



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Supporting Faith-Based Institutions in Developing Affordable Housing:  
Request for Applications  
Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** Is there a target for the percentage of grant money that recycles?

**Answer:** Grantees should propose the percentage of funds that will be recycled. In evaluating proposals, DHCD will consider which proposals result in the greatest ongoing public benefit.

2. **Question:** Is there a target on how much of the award is passed through as grant support?

**Answer:** Each applicant is expected to provide a budget reflecting their assessment of how much is needed to carry out this initiative. This includes the proportion of funds that are allocated as grant support to Faith-based institutions and the proportion that will fund technical assistance and other required services.

3. **Question:** Section 3 notes “The funding available under this RFA is only for fiscal year 2022. As such the Pilot Program must be initiated within four months of grantee selection.” Does this mean all money must be spent/disbursed by the end of fiscal year 2022?

**Answer:** DHCD must release the funds before the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2022). A grant agreement must be executed and funding must be disbursed to the selected grantee by the end of FY22. This does not mean funds must be expended by recipient Faith-based institutions by the end of FY22.

4. **Question:** Section 3 notes “Assistance provided through the Pilot Program must support Faith-based institutions that have not received prior support from the applicant’s organization and need assistance in achieving the goal of this initiative.” Does this mean that a faith-based organization may not have received any technical support? Grant support? Financing support?

**Answer:** The intent is for the grantee to work with institutions that need assistance in moving from concept to financing and, ultimately, implementation of the development program. That said, a prior relationship with a faith-based organization is different than having an existing contractual relationship or ongoing commitment to provide substantially similar services as outlined in the RFA.

5. **Question:** When will DHCD money be released to award recipient? Will the award be cost-reimbursable or disbursed in total at the beginning of the grant award period?

**Answer:** The funds will be disbursed in total after the execution of a grant agreement, which must take place before the end of the 2022 fiscal year.

6. **Question:** Is there a cap on administrative/overhead costs?

**Answer:** Applicants should propose a reasonable administrative/overhead budget that will result in achieving the goals outlined in the RFA. DHCD will determine a set an administrative/overhead cap after grantee selection.

**Question:** The RFA states: "...the Pilot Program must be initiated within four months of grantee selection." Is the Awardee expected to have the, at minimum, 10 Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) already identified and onboard by that point?

**Answer:** DHCD will disburse the funding to the selected grantee by the end of FY22. Applicants should propose a reasonable schedule for assisting at least 10 Faith-based institutions achieve the goals outlined in the RFA.

7. **Question:** Does the District have a pre-identified list of properties/institutions - or any other data/maps - it is considering for this Pilot program? If so, would District agencies be able to share this list/data with applicants?

**Answer:** The District does not have a pre-identified list of properties or institutions for the Faith-based pilot. The selected grantee should be experienced in outreach to faith-based institutions. Once a grantee is selected, the District will share any relevant available data on faith-based institutions with the grantee.

8. **Question:** What outcome for each of the FBOs would DHCD consider as successful for the Pilot program? Is the expectation that each FBO closes on financing and capital for a potential project by close of the fiscal year? In our experience working with FBOs, the timeline to build trust and understanding around a potential project is significantly longer when attempting to create vision and consensus among leadership and congregations.

**Answer:** Applicants should propose targeted program outcomes and a realistic timeline for working with Faith-based institutions based on their experience working with similar organizations. The funding must be disbursed to the selected grantee by the end of FY22, but DHCD is looking for applicants to put forward a technical assistance and predevelopment financing pathway that helps Faith-Based institutions achieve the goals outlined in the RFA.

9. **Question:** The RFA states: "Assistance provided through the Pilot Program must support Faith-based institutions that have not received prior support from the applicant's organization and need assistance in achieving the goal of this initiative." Does the "support" refer exclusively to financial support and remunerated technical assistance? Does this statement entirely preclude institutions with which the applicant has developed relationships and fostered discussions over the last decade or more?

**Answer:** The intent of the above statement is to require applicants to provide technical assistance and predevelopment financing to a new cohort of Faith-based institutions. For the purposes of this RFA, “support” refers to an active and ongoing agreement to provide technical assistance or predevelopment financing to a specific institution.

10. **Question:** Can [the requirement for two years of audited financials] be met any other way or waived? Would DHCD accept the CPA Review and Written Opinion?

**Answer:** The requirement for two years of audited financials for the selected grantee cannot be waived.

11. **Question:** And would a time extension be allowed for designating the funds and conducting the services?

**Answer:** The timeframe for selecting the grantee that will provide technical assistance and predevelopment financing to at least 10 Faith-based institutions cannot be changed. Although the funding must be disbursed to the selected grantee by the end of FY22, DHCD is looking for applicants to put forward a realistic program and timeline to assist the 10 Faith-Based institutions achieve the goals outlined in the RFA.