

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
[Docket No. FR-5415-N-24A]

Notice of Public Interest (NOPI) for Fiscal Year 2010 Transformation Initiative: Sustainable Communities Research Grant Program
Technical Correction to Clarify the Rating Factor Requirements and to Extend the Deadline for Full Application Submission

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of Public Interest (NOPI); Technical Correction to provide clarification on the Rating Factors. This Technical Correction requires a 30-day extension of the deadline for the full proposals.

SUMMARY: On June 6, 2011, HUD posted on *www.Grants.gov*, a Notice of Public Interest (NOPI) announcement inviting selected applicants to submit a full application for the Fiscal Year 2010 Transformation Initiative: Sustainable Communities Research Grant Program. This Technical Correction clarifies language in the NOPI rating factors. Applicants do not need to download a new application but may resubmit their applications as a result of this notice. The deadline for the full application has been extended to **July 23, 2011**. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m.

The following Technical Corrections are submitted under Section V.A. of the NOPI:

Under Rating Factor 1: Capacity to do the Research (30 points), page 18:

1. Item “d” reads, “*Describe educational and professional background, publications, books, referred journals articles, chapters, contributed to books, articles in issued proceeding, and any other articles, text and poster presentations made during the last three (3) years, and grants and awards received during the last seven years.*”

Correction: Describe educational and professional background, publications, books, referred journal articles, chapters, contributed to books, articles in issued proceeding, and any other articles, text and poster presentations made during the last three (3) years, and grants and awards received during the last seven years. The activities addressed under this subfactor must be *relevant* to the proposed project.

2. Item “f” reads, “*Include three (3) letters of reference (please place letters in the appendix; these will not be included in the page count).*”

Correction: Include three (3) letters of reference (please place letters in the appendix; these will not be included in the page count). The reference letters must be from referees who are familiar with the applicant’s skills, experience, and past performance, and must have knowledge of the proposed project. Please address the letters to Regina Gray.

Under Rating Factor 2: Need for the Research (20 points), pages 18-19:

3. Item “b,” page 19, reads, “*Describe the significance of the work, including the relationship to the past research.*”

Correction: Describe the significance of the work, including the relationship to past research. Provide a **clear** statement that explains how the proposed project will address gaps or shortcomings in the existing scholarship. The description of past research must be relevant to proposed project/study.

4. Item “c,” page 19, reads: *Discuss the results or findings that the proposed research is expected to produce, including the broader impact expected, and explain why the information will be generally accepted by researchers and practitioners in your field and other related disciplines.*

Correction: Discuss the results or findings that the proposed research is expected to produce, including the broader impact expected, and explain why the information will be generally accepted by researchers and practitioners in your field and other related disciplines. Applicants must **clearly discuss how** the results or findings will make a valuable contribution to future research.

Under Rating Factor 3: Soundness of Approach (30 points), page 19:

5. Item 3a.(5), under “Quality of Research,” reads, *Identify potential obstacles in completing the research, including challenges of collecting credible data and discuss how they will be handled.*

Correction: Where relevant and applicable, identify and discuss any potential obstacles that would prevent the project from being completed, including the challenges of collecting reliable data. Discuss how these challenges will be addressed.

6. Item 3d, page 20, under “HUD Policy Priorities,” 4th sentence reads: “*Under the Sustainable Communities Research Grant Program, NOPI applicants can receive a total of (4) points and may only respond to four (4) activities listed under the following three (3) policy priorities.*”

Correction: “Under the Sustainable Communities Research Grant Program, NOPI applicants may earn **up to four (4) points** by responding to the activities listed under the following three (3) policy priorities.”

7. Item 3d. (1), under “Sustainability,” third full sentence reads, “*A central mission for HUD is to expand housing opportunities that are affordable, energy efficient, and provide access to a range of valuable community services.*”

Correction: A central mission for HUD is to expand and preserve affordable housing and transportation choices that increase access to a range of diverse and valuable community services and assets, and promote a safe, inclusive, and energy-conscious environment for all Americans.

8. Item 3d. (1), last sentence reads, “*To earn points under the Sustainability policy priority, please choose exactly two (2) activities below and provide clear, thorough responses to each.*”

Correction: “To earn points under the *Sustainability* policy priority, applicants must select at least two (2) of the three activities below and provide clear, thorough responses to each.”

9. Item 3d.(1), page 21, the first activity under *Sustainability* reads, “*Describe how the proposed research will promote and preserve community assets—including, but not limited to, affordable housing development and preservation, small business support, fresh food markets, parks, health and wellness centers, bus, transit and other public facilities, quality schools, and economic development planning (Subgoal 4A).*”

Correction: Describe how the proposed research will promote and preserve assets in existing communities—including, but not limited to, affordable housing development and preservation, small business support, fresh food markets, parks, health and wellness centers, bus, transit and other public facilities, quality schools, and economic development planning (Subgoal 4A).

10. Item 3d.(1), page 21, the third activity under *Sustainability* reads, “*Identify the type of support and promotion of a green, environmentally friendly, and healthy housing market by retrofitting existing housing or by supporting energy-efficient new construction proposed by the end of the grant period of performance (Subgoal 4B).*”

Correction: Identify the type of support and promotion of a green, environmentally friendly, and healthy housing market by retrofitting existing housing or by supporting energy-efficient new construction proposed by the end of the grant period of performance (Subgoal 4B). **Note:** When addressing this activity, applicants must describe and discuss how the proposed project supports “green,” environmentally-friendly, safe and healthy housing through the promotion of energy retrofits/rehab, high energy performance in new construction projects, or investments in places where less energy-intensive transportation options are available.

11. Item 3d. (2), page 21, under “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing,” last sentence reads, “*To earn points under the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing policy priority, please select exactly one (1) of the following activities below and provide a clear and concise response.*”

Correction: To earn points under the *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing* policy priority, applicants must select **at least one** of the following activities below and provide clear and concise responses.

12. Item 3d.(2), page 22, the 2nd full paragraph, reads, “*Additionally, to receive the (1) point under the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing policy priority, please also respond to at least one (1) or more of the outcome measures listed below and explain how success will be measured during the grant performance period.*”

Correction: Additionally, to earn points under the *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing* policy priority, please also respond to **at least one** of the outcome measures listed below and explain how success will be measured during the grant performance period.

13. Item 3d. (3), page 22, under “Using housing as a platform for improving other outcomes,” the last sentence of the paragraph reads, “*To earn points under the Using Housing policy priority, please choose **exactly one** (1) of the two activities below and provide a clear, concise response.*”

Correction: To earn points under the *Using Housing* policy priority, please select **at least one** of the following activities below and provide a clear, concise response.

14. Item 3d.(3), page 23, 2nd full paragraph, reads, “*Additionally, to receive the (1) point under the Using Housing as a Platform for Improving Other Outcomes policy priority, please also respond to at least one (1) or more of the outcome measures listed below and explain how success will be measured during the grant performance period.*”

Correction: Additionally, to earn points under the *Using Housing as a Platform for Improving Other Outcomes* policy priority, applicants must also respond to **at least one** of the following outcome measures listed below and explain how success will be measured during the grant performance period.

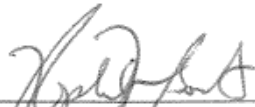
Under Rating Factor 4: Value to the Government (10 points), page 23:

15. Description reads, “*In evaluating this factor, HUD will consider the likelihood that the goals of the proposed project will be realized given (a) the total budget, (b) the time budgeted for the Principal Investigator, (c) the time budgeted for other personnel, (d) the demonstrated capability of other personnel, (e) overhead and travel costs, (f) scheduling of tasks, and (g) resources provided by sources other than HUD.*”

Correction: “In evaluating this factor, HUD will consider the likelihood that the goals of the proposed project will be realized based on the reasonableness of the total budget and the effective use of resources. The following elements must be addressed in the budget: (a) the time budgeted

for the Principal Investigator, (b) the time budgeted for other personnel, (c) the demonstrated capability of other personnel, (d) overhead and travel costs, (e) scheduling of tasks, and (f) resources provided by entities other than HUD. **Note to the applicant:** A narrative is necessary for this rating factor, as stated in the NOPI under **Section IV.B.** (p. 16). The budget narrative requires that applicants discuss the aforementioned elements in this rating factor.”

Date: JUN 23 2011



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