

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**[Docket No. FR-4861-N-01]****Notice of Funding Availability for Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing; HOPE VI Revitalization and Demolition Grants, Fiscal Year 2003****AGENCY:** Office of Public and Indian Housing, HUD.**ACTION:** Notice of funding availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: This NOFA announces the availability of \$574 million for the HOPE VI Program. Of this amount, approximately \$447.8 million in FY 2003 funds are available for the HOPE VI Revitalization Program and \$40 million for the HOPE VI Demolition Program. The remaining funds will be made available for other purposes including Neighborhood Networks, technical assistance and Housing Choice Voucher Assistance.

General Section

The General Section of the HOPE VI NOFA contains information that applies to both the HOPE VI Revitalization and Demolition Programs. Detailed information on the specific guidance for each of these programs is included in separate sections of this

NOFA. Unless otherwise noted, citations refer to the General Section.

I. Program Overview

(A) Purpose of the Program. In accordance with section 24(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (1937 Act), the purpose of HOPE VI Revitalization grants is to assist public housing agencies (PHAs) to:

(1) Improve the living environment for public housing residents of severely distressed public housing projects through the demolition, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, or replacement of obsolete public housing projects (or portions thereof);

(2) Revitalize sites (including remaining public housing dwelling units) on which such public housing projects are located and contribute to the improvement of the surrounding neighborhood;

(3) Provide housing that will avoid or decrease the concentration of very low-income families; and

(4) Build sustainable communities.

(B) Available Funds. Approximately \$447.8 million for HOPE VI Revitalization grants and \$40 million for HOPE VI Demolition grants, in accordance with Section II below.

(C) Eligible Applicants. Public Housing Authorities that have severely distressed housing in their inventory

and are otherwise in conformance with the threshold requirements provided in Section III of this NOFA. PHAs that only administer Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8, HCV) Programs and Tribal PHAs and Tribally-Designated Housing Entities are not eligible to apply.

(D) Application Deadline.

Revitalization grant applications are due on January 19, 2004, as described in Section III(B) of this NOFA. Demolition grant applications are due on February 18, 2004, as described in Section III(B) of this NOFA.

(E) Authority. (1) The funding authority for HOPE VI Revitalization and Demolition grants under this HOPE VI NOFA is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-7, approved on February 20, 2003) under the heading "Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing (HOPE VI)."

(2) The program authority for the HOPE VI Program is section 24 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), as amended by section 215 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-7, approved February 22, 2003).

II. Allocation of HOPE VI Funds

Type of assistance	Allocation of funds (approximate)	Funds available for award in this HOPE VI NOFA (approximate)
Revitalization Grants	\$447,750,000	\$447,750,000
Demolition Grants	40,000,000	40,000,000
Neighborhood Networks	5,000,000
Technical Assistance	6,250,000
Housing Choice Voucher Assistance	75,000,000
Total	574,000,000	487,750,000

(A) Revitalization Grants. Approximately \$447.8 million of the FY 2003 HOPE VI appropriation has been allocated to fund HOPE VI Revitalization grants and will be awarded in accordance with this HOPE VI NOFA.

(B) Demolition Grants. Approximately \$40 million of the FY 2003 HOPE VI appropriation has been allocated to fund HOPE VI Demolition grants and will be awarded in accordance with this HOPE VI NOFA.

(C) Neighborhood Networks. The FY 2003 appropriation for HOPE VI allocated \$5 million for a Neighborhood Networks initiative for activities authorized in section 24(d)(1)(G) of the Act, which provides for the establishment and operation of

computer centers in public housing for the purpose of enhancing the self-sufficiency, employability, and economic self-reliance of public housing residents by providing them with onsite computer access and training resources. The availability of these funds will be announced in a separate NOFA and, in accordance with the appropriation, they will be awarded to PHAs on a competitive basis. PHAs that receive HOPE VI Revitalization grant funds under this NOFA are required to establish Neighborhood Networks and may use funds awarded under this NOFA for this purpose.

(D) Technical Assistance. The FY 2003 appropriation for HOPE VI allocated \$6.25 million to provide technical assistance and contract

expertise in the HOPE VI program, to be provided directly or indirectly by grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, including training and cost of necessary travel for participants in such training, by or to officials and employees of HUD and of PHAs, and to residents. The Office of Public Housing Investments will administer technical assistance funds.

(E) Housing Choice Voucher Assistance. The cost of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance that will be provided to FY 2003 HOPE VI Revitalization and Demolition grantees will come from the FY 2003 HOPE VI appropriation. Approximately \$75 million will be allocated for such assistance. If this amount is more than the amount necessary, the remaining