



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2024 CDBG FUNDS

Richland County has issued this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the anticipated allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the Program Year (PY) October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025. The CDBG Program is funded and regulated at the Federal level by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered locally by the Richland County Community Development Division of the Grants and Community Outreach Department. The CDBG Program is authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The regulations implementing the CDBG Program are located in the 24 CFR, Part 570.

As a CDBG Entitlement Community, Richland County receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds. For program year (PY) 2024, the County anticipates an award in line with the 2023 award of **\$1,723,394**. Through a competitive grant process, the County intends to allocate a portion of its CDBG funds to non-profits, faith-based organizations, and County Departments for Public Service, Public Facilities Improvement, Infrastructure Improvement, and Slum and Blight Removal activities principally benefitting Low-to-Moderate Income residents and areas of unincorporated Richland County.

Projected funding levels for the following categories include:

- **Public Services | up to 15% of the total 2024 CDBG award** -- Youth Programs, Services for persons with disabilities, Senior Services, Job Training, Housing Counseling, Homeless Prevention Programs, along with general social/welfare programs for LMI persons and households.
- **Public Facilities and Infrastructure | up to \$900,000** -- Improvements to Neighborhood and Recreation Facilities, Street and Sidewalk Improvements in CDBG Target areas, Sewer, Wastewater, and Infrastructure (including broadband) Improvements in CDBG Target Areas, Handicap Accessibility Improvements and Removal of Architectural Barriers, Slum and Blight Removal.

This is a competitive, two-step grant process with an application request period followed by an invitation-only full application period. The 16-Day Application Request Period begins Monday, February 26, 2024 during which eligible entities may submit Application Request Proposals by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 for funding consideration. To be considered, all applicants must register and attend one of the CDBG Informational Workshops hosted by Community Development staff. All proposed projects must align with the 2024 CDBG Proposal Guidelines and 2022-2026 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and meet all Federal HUD guidelines for CDBG eligible activities.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the 2024 CDBG Proposal Guidelines and reference documents linked on the County's website: <http://richlandcountysc.gov/CDBG-NOFA>. Application Request Proposal forms are available on this site.

All Application Request Proposals must be received by email to communitydevelopmentinfo@richlandcountysc.gov no later than 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Applications that are faxed, handwritten, submitted late, or substantially incomplete, will **not** be accepted, no exceptions. Proposals will be evaluated for eligibility and alignment with the 2022-2026 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Proposals selected for the full application period will be notified by March 19, 2024 of next steps.

A mandatory CDBG Information Workshop will be held in-person on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 2:00 PM in Room 4072 at the Richland County Administration Building located at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204. A makeup workshop will be held virtually on Tuesday, March 5th at 11:00AM. Applicants must register for one workshop using the links at <http://richlandcountysc.gov/CDBG-NOFA>.

Please direct all questions to the Richland County Community Development Division at (803) 576-2230 communitydevelopmentinfo@richlandcountysc.gov. Richland County does not discriminate based on disability status in the admission or access to its programs. South Carolina Relay Center - TDD users dial 711.