Housing Department



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2025 Housing Innovation Fund Request for Applications (RFA) FAQ

The following questions were submitted either in advance of or during the 2025 Housing Innovation Fund webinar hosted on November 19, 2025.

 The website references another round of funding for Q1 of 2026. As I'm considering how quickly we can pull together a compelling proposal, it would be helpful to know how secure that timeline and funding is.

The Q1 2026 timeline for the 2026 Housing Innovation Fund is firm as we are attempting to move the fund to a more traditional January – December funding cycle by the 2027 round.

2. We are considering applying for this round just for stakeholder engagement, relationship building, and capacity building toward a pilot project. And then using what we learn through that process to apply for another round of funding. Is that kind of phased approach wise in your opinion? Or will it be important to have as much of that pre-work done before applying for this fund?

Since only well-developed proposals will be considered in this funding round, my recommendation is to wait until the 2026 funding cycle to apply. You can use the 2025 Housing Innovation Fund RFA as a guide in developing your proposal.

3. The language also refers to a desire for organizations to work with municipalities for programs. We have been working extensively with county staff on this topic, but not as much with cities, because of the [specific needs and location of our sector]. Would indicating partnership with county staff and service providers be valuable or are you all really hoping to see projects that involve cities?

It is not required that an applicant partner with a municipality to be eligible for a Housing Innovation Fund award. However, one of the evaluation criteria is Collaboration and Partnerships so your application should clearly describe how your organization collaborates with other agencies to avoid duplication of services and to improve housing stability and/or access for the target population, particularly through new or creative approaches (see question 18 of the 2025 RFA) .

4. Can we apply for existing programs, or can we only apply for new or pilot programs?

You can apply for funding for existing programs if it addresses the program goals listed below and in the 2025 Housing Innovation Fund RFA.

Program Goals (taken from 2025 Housing Innovation Fund RFA)

Successful applicants will demonstrate that they can design, implement, and manage programs or services aimed at:

- Expanding access to affordable and attainable housing
- Improving housing stability for low- and moderate-income residents
- Piloting new models of housing development, financing, or service delivery
- Fostering collaboration between sectors and communities
- Advancing racial equity by reducing disparities in housing outcomes

5. What is the funding period if applying in Q1 2026?

The FY2026 funding cycle would be April 2026 – March 2027. Both FY2025 and FY2026 funded projects would be eligible to apply for the FY2027 funding cycle as renewal projects. The FY2027 funding cycle will be January – December 2027. Funding overlaps from previous awards will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.