



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

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HOUSING TRUST FUND CORPORATION

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Request for Expressions of Interest

for

Green Infrastructure Training Program

September 9, 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, invites responses to a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the development, implementation, and administration of a Green Infrastructure Training Program, in the Idlewild Watershed Communities NYRCR Planning Area, bounded by Baisley Boulevard to the west, Merrick Boulevard to the north, Hook Creek Boulevard to the east, and Rockaway Boulevard to the south. For more information regarding GOSR's work in the Community, the Idlewild Watershed Communities NYRCR final plan is available online at: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/regional-communities/idlewild-watershed-communities>

During Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy, neighborhoods in the Idlewild Watershed Communities experienced flooding due to heavy rainfall, extreme storm surge, and storm sewer backups. As a result, the NYRCR Plan for the Idlewild Watershed Communities emphasizes planning and implementation of green infrastructure projects, which would mitigate flooding by slowing and capturing stormwater runoff, thus easing the burden placed on the existing storm water system.

The objective of the Green Infrastructure Training Program is to develop a strategy that brings together New York City agencies, a non-profit maintenance partner, and Community residents to build environmental stewardship for both the Community's natural resources and manmade green infrastructure as critical components of the stormwater management network. The project would develop a plan for long-term maintenance and advocacy for green infrastructure in the Community, while also providing job training, workforce development, and volunteer programs to improve economic opportunities for Community residents.

The Green Infrastructure Training Program would also provide workforce training and volunteer development and training programs to encourage stewardship of the Community's parks and open space by local residents and businesses. As demand grows for green infrastructure as a complementary strategy to reduce the risk of stormwater flooding, the need for workers with specialized skills will also grow. The program would prioritize the training of unemployed, Section 3, and/ or low- to moderate-income individuals. The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent possible, provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods.

In addition to establishing the Green Infrastructure Training Program, the project would also include development of a strategy to establish a maintenance partner to work with New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) and New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC DPR) in maintaining green infrastructure on an ongoing basis. The project would not include funding for ongoing maintenance, but would take initial steps for identifying a partner who could collaborate with NYC DEP, NYC DPR, and Community representatives to seek additional funding to carry out necessary maintenance.

The primary purpose of this RFEI is to invite interested nonprofits currently implementing similar training programs to apply for consideration to design, implement, and administer the Green Infrastructure Training Program in the Idlewild Watershed Communities.

GOSR intends to enter into subrecipient agreement(s) with selected organization(s), to provide the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding required in the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Training Program. Subrecipients are expected to comply with all applicable regulations. GOSR reserves the right to cancel this RFEI for any reason at any time, including after selection.

I. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Information that any interested party wishes to submit will be done so voluntarily and with the understanding that this RFEI is for information gathering purposes only – it is not an offer. No contractual relationship will be formed between the respondent and GOSR by responding to this request alone.

Responses to this RFEI should include a narrative description that includes the following:

- Cover letter which includes the name of the eligible nonprofit and the location of the organization in relation to the the Idlewild Watershed Communities NYRCR Planning Area;
- Description of nonprofit’s history and years in operation;
- Description of the population served by the nonprofit. Data may include the number of individuals and average median income of those served by the nonprofit;
- Description of the training services provided by the nonprofit, with emphasis on services provided to the Idlewild Watershed Communities, including current capabilities, and other relevant areas of expertise;
- A description of how the organization will design, implement, and administer the Green Infrastructure Training Program in the Idlewild Watershed Communities, with the available \$200,000 CDBG-DR funds, including:
 - Type of training to be provided;
 - Length and depth of training to be provided;
 - Estimated participants; and
 - An organizational chart for the proposed program, noting new and existing positions.

POTENTIAL RESPONDENTS:

Certified nonprofit organizations having IRS 501(c)(3) status are considered the only eligible participants to carry out the Green Infrastructure Training Program.

Potential respondents to this RFEI should serve vulnerable populations, which include but are not limited to: individuals with physical or mental disabilities, limited mobility, or limited or no English proficiency; individuals who are homeless or near homeless; households with young children or elderly residents; and households of very low, low, or moderate income.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Responses to the RFEI must be filed electronically in Portable Document Format (.pdf), compatible with Adobe Reader XI, version 11.0.4,. The respondent is responsible for ensuring that emails and attachments are delivered on time and in a legible format. The specific requirements for submitting a response to this RFEI are contained in Section II, Submission Requirements.

Response to this RFEI are to be submitted by e-mail to NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov no later than **Friday, October 7th, 2016 at 5:00 p. m., (EST)**.

E-mail Subject Title: ***Green Infrastructure Training Program — Submission of Request for Expression of Interest***

Any inquiries and requests for additional information regarding this RFEI are to be submitted by e-mail to NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov