



Steven M. Neuhaus
County Executive

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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May 17, 2023

Mayor David C. McFadden
Village of Tuxedo Park
80 Lorillard Road
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

Re: Orange County CDBG, HOME and ESG program for federal fiscal years 2024, 2025, 2026.

Dear Mayor McFadden:

In 1982, Orange County municipalities joined together to form the Urban County Consortium which is the mechanism by which participating municipalities receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement funds each year. Every three years, the consortium must be recertified in order to continue to receive CDBG, HOME, and ESG entitlement funds. By continuing to participate in the consortium, your community will continue to be eligible to receive funds under these programs in FY-2024, 2025, and 2026.

Orange County is seeking to renew its Urban County status under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships, and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs (as applicable) for the Fiscal Years 2024, 2025 and 2026. Pursuant to the HUD Notice CPD-23-02 issued on April 10, 2023 ("Notice"), the existing automatically renewing cooperation agreements require further amendment to recertify for the upcoming urban county qualification period. In lieu of adding new requirements implemented by statute to the existing agreements by amendment, the County has opted to execute new Cooperation Agreements with all participating municipalities incorporating all HUD-required revisions and amendments. A draft Cooperation Agreement is enclosed for your review. In compliance with the regulations promulgated by HUD and the Notice, we are officially notifying you of your options regarding your municipality's participation in the Orange County Community Development Programs referenced above and your membership in the Urban County Consortium.

Towns and Villages included in the Urban County Consortium will continue to be eligible to participate in the County's CDBG Program and will automatically participate in the HOME and ESG programs, if the Urban County receives HOME and ESG funding, respectively. While units of local government may only receive a formula allocation under the HOME and ESG Programs as part of the Urban County, this does not preclude the Urban County or a unit of government participating with the Urban County from applying for HOME or ESG funds from the State if the State allows. Units of local government are not eligible to apply for grants under the State CDBG program while they are part of the Urban County.

If you participate in the Orange County program, you will be eligible to apply to Community Development for water, sewer, street, sidewalk, recreation, public service, ADA, and other projects which benefit low- and moderate-income people, eliminate blighted conditions within the community and/or meet an urgent community development need as defined by HUD. Participating in the Urban County also means that you will be participating in the HOME Program which you can only participate in as part of the Urban County.

Your municipality's decision to continue to participate, or elect exclusion, from the program will be effective for three years covering the Federal **Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026**. Regulations require that a community participate in the County program for the entire three-year period. If you elect to participate in the program, you will be unable to drop out until **2026**. The amount of CDBG and HOME funds awarded to Orange County is based upon the population within the municipalities participating in the CDBG and HOME programs; exclusion by a municipality will effectively reduce available funds to all of Orange County. In order to calculate Orange County's entitlement grants for 2024, HUD needs to know which municipalities will be participating in our Urban County. **If you elect to participate in the Orange County Program, please adopt the enclosed resolution, execute the enclosed Cooperation Agreement, and return both to our office by July 7, 2023.**

In accordance with Federal regulations, Orange County is notifying your municipality that it has the option to elect to be excluded from the County's CDBG and HOME entitlement programs. Such election to be excluded will be effective for the entire three-year period for which the Urban County qualifies (Fiscal Years 2024, 2025 and 2026), unless your municipality specifically elects to be included in a subsequent year for the remainder of Orange County's three-year qualification period. **Failure to respond means your municipality will be included in the Urban County for Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 and will be passing the enclosed resolution and executing the enclosed agreement. If your municipality elects to be excluded from and does not wish to participate in the County's CDBG, HOME and ESG programs you must advise both the Office of Community Development AND the U.S. Department of Housing and Development in writing no later than July 7, 2023.**

HUD's address is:

Abigail Ford, Director, Community Planning and Development Division
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, New York Field Office-Region II
Jacob J. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, Rm 3513
New York, NY 10278

Office of Community Development address is:

Nicole Andersen, Director
Orange County Office of Community Development
40 Matthews Street, Suite 307A
Goshen, NY 10940

Please review this notification and enclosures in detail. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (845) 615-3819 or via email at nandersen@orangecountygov.com. The County of Orange and the Office of Community Development look forward to your continued participation in the County program.

Sincerely,

Nicole Andersen

Nicole Andersen
Director of Community Development