

Planning Grants 101

What is a Planning Grant

Localities planning to undergo community improvement projects should use the Planning Grant process as a means of creating a methodology to prioritize the highest community development needs within the locality. It is expected that CDBG competitive grant applications will include activities that address items that are among the locality's highest identified community development needs. Planning Grant program is designed to aid in developing clearly articulated strategies for addressing communities' greatest community development needs following meaningful citizen participation.

Types of Planning Grants

- Housing
- Comprehensive
- Downtown Revitalization
- Regional Projects (including Public Infrastructure)
- Broadband

Planning Grant Activities

- Economic Restructuring
- Opportunity Zone Prospectus
- Community Needs Assessment
- Community Organizing

Planning grant applications are available on an open basis from April 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021.

What makes a successful PG

- Timeline
- Clear vision/end goal of planning grant activities
- Capacity of experienced grant managers; roles assigned
- Grants management team
- Funding mechanism in place, including future funding implementation
- Survey methodology and data collection design clear and justified through documentation (maps, copies of survey instruments, etc.)
- Community and resident participation

Outside Partners & Resources

- Virginia Housing
- GO Virginia
- US EDA
- USDA
- Tobacco Commission
- Virginia Tourism Commission