used for street outreach and emergency shelter activities. Each building renovations with ESG funds must be maintained as a shelter for not less than a period of 3 or 10 years, depending on the type of renovation and the value of the building. **Homelessness Prevention** – housing relocation, stabilization services and short and/or medium term rental assistance to prevent families/individuals from moving into an emergency shelter. **Rapid Re-housing Assistance** – housing relocation, stabilization services and short and/or medium term rental assistance to move families/individuals into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Financial assistance costs for both the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Assistance may be used to pay the following: rental application costs, security deposits, last month’s rent, utility deposits, utility payments, moving costs, services cost, case management, mediation, and credit repair. Under both programs short term rental assistance is up to 3 months of rent, medium term rental assistance is more than 3 months but not more than 24 months, payment of rental arrears consists of a one-time payment for up to 6 months of rent including late fees. Eligible families/individuals must not exceed 30% of AMI. **HMIS** – purchase/lease of hardware and software, software licenses, office space, utilities, salaries, and travel. If HMIS funds are requested through ESG, applicant must comply with HUD’s standards on participation, data collection and reporting under a local HMIS.

There is a one- to-one match required for the ESG funds. Eligible match sources may be obtained from any source, including any federal source that does not prohibit match to the ESG program. Common match sources could be from state, local, private sources, along with cash and in-kind services.

HUD National Objectives

Projects must meet and clearly define how they will achieve one of the HUD National Objectives listed below:

National Objective*	Description**	Federal Regulation Citation
1	Principally benefits low and moderate income persons or households who earn at or below 80% of the median income	24 CFR 570.208(a)

2	Aid in the prevention of elimination of slums or blight	24 CFR 570.208(b)
3	Qualifies as a certified urgent need	24 CFR 570.208(c)

*Project tracking will occur until national objectives are met even if the project is complete.

****National Objective #1** – The project must be located in a target area or serve an area within the County where:

- At least 51% of the residents are low income persons (Area Benefit)
 - Information can be documented by showing LMA areas located within Collier County and is predominately residential (zoning maps) and the income characteristics of households in the services area (Census data)

OR

- Must provide a direct benefit to County residents, the majority of whom are considered low income based on the median area income figures (Limited Clientele Benefit)
 - Specific group of people (rather than all the residents in a particular area) who are, or presumed to be, income eligible.
 - Group includes: abused children, battered persons, elderly persons, handicapped adults, homeless persons, illiterate persons, migrant farm workers and persons living with AIDS
 - Information can be documented by collecting data that shows at least 51% of the beneficiary family size and income meets the LMI income requirements

OR

- Income Eligible Housing Activity
 - Add or improve a permanent residential structure where 51% or more of the units will be occupied by eligible persons

OR

- Job Creation or Retention Activity
 - Project that creates or retains permanent jobs, of which at least 51% are either taken by or available to income eligible persons

****National Objective #2** – The applicant must supply proof that the area meets the State or local government’s definition of slums and blight.

- Information can be documented by providing proof that at least 25% of the properties throughout the area exhibit the following:
 - Physical deterioration of buildings/improvements;
 - Abandonment of properties;
 - Chronic high occupancy turnover rates or chronic high vacancy rates in commercial or industrial buildings;
 - Significant declines in property values or abnormally low property values relative to other areas in the community; or
 - Known or suspected environmental contamination
- Public improvements throughout the area are in a general state of deterioration

****National Objective #3** – The activity provides a remedy to a serious and immediate health or welfare problem, such as a natural disaster; and there are no other funds available; and the problem is of a recent origin.

Funding Availability

The funding application anticipates the availability of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Exact funding amounts are still pending from HUD. ***CHS will allocate planning and administration and CHS Project Delivery for the allocations prior to funding the remaining balances to projects for all three funding sources, as applicable. When CHS receives the HUD funding announcement, staff will send an addendum to this application announcing the allocations for planning purposes.***

Considerations Prior to Applying

CHS wishes to provide as much information to prospective applicants as possible so informed decisions can be made about applying for grant funds. The application is just the beginning. Below is a snapshot of some of the items to consider during that thought process. Additional specific regulations or requirements will apply based on the particular project. Your grant coordinator will guide you through the process; this is not intended as a complete listing.

- No project can begin without an approved environmental review, which can take from 30 days to 6 months or more depending on level required
- A number of policies and procedures will be required to be written and followed
 - Monthly pay requests are required with auditable detailed backup appropriate for the type of project
 - If awarded funding for salaries, the organization will be required to submit substantial payroll and banking information as backup for each pay request
 - Documentation for all expenditures is required
- Attendance at quarterly Partnership Meetings is mandatory
- Adherence to project schedule and spending of grant funds timely is critical – appropriate thought must go into planning the timeline for your project
- Monitoring will occur during and at closeout of your project, and possibly annually thereafter depending on the nature of the project or program and whether beneficiaries have been achieved
- Quarterly reports are required on the progress of project
- Segregation of grant funds or demonstrated segregation in operation of funds is required
- Adhere to federal and or local procurement regulations
- All advertisements or publications associated with grant funded projects must contain the County logo and acknowledgement of HUD funds in the project

- If a construction project, specific additional regulations might apply such as Davis Bacon for wage determination
- Retainage from each payment request may be taken until all terms of the contract are met; and only released upon a final clean monitoring report
- Records and staff must be available for internal audit or HUD audits as needed
- Annual reports will be required during the affordability and project use periods.
- Funded entities will be required to retain all records and documents for 3 years after the grant closeout, unless otherwise specified.
- If the project generates program income, a program income reuse plan will be required for the life of the grant and the compliance monitoring period.
- If awarded under HOME, affordability periods will be required depending on the type of construction, new or rehabilitation, single family or rental. Annual monitoring will be conducted by CHS to ensure affordability, client targets of specific income limits depending of housing use.
- If awarded under ESG, can fund only homeless services within specific income limits (30% of AMI)

General Application Information

- Grants are 1 year commitments, unless otherwise specified; and projects are expected to be completed on time
- Organizations must provide services within Collier County
- Must be for-profit organizations or non-profit organization with IRS 501(c)3 designation
- Must adhere to Resolution 2013-228 and must have an acceptable performance history with Collier County
 - Will not accept applications for 3 years if the organization has one of the following:
 - Debarment
 - Real/apparent conflict of interest
 - Falsification of documents
 - Substantial non-compliance or non-conformance with performance under a grant
- Must have realistic cost estimates/timelines and demonstrated past financial stability.
- Funding for salaries and administrative costs must show how the program will be sustained in subsequent years.
- Match is required for HOME (25%) and ESG (100%). There is no match requirement for CDBG.
- The project must have sufficient funds to complete the project.

- Applicant must be able to document how the project/service will complement and not duplicate or supplant planned or existing projects/services.
- Proposed project will not require displacement of individuals or produce adverse effects to the community/environment.
- Applicant can document administrative capacity and experience to plan/implement project/service. Including the financial capacity to continue operations until pay requests are processed by the Clerk of Court.
- Must be certified as Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) to apply for Set-Aside and/or Operating HOME funds CHDO
- Applicant may not stockpile funds from multiple years

Mandatory Pre-Application Meeting

- **Mandatory pre-application** meeting must be scheduled in order to submit an application
 - A draft of the application or an eligible project idea must be submitted to CHS staff for review and discussion during the meeting
 - Applications will not be accepted without a pre-application meeting

Application Submission Information

Any incomplete application, not in the required format, not complete, or that does not follow the specifications outlined in the application will automatically be disqualified. Applications submitted after the due date will not be accepted. Missing the deadline will automatically result in elimination of eligibility to apply.

- Application Format
 - Must be typed (not handwritten).
 - **One (1) original and 8 CD or thumb/flash drives**
 - CD or thumb/flash drive **MUST** be clearly marked with applicants name, date and funding request.
 - Information should be saved as one PDF document.
 - Do not use staples. Only binder clips or rubber bands are acceptable
 - Double-sided documents **will not** be accepted. Single sided only.
 - Faxes will not be accepted.
 - Do not include instructional and/or informational pages in the application.
 - Page 1 should be the application cover page
 - Do not use folders or cover pages or report covers in submittal.
- Any original signatures required should be in [blue ink](#)

- **If original signature not submitted, application will be rejected**
- Once application submitted no amendments are allowed unless requested by the County.
- Required 10-minute presentation of the application to the Review and Ranking Committee
- The following information **MUST** be included in your grant application to be considered.
 - Applicant information
 - Agency organization information
 - Project summary information
 - National Objectives
 - Indicator activity code (HUD Matrix Codes)
 - Impact on Collier County's priority needs
 - Project description and goals
 - Project implementation plan and readiness to implement
 - Experience and capacity
 - Financial management and budget
 - Budget summary and itemization sheet-operating and services
 - Budget summary and itemization sheet-construction and/or rehabilitation
 - Budget summary and itemization sheet – land acquisition and/or property management
 - Estimated program income
 - Leveraged or match funds
 - Environmental issues

Additional exhibits are also required to be submitted with the application. **BELOW ARE REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS. COLLIER COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT AN APPLICATION THAT IS DEEMED TO HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY FAILED TO SATISFY THESE REQUIREMENTS. LACK OF SUBMISSION OF SEVERAL ELEMENTS WILL RESULT IN APPLICATION REJECTION.**

- 501 (c) (3) IRS Tax Exemption Letter
- Articles of Incorporation
- By-Laws
- Organizational Chart
- List of Board of Directors
- Resumes, Pay Scales with Job Descriptions
- State of Florida Certificate of Good Standing
- Board Resolution authorizing submittal of grant application
- Preceding 2-year audits including management letter and findings
- Acknowledgement Letter
- Affidavit of Compliance with Federal, State, Local Regulations
- Certification of CDBG/HOME/ESG Funded Construction/Rehabilitation Projects
- Acknowledgement of Religious Organization Requirements (attached)

- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility Voluntary Exclusion
- Procurement Policy
- Match documentation
- Internal Revenue Service Form 990 – first 12 pages of the last 2 years
- As applicable depending on funding request:
 - Verification of site plan/plat approval
 - Verification of zoning
 - Location map/photo of site
 - Floor plans
 - Relocation plan associated with Uniform Relocation regulations
 - Market Study – Required for HOME projects
 - Project Pro-forma – Required for HOME projects

Application Review

Once submitted, CHS will evaluate applications in a four-phase process. In the initial phase staff will review the application for:

- Conformance to the submission requirements
- Compliance with CDBG/HOME/ESG regulations
- Project risk analysis
- Financial risk analysis
- Capacity and experience
- Project feasibility
- Adherence to Consolidated Plan priorities
- Past performance evaluation

Documentation for these items will be supplied to the Review and Ranking Committee (RRC)

The second phase of the process requires the organizations meeting the minimum criteria outlined in Phase 1 above of the evaluation process will be invited to provide a 10-minute presentation to the RRC of their proposal.

The third phase involves an evaluation, scoring and recommendation by the RRC. During this phase, and at its discretion, County staff, with the participation of the RRC, may request additional information in the form of Cure Questions in order to provide the applicant the opportunity to clarify their application.

If recommended for funding, the fourth phase (further delineated below) is development of the HUD Annual Action Plan, and receiving approval by both Board of County Commissioners and HUD on the slate of projects.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals for the FY2015-2016 CDBG/HOME/ESG programs will be evaluated, scored and ranked based on the following criteria and point system.

CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS
Impact on Collier County Priorities	15
Project Description and Goals	20
Implementation Plan and Readiness to Implement	15
Timeliness – Project Completion	20
Experience and Organizational Capacity	20
Financial Management/Budget	25
Performance Measures	5
Sub Total	120
BONUS POINTS	
Readiness	5
Leverage >1:1	5
Collaborative project	5
Intensive impact on Community – Increased per capita benefit	5

A. Description of Criteria

1. Impact on Collier County Priorities: (Maximum Combined Points: 15)

The category will be evaluated in terms of the documentation and justification of the need for the activity.

- Has articulated a rationale for the project related to the project's purpose(s). The applicant should explain how the project will address the stated national objectives
- Has determined the demand for the project. This may include a market analysis of the target population and/or community (ies)

2. Project Description and Goals: (Maximum Points: 20)

The category will be evaluated in terms of the goals, objectives and activities (GOA) planned to complete the project, the numbers served versus the cost and the sustainability of the activity.

- Project GOA respond to identified problems, needs, and community demand as determined by the applicant
- Project GOA should be achievable, measurable, time-limited, and clearly stated
- Project GOA evidence the project's value and facilitate the applicant's organizational goals and objectives

3. Implementation Plan and Readiness to Implement: (Maximum Points: 15)

The category will be evaluated on the basis of the applicant's ability to commence the project and expend funds within the program year.

- Has listed tasks in a logical order that demonstrates a feasible work plan
- Has identified staff, board members, partners responsible for implementation
- Has available resources needed to implement proposed activity
- Has demonstrated ability to complete projects or tasks in a timely manner
- Work Plan clearly constructed and complete to provide a clear understanding as to how the project will be implemented
- Has demonstrated an understanding of the obstacles that may be encountered in developing and implementing the project, and describes, in detail, the approaches that will be employed to overcome such obstacles

4. Timeliness - Project Completion: (Maximum Points: 20)

The category will be evaluated on the basis of the applicant's ability to complete the project on time and on/under budget. If previously awarded, staff will identify the number of time extensions requested to complete previous projects.

- Does the timeline indicate project will be completed in one year?
- Does the applicant identify staff responsible to implement project/program? If no existing staff is identified, does applicant discuss how/when person will be hired?
- Does the applicant have site control of land for development?
- For Public Service projects, has applicant identified a permanent location, provided a copy of leased space. Does the lease extend during the period of service?

5. Experience and Organizational Capacity: (Maximum Points: 20)

The category will be evaluated on the basis on the experience of the applicant, and experience in undertaking projects of similar complexity as the one for which funds are being requested.

- Demonstrates capability, experience, and knowledge (i.e. managerial and technical) to implement the project

- Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and there is documentation that each member understands and accepts its role
- Identifies and describes contributions of key project personnel, including the specific respective roles, time commitment., contributions, services provided and memorandums of agreement may be provided
- Demonstrates success from past performance with grant funding
- Commitment to the project by participating institutions, professional staff or other key institutions or individuals

6. Financial Management/Budget: (Maximum Points: 25)

The category will be evaluated by the applicant's ability to demonstrate their plans to sustain the project; utilize funds and manage them appropriately and leverage sources of funds.

- Outlines a realistic plan for sustainability after government support ends
- Funding sources are documented, indicating exact level of commitment, conditions and time frame for expending funds. All proposed partnerships are complete and documented.
- Demonstrates an established accounting system
- Demonstrates the financial ability to fund the project until reimbursement
- Anticipated cost participation including direct funding, in-kind and staffing support after federal funding ends
- Evidence of long-term commitment/project "buy in" at high levels and community support
- Costs of implementing the work plan are congruent with the proposed budget
- Budget reflects an understanding of the required costs to implement and maintain the project
- Need for equipment, supplies, contractual services, and other budget items are well justified in terms of the project goal(s), objectives, and proposed activities
- **For HOME projects ONLY:** Demonstrates the extent to which the applicant(s) has assessed the project's financially viable and meets the County's subsidy layering/underwriting guidelines.
 - Pro-forma or financial schedules are consistent with industry standards, including but not limited to: fees, cost per unit, month rents, expenses, projected revenue, operation costs and depreciation allowances.
 - Rental project must submit a market study demonstrating need for the proposed project. Market studies must follow the County's guidelines

7. Performance Measures: (5 Points)

The category will be evaluated on the applicant's ability to collect data to measure the outcomes of the activities and the project as a whole.

- Provides a clear evaluation plan with performance measurements
- Demonstrates long term support of project
- Demonstrates how outcome measures will meet national or program objectives
- Evaluation plan demonstrates “value-added” or “community value” to Collier County

8. Bonus Points: (Maximum: 5 Points each)

- Readiness: Describes project readiness. As an example, if construction project all designs, plans, zoning approvals and permits are in place prior to funding request
- Collaborative project: Describes how the project is a collaborative initiative
- Intensive impact on Community: Identifies project can serve more clients with the funding provided – i.e., increased per capita benefit
- Leverage Funds: Briefly describes the extent to which leverage of more than a 1-to-1 match is being proposed for this project

Project Approval Timeline and Creation of One Year Action Plan

The County anticipates, but is not bound by, the following schedule for reviewing applications and developing the Annual Action Plan, detailing the use of federal funds.

Timeline	
12/31/2014	Advertisement in NDN announcing grant application cycle open
12/31/2014	Application available online and by email (48 day application period)
1/14/2015	Technical Assistance Meeting in Immokalee - Public Library
1/22/2015	Technical Assistance Meeting in Golden Gate - Community Center
1/2/ to 2/11/2015	Mandatory pre-application meetings with potential applicants
2/18/2015	Grant Applications Due @ CHS NLT 3:00 p.m.
2/18/ to 2/23/2015	Staff Review, Evaluation, and Feasibility of Projects
3/11 & 3/12/2015	10-min presentations by applicants. Application Committee Review & Scoring
3/13 to 3/18/2015	Cure Period
4/1 – 6/1/2015	Scope development and action plan development
6/10/2015	Publish advertisement in NDN for FY2014-2015 Action Plan with projects
7/14/2015	BCC approval of FY15-16 projects and Annual Action Plan*
8/14/2015	Action Plan due to HUD

*Subject to Board schedule

General Requirements

1. Application is not an offer – This application does not constitute an offer by the County. No binding contract, obligation to negotiate or any other obligation shall be created or assumed on the part of the County unless the County and the applicant execute a contract. No recommendations or conclusions from the RFP process shall constitute a right (property or otherwise) under the Constitution of the United States, case law or statutory laws of the State of Florida.
2. Right to Terminate – The Applicant’s participation in this process may result in the County selecting the applicant to engage in further discussions. The commencement of such discussions does not signify a commitment by the County to execute a contract or continue discussions. The County may terminate discussions at any time for any reason.
3. Prohibited Discrimination – The County is committed to promoting equal opportunities for all and to eliminate discrimination in all forms. For purposes of this proposal, prohibited discrimination means discrimination in the solicitation, selection or treatment of any subcontractor, vendor or supplier or commercial customer on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability or other unlawful form of discrimination. Without limiting the foregoing, prohibited discrimination also includes retaliating against any person, business or entity for reporting any incident of prohibited discrimination. It is understood and agreed that not only is prohibited discrimination improper for legal and moral reasons, prohibited discrimination is also an anti-competitive practice that tends to increase the cost of goods to the County and others. As a condition to entering into any contract the applicant will represent, warrant and agree that it does not and will not engage or condone prohibited discrimination. Without limiting any rights the County may have at law under any other contractual provision, it is understood and agreed that a violation of this provision constitutes grounds for the County to avoid or terminate any contract.
4. Statutory Requirement – Any contract awarded as a result of an application submitted under this RFP shall be in full conformance with all statutory requirements of the State of Florida and all requirements of the Federal Government to the fullest extent possible.
5. Reservation and Right to Change Schedule - The County shall determine the timing and sequence of events resulting from this RFP. The County reserves the right to delay the closing date and time from any phase if County staff believes an extension is in the best interest of the County.
6. Reservation and Right to Amend RFP -- The County reserves the right to amend the RFP at any time during the process, if in doing so is in the best interest of the County. Any addenda will be posted to the Collier County web page.

7. Additional Evidence of Ability -- Applicant's shall be prepared to present additional evidence of experience, qualifications, abilities, facilities, and financial standing. The County reserves the right to request additional information at any time during the application evaluation or contract period for the RFP.
8. No Collusion or Conflict of Interest -- By responding to this RFP, the applicant(s) shall be deemed to have represented and warranted that the application is not made in connection with any competing applicant submitting separate response to this RFP, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. See Resolution 2013-228 attached to the application. Applicant must execute the attestations outlined in the application in order to submit an application.
9. Proposal Terms – The signed application is considered a firm offer on the part of the applicant. The County reserves the right to negotiate price and services. All application responses (including statements, claims, declarations prices and specifications in the application are considered firm and irrevocable for purposes of future contract negotiations unless specifically waived in writing by the County. The applicant(s) chosen for award should be prepared to have its application and any relevant correspondence incorporated into the Contract, either in part or in its entirety at the County's election. Any false or misleading statements found in the application or contract exceptions not included in the proposal may be grounds for disqualification.
10. Contracting -- The applicant awarded a contract shall be the prime applicant/developer/contractor/subrecipient/CHDO and shall be solely responsible for contractual performance. The applicant shall not assign the contract and shall not render any interest in the contract without prior written consent of the County.
11. Equal Opportunity – The County has an equal opportunity purchasing policy. The County seeks to ensure that all segments of the business community have access to supplying the goods and services needed by County programs. The County provides equal opportunity for all businesses and does not discriminate against any applicant regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex and national origin or disability
12. No Bribery – In submitting a response to this RFP, each applicant certifies that neither it nor any of its affiliated or subcontractors, nor any employees of any of the foregoing has bribed or attempted to bribe, an officer or employee of the County in connection with the contract.
13. Exceptions to RFP – Other than the exceptions stated in compliance with this Section, each applicant shall be deemed to agree to comply with all terms, conditions, specifications and requirements of this RFP. An exception is defined as the applicant's inability or unwillingness to meet a term, condition, specification or requirement in the manner specified in the RFP including the sample contract language. All exceptions must be identified and explained in writing in the application and must specifically reference the relevant section(s) of the RFP. If the applicant provides an alternate solution to this requirement, the benefits of this solution and impact if any on the

solution shall be described in detail. No exceptions will be accepted on any of the federal requirements detailed within this RFP.

14. Fair Trade – By submission of this proposal, the applicant certifies that in connection with this procurement:

- The prices have been arrived at independently without consultation, communication or agreement for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with anyone;
- Unless otherwise required by law, the process quoted in this application have not been knowingly disclosed by the applicant and will not knowingly be disclosed by the applicant prior to submission;
- No attempt has been made or will be made by the applicant to induce any other person or firm to submit or not submit an application for the purpose of restricting competition.

15. Clarification -- Any applicant believing there is any ambiguity, inconsistency or error in this RFP shall promptly notify the County in writing of such apparent discrepancy. Failure to notify will constitute a waiver of claim for ambiguity, inconsistency or error.

16. Applicant's Obligation – Applicant's or their authorized representatives are expected to fully inform themselves of all conditions, requirements and specifications of this RFP prior to submission response. Failure to do so will be at the applicant's own risk.

17. Disclaimer -- Each applicant must perform its own evaluation and due diligence verification of all information and data provided by the County. The County makes no representations or warranties regarding any information or data provided by the County.

Submittal Deadline

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Before 3:00p.m. No exceptions

Questions or More Information

Collier County Community and Human Services
Elly Soto McKuen, Senior Grant and Housing Coordinator
3339 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 211
Naples, FL 34112
(239) 252-2664
EllyMcKuen@Colliergov.net