

commensurate with the level of effort necessary to accomplish your goals and anticipated results.

(4) *Involving Residents in the Design of the Work Plan* (4 points). All applicants should make every effort to involve residents in the design of the work plan, so that activities and services offered by your organization address their needs.

(B) *Addressing HUD's Policy Priorities* (12 points). HUD wants to improve the quality of life for those living in distressed communities. HUD's grant programs are a vehicle through which constructive changes can be achieved. Your narrative and work plan will be evaluated based on how well it meets the following HUD policy priorities:

(1) *Improving the Quality of Life in Our Nation's Communities* (5 points). In order to receive points in this category, your narrative and work plan must indicate the types of activities and services you will offer which will enhance the quality of life of the elderly/persons with disabilities.

(2) *Providing Full and Equal Access to Grassroots Faith-Based and Other Community-Based Organizations in HUD Program Implementation* (7 points). HUD encourages applicants to partner with grassroots organizations, e.g., civic organizations, grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations that are not usually effectively utilized. These grassroots organizations have a strong history of providing vital community services such as developing visiting programs, arranging holiday parties, connecting residents to transportation, and other supportive services. In order to receive points under this factor, your narrative and work plan must describe how you will work with these organizations and what types of services they will provide.

Rating Factor 4: Leveraging Resources (20 Points)

This factor addresses your ability to secure community resources that can be combined with HUD's grant resources to achieve program purposes. You are required to create partnerships with organizations that can help you achieve your program's goals. PHAs are required by QHWA (Sec. 12(d)(7) of the U.S. Housing Act, entitled "Cooperation Agreements for Economic Self-Sufficiency Activities") to make best efforts to enter into such agreements with relevant state or local agencies. In rating this factor, HUD will look at the extent to which you partner, coordinate and leverage your services with other organizations serving the same or similar populations.

Additionally, you must have at least a 25 percent cash or in-kind match. The match is a threshold requirement.

Applicants who do not demonstrate the minimum 25% match will fail the threshold requirement and will not receive further consideration for funding. If you are applying for more than one grant ROSS grant, you must use different sources of match donations for each grant application. Leveraging in excess of the 25 percent of the grant amount will receive a higher point value. In evaluating this factor HUD will consider the extent to which you have partnered with other entities to secure additional resources to increase the effectiveness of your proposed program activities. The budget, the work plan, and commitments for additional resources and services, other than the grant, must show that these resources are firmly committed, will support the proposed grant activities and will, in combined amount (including in-kind contributions of personnel, space and/or equipment, and monetary contributions) equal at least 25 percent of the grant amount proposed in this application. "Firmly committed" means that the amount of resources and their dedication to ROSS-funded activities must be explicit, in writing and signed by a person authorized to make the commitment. Letters of commitment, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), or tribal resolution must be on organization letterhead and signed by a person authorized to make the stated commitment. The letters of commitment/MOUs/tribal resolution must indicate the annual level and/or amount of commitment, be dated within two months of the application deadline, and indicate how the commitment will relate to the proposed program. If you, the applicant, propose to use your own, non-ROSS grant funds to meet the match requirement in whole or in part, you must also include a letter of support indicating the type of match (cash or in-kind) and how the match will be used. Applicant staff time is not an eligible cash or in-kind match. Applicants shall annotate their budget form (the HUD-424-CB) to list the sources and amount of each match. Grant awards shall be contingent upon letters of commitment being submitted with your application.

(A) Volunteer time and services shall be computed by using the normal professional rate for the local area at the national minimum wage rate of \$5.15 per hour (Note: Applicants may not use their staff time towards the match);

(B) In order for HUD to determine the value of any donated material, equipment, staff time, building, or lease, your application must provide a letter

from the organization making the donation stating the value of the contribution. The letter must be on letterhead, signed by an official authorized to make such commitments on behalf of the donating organization and must be dated within two months of the application deadline.

(C) Other resources/services that can be committed include: in-kind services, contributions or administrative costs provided to the applicant; funds from federal sources (not including ROSS funds) as allowed by statute, including for example Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and federal Revenue Sharing; funds from any state or local government sources; and funds from private contributions. You may also partner with other program funding recipients to coordinate the use of resources in your target area.

(D) Points for this factor will be awarded based on the documented evidence of partnerships and firm commitments and the ratio of requested ROSS funds to the total proposed grant budget.

Points will be assigned based on the following scale:

Percentage of match	Points awarded
25	5
26-50	10
51-75	15
76-99 or above	20

Rating Factor 5: Achieving Results and Program Evaluation (10 Points)

An important element in this year's NOFA is the development and reporting of performance measures and outcomes. Under this rating factor, applicants must demonstrate how they propose to measure their success and outcomes as they relate to the Department's Strategic Plan.

This factor emphasizes HUD's determination to ensure that applicants meet commitments made in their applications and grant agreements and that they assess their performance so that they realize performance goals. HUD requires ROSS applicants to develop an effective, quantifiable, outcome oriented work plan for measuring performance and determining that goals have been met.

"Outcomes" are benefits accruing to the residents, families and/or communities during or after participation in the ROSS program. Outcomes are not the actual development of self-sufficiency services or program activities. Applicants must clearly identify the outcomes to be achieved and measured. Examples of