Low Income Benefit. Successful applications will meet one of the funding priorities listed below. All programs/projects must benefit Low, Very Low, and Extremely Low-income persons.

Minimum Request/Two-Year Funding Agreement. $25,000 is the minimum application request. No contract will be awarded for less than $25,000. County policy is to give two-year contract terms to Public Services, Minor Home Repair Programs, Micro-Enterprise Assistance, and Fair Housing Activities.

A. Housing Development/Housing Repair and Modification Programs
   1. Development of new housing, acquisition/rehabilitation of existing housing, conversion of non-housing structures to provide affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, or transitional housing, for Extremely Low- (ELI) and Very Low-Income (VLI) individuals, families, and persons with special needs.* At least 50% of the Housing Development allocation will be targeted to projects providing permanent supportive housing units for special needs populations. Priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:
      - Incorporate supportive housing services;**
      - Transit-oriented development;
      - Support the County’s Strategic Plan to End Homelessness 2016-2022;
      - Contain units for larger families (2-and 3-bedroom).
   2. Housing repair and modification programs operated by nonprofit agencies that provide cost-effective improvements focusing on health & safety, housing quality standards, and/or access modifications.
   3. Rehabilitation of rent-restricted, existing multi-family affordable housing.

B. Public Services Programs (including Shelter Operations & Fair Housing Enforcement)
   1. Operational support for emergency shelters and transitional facilities that serve individuals and families.
   2. Support for rapid re-housing activities, including rental assistance and supportive services, to assist individuals or families who are homeless to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing.
   3. Operational support for agencies that provide safety net services.
   4. Supportive services aimed at keeping people in their homes, including financial literacy programs, tenant-landlord mediation, and fair housing services.

C. Community & Economic Development (including Public Facilities & Micro-Enterprise Assistance)
   1. Development (acquisition and/or new construction) or rehabilitation of emergency shelters or facilities providing service-enriched supportive housing for persons with special needs to meet the goals of the HOPE Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the County.
   2. Development (acquisition and/or new construction) or rehabilitation of community facilities serving lower income individuals and households, including community centers, childcare facilities, and youth centers.
   3. Activities which result in the creation or retention of permanent employment opportunities for lower income persons.

* Persons with Special Needs. Under CDBG, this category includes: abused children; homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness; survivors of domestic violence; seniors (62+); adult persons with serious disabilities; homeless persons; illiterate persons; and migrant farm workers. For County purposes, this category shall also include, but not be limited to, mentally ill persons; emancipated youth; seniors aging in place (for service-related programs); frail seniors (for housing); persons recovering from substance abuse; and persons recently released from jail or prison.

** Supportive Housing Services. Under this NOFA, these are services that assist special needs persons to stabilize, maintain their housing, and live as independently as possible, and without which the special needs person might have difficulty maintaining their housing.