



Additional NY Rising Community Center Program FAQs

March 2015

The following questions have been submitted by the public via email and the respondents' webinar, held February 25, 2015. Please see the following links for recordings of these webinars:

- Facility Site Selection NOFA webinar (please note recording begins several minutes into the webinar): <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/ldr.php?RCID=4aacfd48bd7d8f8797a59c255082293b>
- Public Services NOFA webinar, Part 1: <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/ldr.php?RCID=3e33ee2cded3c180497b72915b91255e>
- Public Services NOFA webinar, Part 2: <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/ldr.php?RCID=db7063368cf003a17ea8f768cd8d1143>

Commonly used acronyms and abbreviations:

- GOSR – Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
- NYRCR – NY Rising Community Reconstruction
- NOFA – Notice(s) of Funding Availability
- SOQ – Statement(s) of Qualifications
- Center(s) – NY Rising Community Center(s)

Q: How many NY Rising Community Centers (Centers) will be sited in each community and will one Center be selected per area?

A: Centers will be selected based on the specific and unique needs of each of the participating NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Communities. Geographic range, community vision, allotted funding, and community needs will be factored in determining the number and location of Centers.

Q: Can organizations apply to both Facility Site Selection and Public Services Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA)?

A: Yes, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) strongly encourages qualified organizations to respond to both Facility Site Selection and Public Services NOFAs. Such respondents should submit two Statements of Qualifications (SOQ), responding to each NOFA separately.

Q: How should organizations exhibit cooperation with other organizations and facilities? Are Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) required?

A: Cooperation and coordination between respondents should be exhibited to the fullest extent possible, which may include formal agreements, such as a MOU.

Q: If such an organization were selected as a NY Rising Community Center facility, but not a service provider, would the selected facility then be required to accommodate another community service provider at the site for the 24 months?

A: As detailed in applicable NYRCR Plans, the level of service to be provided in facilities varies among communities and will be determined on a case by case basis.



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY

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Q: Is an organization eligible to respond to the Facility Site Selection NOFA if the organization does not own the facility they operate, but has a long term lease with the facility owner? If eligible, what documentation would be needed to demonstrate the relationship to and support of the property owner?

A: Facility operators are eligible to apply under the Facility Site Selection NOFA even if they do not own the property. Clarification of the arrangement between the organization and the owner, such as the lease, should be included in the response, in addition to documentation from the building owner confirming approval and authorization to submit his/her structure for consideration as a NY Rising Community Center, and clarification of the owner's nonprofit status, if applicable.

Q: If a potential Facility Site Selection respondent is not a site owner, but has been a long-term occupant of a NYCHA or other government-owned site, can this respondent submit the site to be the NY Rising Community Center location?

A: While government agencies are not eligible for this program, all potential respondents are encouraged to apply. Further determination will be made on a community and case by case basis.

Q: If an organization responding to the Public Services NOFA has their own facility within proximity to the NY Rising Community Center, do they need to provide services inside the NY Rising Community Center or can they operate out of their own space?

A: Services must be offered in NY Rising Community Centers. Selected nonprofit organizations will be funded on a reimbursement basis to provide ongoing and publically available public services in selected NY Rising Community Centers.

Q: Is involvement in the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) planning process, such as the hosting of meetings and public engagement events, considered "coordinated with a NY Rising Community Center Public Services Program NOFA application?"

A: GOSR is seeking coordination between and among respondents, rather than coordination with the NYRCR Program. Examples of coordination include: long-term occupancy agreements between responding nonprofit organizations and facilities, and past on-site partnership between Facility Site Selection and Public Service NOFA respondents.

Q: May a nonprofit Public Services respondent coordinate with multiple Facility Site Selection respondents?

A: Yes, and there is no limit on coordination of this kind.

Q: What is the total available funding for the NY Rising Community Center program?

A: Participating Communities have proposed funding NY Rising Community Centers to varying degrees, depending on community needs. Allotments of funding for this program were determined through the NYRCR planning process.

Q: Will funding for operational expenses be provided to selected facilities?

A: At this time, no funds will be awarded to selected facilities. Operations and maintenance expenses are not an eligible use of CDBG-DR funds. GOSR will directly fund and manage resiliency improvements at selected facilities.

Q: May facility owners/operators be reimbursed for hardening work already completed on a building?

A: No, facility owners/operators will not be reimbursed for hardening work already completed.

Q: Who will be managing facility retrofit work and what is the role of the facility owner/operator in the retrofit process?

A: GOSR, with New York State partners, will fund and manage retrofits of selected Centers. A facility owner/operator is expected to participate in on-site evaluation and approve the final scope of work.



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Q: In reference to facility capacity requirements, what metrics are being used? (i.e. hospital bed capacity, fire code)

A: GOSR will honor the capacity limits of a building, as determined by the permitted public use of a specific facility.

Q: What is the nature of the retrofits?

A: Resiliency improvements will vary based on building needs, and NYRCR community vision, but may include the installation of such items as: fixed generators, flood barriers, and raised mechanical systems.

Q: If an existing building is currently under construction, should a respondent submit pictures representing the current state of the building?

A: A respondent may submit pictures representing the current state of the building, as well as applicable site plans, and construction scope and timeline, to illustrate how the building meets the threshold criteria when work is complete.

Q: When will on-site assessments be scheduled and conducted?

A: GOSR anticipates on-site assessments to be scheduled and conducted in spring of 2015. The volume and quality of Tier 1 responses will determine the specific Tier 2 timeline, which includes on-site assessments.

Q: What are the public services requirements for selected organizations?

A: Baseline service requirements will be further discussed with respondents invited to participate in Tier 2 of the selection process. Respondents can anticipate a requirement of staff assignment to a NY Rising Community Center, a required service period of at least two years, outreach requirements, data collection, and frequent monitoring by and reporting to GOSR.

Q: What is the definition of youth engagement, as it relates to eligible public services? Do ongoing youth services like after school programming or those services related to emergency preparedness qualify?

A: GOSR does not have a predetermined definition of youth engagement and encourages respondents to present service expansions that meet the recovery needs of participating communities.

Q: Understanding that funds will be provided to selected public service providers as a reimbursement of services provided, is funding only available if a future disaster occurs?

A: Special emphasis is given to the fact that the services provided must either be a new service or an expansion of existing services being provided in the Community. Selected services will be provided on an ongoing basis, not just in times of disaster.

Q: If the selected public services are determined to be under or over utilized, can services be adjusted accordingly?

A: In consultation with selected public services providers, GOSR reserves the right to continually evaluate and request the adjustment of service delivery.

Q: If an organization receives federal funding as a pass through from New York State, does this qualify as federal funding received and should we attach applicable documentation?

A: All federal funds, including those received as a pass through grant, should be reflected in the SOQ.

Q: If a respondent to either NOFA does not have a procurement policy, should a brief explanation of current procurement practices be provided?

A: Yes, the respondent should provide information from respondents as to the current policy in place for the procurement of goods and services by an organization. For example, how are office supplies procured: formal bid, solicitation of price quotes, etc.?



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Q: When submitting a SOQ and additional documents, should respondents send responses as one PDF or are multiple PDF allowed?

A: Respondents may submit multiple PDFs but must submit all attachments in one email.

Q: Are respondents limited to the space provided in the application PDF and can additional information be attached?

A: If respondents are unable to provide requested information in the spaces provided in the application, please complete answers on additional pages and submit together in one submission email. There is no word or character limit in responses.