

## FAQs on PD&R Research Partnerships

### 1. What is the Research Partnerships Initiative?

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, authorizes the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) to enter into non-competitive cooperative agreements for projects that are aligned with PD&R's research priorities and where HUD can gain value by having substantial involvement in the research activity. Pursuant to this authority, HUD may enter into noncompetitive cooperative agreements for research proposals that inform important policy and program objectives of HUD that are not otherwise being addressed and that focus on one of HUD's research priorities.

### 2. What are HUD's research priorities?

1. Promote economic opportunity – studies on effective and efficient ways to deliver services: improve HUD's Section 3 and other programs that incentivize mobility and enable achievement of economic self-sufficiency for HUD-subsidized tenants; improve and innovate self-sufficiency programs; and the impact of place-based initiatives and anchor institutions.
2. Enhance rental assistance – studies on how to best simplify and streamline rental assistance for PHAs, residents and owners; studies on incentives and barriers to work and program exit.
3. Reduce the average length of homelessness – studies on effective strategies for challenged populations, areas with high unsheltered populations, and rural areas.
4. Support sustainable homeownership and financial viability – studies on initiatives that promote sustainable homeownership, strengthen housing programs, and reform and modernize housing finance systems.
5. Remove lead hazards from homes – research into existing and emerging lead health hazards and strategies to mitigate or eliminate them. The research must not focus on the prevalence, evaluation, or control of lead exposures from lead in paint, dust, or soil (because that research is covered by a separate statutory authority than the one that authorizes this Notice).
  - a. Examples of lead research under this objective include the prevalence, evaluation, or housing-based control of lead exposures from residential water, industrial emissions and wastes (e.g., at Superfund and state-equivalently-designated sites), or lead in housing products used in rehabilitation; factors inhibiting, and effective low-cost methods of increasing, blood lead screening and testing rates among young children in public housing in high-risk states or communities; factors inhibiting, and effective low-cost methods of increasing, availability of certified lead professionals and firms in high-risk states or communities; and, modeling of the geographic, socioeconomic and other distributions of factors correlated with high expected risk of increased blood lead levels in children.
6. Provide effective disaster recovery – Although not articulated as a strategic

objective under Rethinking American Communities, HUD's growing role in disaster recovery creates an additional need for research into ideas to more quickly deliver disaster recovery funds to communities and property owners, and to enhance the resilience of communities and homes to mitigate the risk and effects of disasters, pestilence, and energy shocks.

7. Opportunity Zones – Studies on how opportunity zones are being used to revitalize low-income communities, including research on local efforts to streamline, coordinate, and target existing Federal programs to Opportunity Zones as well as research on how the existing businesses and residents of affected communities are impacted by the investments.
8. Reduce Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing – Studies that explore how local, state, and federal policies impact the cost and availability of housing for low-income renters and first time homebuyers as well as evaluations of how recent changes to such policies are impacting the cost and availability of housing.

From time-to-time, these priorities will change. When that occurs, the changes will be announced in the Federal Register and the answer to this question will be updated.

### **3. What entities are eligible to provide funding for the cost share?**

At least 50 percent of the total estimated cost of the project must come from a philanthropic entity, other federal agency, or state or local government agency, or any combination of these partners. For the purposes of the cost-sharing requirement, HUD defines a philanthropic entity as the subset of 501(c)(3) organizations that directly fund research activities. These include private foundations, public charities, and operating foundations. An educational institution may have a separate foundation, which would be considered a philanthropic entity for these purposes. Philanthropic entities may include foreign entities.

### **4. Can universities provide the funding for the cost share?**

Yes, universities and/or their foundations can provide cost share in the form of cash or in-kind resources, e.g., salaries.

### **5. How do I submit a proposal?**

Proposals should be submitted at Research [Partnerships@hud.gov](mailto:Partnerships@hud.gov).

**6. What should be included in the proposal?**

While there is currently no required format, it would be helpful for proposals to include the following:

- The clearly identified name of the entity(s) submitting the proposal;
- The name, phone number and email address of contact person;
- The amount of HUD funding being requested;
- The amount of the cost share and the names of the entities contributing to it;
- A clear description of the research project, including the methodology being used, and its alignment with the PD&R research priority identified;
- A detailed budget with line items including the HUD share and the contributions of any partners and/or the submitting institution.

**7. What is the deadline for submitting proposals?**

Proposals may be submitted at any time and will be evaluated as they are received.

**8. How much funding is available for research partnerships?**

To the extent feasible, a limited amount of funding for the Research Partnerships Initiative is set-aside from funds appropriated each year by Congress. Currently, HUD has approximately \$1 million available for Research Partnerships. To date, a total of approximately \$936,000 has been awarded to six grantees.

**9. Can I submit a proposal requesting resources other than funding, such as data? Yes**

**10. When will I know whether HUD has agreed to enter into a research partnerships agreement to participate in my research proposal?**

All applicants will be notified in writing about funding decisions at the conclusion of the review process.

**11. What is the cost-share requirement?**

The cost share is 50% of the total estimated cost of the project.

**12. What rate does HUD allow for overhead/Indirect Cost Rate (IDC)?**

HUD will allow the overhead rate that has been negotiated and assigned by the applicant's cognizant federal agency.

**13. Does waiving overhead/IDC count towards the 50 percent cost share requirement?**

No.

**14. Who is eligible to submit proposals to enter into a research partnership with HUD?**

Eligible applicants include researchers from universities and colleges, foundations, research organizations, independent researchers, or other government agencies, as well as non-profit and for-profit research entities.

**15. If I already submitted a proposal to HUD as part of a grant competition, can that proposal be funded through a research partnership?**

No. Proposals for research partnerships that have already been submitted to HUD as part of a grant competition are ineligible as the subject of a non-competitive cooperative agreement.