



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 5, 2023

The Honorable Robert S. Croslin
Mayor
City of Hyattsville
4310 Gallatin Street
Hyattsville, MD 20781

Dear Mayor Croslin:

Prince George's County, Maryland ("County"), a body corporate and politic, acting on behalf of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD"), is in the process of requalifying its entitlement status as an urban county to receive Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") and HOME Investment Partnerships ("HOME") Program grant funds during Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2026 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"). It is the County's intent to use the grant funding, in part, to undertake eligible community development and housing activities that will primarily benefit low- to moderate income individuals and families residing in Prince George's County. If your municipality desires to assist the County's efforts to administer and/or provide approved activities pursuant to its CDBG, and where applicable HOME and Emergency Solutions Grants ("ESG") Programs, your municipality may elect to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the County that authorizes the County to include the municipality's population with that of the County's incorporated areas to increase the County's annual entitlement.

If your municipality previously entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the County and/or is interested in entering into a new Cooperation Agreement with the County, the County is required to inform you of the following:

A decision to enter into a Cooperation Agreement for the purpose of participating in the County's CDBG and, where applicable, HOME program, would be effective for the three-year period that includes Federal Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026. Thereafter, participating municipalities may be eligible to receive project-financing assistance through the County's CDBG and, where applicable, HOME program that will begin July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

The Honorable Robert S. Croslin
Page 2
May 5, 2023

Additionally, a unit of general local government may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives CDBG funds in exchange for any other funds, credits, or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Furthermore, it is important for you to understand that your decision to include your municipality's population stats for the purpose of HUD determining the County's urban county entitlement status and appropriating entitlement funds would make your municipality *ineligible to apply for entitlement funds and grants under the State CDBG program*, during the applicable Qualification Period. In addition, in becoming a part of the urban county, your municipality will automatically participate in the HOME Program and ESG Program, if the urban county receives HOME and ESG funding, respectively. Your municipality's formula allocation under the HOME Program, if any, could only be awarded to the County and your municipality could not otherwise form a HOME consortium with other units of general local government ("UGLG") in the event that the County did not receive a HOME formula allocation during the applicable Qualification Period.

As a designated UGLG, the County is further required to inform you of the options that address your municipality's right to either participate or elect not to participate as a UGLG under the County's urban county status during the Qualification Period are as follows:

1. If your municipality previously entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the County, the Cooperation Agreement **will automatically be renewed** unless your municipality notifies the County in writing, by letter, by **July 7, 2023**, of its intent to terminate the Cooperation Agreement at the end of the current qualification period (June 30, 2023).
2. If your municipality elects to be identified as a **new** participating UGLG for the County during the Qualification Period, your municipality must execute and return to the County no later than **July 7, 2023**, two (2) copies each of the enclosed Cooperation Agreement and Certification form. Furthermore, please be advised that the attached Cooperation Agreement must be authorized by your municipal governing body and executed on its behalf by you or another authorized official.

Please return the signed Cooperation Agreement and Certification form to:

Aspasia Xypolia, Director
Attention: Adedamola George, Esq., Community Services Manager
Prince George's County
Department of Housing and Community Development
9200 Basil Court, Suite 500
Largo, Maryland 20774

Or via email to: Adedamola George, Esq., Community Services Manager –
aogearge@co.pg.md.us (**copy to:** Kiara Jones, KKJones@co.pg.md.us).

3. Your municipality may elect to **not** participate as one of the County's UGLGs during the Qualification Period. By choosing this option, your municipality **must** notify HUD and Prince George's County no later than **July 7, 2023**. Notification to HUD must be by letter, in writing, from you or another authorized official, and should be addressed to:

Robert Ford, Acting Field Office Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
District of Columbia Field Office
820 First Street, NE., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-275-6291; Fax: 202-275-6380
Email: Robert.J.Ford@hud.gov

The County must also be informed of your municipality's decision not to participate by providing a copy of the notice sent to HUD to Ms. Aspasia Xypolia at the address provided above in Paragraph 2.

If your municipality does not need the consent of its governing body to undertake essential community development and housing assistance activities, and thereby elects to be **excluded** as one of the County's UGLGs during the Qualification Period, your municipality **must** notify HUD and Prince George's County no later than **June 12, 2023**. Notification that your municipality elects to be excluded must be to HUD by letter, in writing, from you or another authorized official, and should be addressed to the address provided above in this Paragraph.

4. Finally, your municipality may elect to **only** participate for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 or 2025 or 2026. In any case, your municipality **must** notify HUD and Prince George's County by **July 14, 2023**, of your municipality's intentions to participate in one or more of three Fiscal Years (2024, 2025 and/or 2026) during the Qualification Period in accordance with the notification procedures outlined in Paragraph 3 above.

The Honorable Robert S. Croslin
Page 4
May 5, 2023

Under this option, your municipality must return a fully executed Cooperation Agreement, Certification form and evidence of the authorization to enter into the agreement to the County by **July 7, 2023**, in time for inclusion in the County's package that includes all of the Cooperation Agreements and Certification forms to be submitted to HUD. Furthermore, please be advised that HUD will not accept Cooperation Agreements submitted after its deadline.

Failure to elect one of the four (4) options above and to provide the required notice to HUD and the County prior to the specified deadline will be interpreted by the County and HUD as **inclusion** and participation in the Urban County. Should you need further information or additional assistance, please feel free to contact Ms. Aspasia Xypolia, Director, DHCD at 301-883-6511.

Sincerely,



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Enclosures

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice: CPD-23-02 (April 10, 2023)
Cooperation Agreement and Legal Certification
Certification of Cooperation Agreement