

Affordable Housing for Rural Veterans Application Guidelines Grant Application Guidelines September 2012

A. About the Affordable Housing for Rural Veterans Initiative of the Housing Assistance Council

Since 1971, the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has provided technical assistance, training, loan capital, and informational resources to increase the capacity of rural nonprofit housing organizations. The purpose of this new initiative is to support local nonprofit housing development organizations that meet or help meet the affordable housing needs of veterans in rural areas. Work supported will be bricks-and-mortar projects that help low-income, elderly and disabled veterans with home repair and rehab needs, support homeless veterans, and help veterans become homeowners, tap into available housing programs and secure affordable rental housing. This new initiative is made possible through the generous support of The Home Depot Foundation (THDF).

The project can provide both temporary and permanent housing for veterans, depending on the local needs of the community. HAC will coordinate with Home Depot volunteers and THDF on volunteer opportunities especially around home repair and rehab.

Suggestions for grants include but are not limited to:

- Home repair
- Homeownership
- Multi-family rental development and preservation
- Shelters for homeless veterans

B. Letter of Intent (Required)

Please submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by October 31, 2012 5:00 pm ET. This initial letter is no longer than 3 pages and includes the following:

- **Introduction.** Name of organization, address, contact person, email, phone, and website.
- **Organization.** A brief description of your organization's mission and accomplishments, include its track record in providing affordable housing and services to veterans. Please include the geographic areas and populations you serve.
- **Project description.** A concise summary of what you propose to do for rural veterans, and how you will accomplish the work. Projects should produce or repair bricks-and-mortar homes.
- **Other funding sources.** What other sources are supporting this project?
- **Ongoing Support.** How will the project be maintained beyond this grant?

C. Initiative Procedures and Policies

This is a new initiative, and grants will not normally exceed a maximum of \$30,000. Several smaller requests may be granted rather than a few larger ones. The grant will be for one year.

HAC will review all LOI and invite selected organizations to submit full proposals. Full proposals will not be accepted without a preliminary LOI accepted by the Housing Assistance Council. Final grant actions will be made by HAC in early 2013.

D. Who May Apply

Nonprofit organizations. The applicant must be a 501(c)(3), tribally designated housing entity (TDHE), or Housing Authority acting as a nonprofit, that serves veterans at or below 80% of area median income.

Rural service area. The applicant must apply to support programs working in nonmetropolitan areas or in counties that meet the USDA definition of rural for housing (Sec. 520 of the Housing Act of 1949). Please check the USDA Property Eligibility Site, <http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov>, to determine rural eligibility. HAC also desires geographic diversity in selecting grantees throughout the United States.

No full proposal will be considered that is not accompanied by a photocopy of the organization's most recent determination letter from the IRS.

E. Proposal Review and Grantee Responsibilities

LOI are initially reviewed to determine whether projects fall within The Home Depot Foundation's and HAC's grant parameters. Only upon invitation, you may submit a full proposal.

F. Contact Information

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