

Planning Grant Process Update

Summary

Based on feedback, OCRA is looking to make two adjustments to the Planning Grant process. The first adjustment would be to reinstate the requirement of a site visit before the submission of a Planning Grant application. This helps ensure all applicants receive important information about the program and have an opportunity to ask questions of their Community Liaison. The second adjustment moves the first public hearing to after a planning grant is awarded, but before Release of Funds. This eliminates a community paying for multiple public hearing notices as a result of having to submit multiple times. There are no changes when the second public hearing must occur, which is after approval of the draft plan by OCRA, but before the adoption of the plan by the community.

Proposed Policy for Site Visits:

For planning grants, applicants shall work with their OCRA Community Liaison to schedule a site visit before submission of an application. The site visit shall include the community's CEO, Grant Administrator, and other stakeholders to ensure understanding of the application process, HUD regulations, and programmatic requirements and policies. Applications submitted without a site visit occurring will be not be accepted.

Proposed Policy for Planning Grant Public Hearings

For each planning grant awarded a community must hold two (2) public hearings that meet all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies. The first public hearing must occur after award, but before Release of Funds. The second public hearing must occur after OCRA approval of the draft planning document but before the adoption of the approved document by the community. Failure to complete either hearing can result in the award being rescinded or repayment of grant funds.

Effective Date:

These policies are effective as of July 16th, 2019 and will remain in effect until amended, superseded, or rescinded.