

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY[261]

Notice of Intended Action

Proposing rule making related to rural housing needs assessment grant program and providing an opportunity for public comment

The Economic Development Authority hereby proposes to amend Chapter 220, “Rural Housing Needs Assessment Grant Program,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 15.106A and 2019 Iowa Acts, Senate File 608.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, 2019 Iowa Acts, Senate File 608.

Purpose and Summary

The Rural Housing Needs Assessment Grant Program, administered pursuant to 2019 Iowa Acts, Senate File 608, supports the interpretation and implementation of hard data and housing-related information specific to the communities applying for financial assistance under the program. Under the current rules, only an Iowa city is an eligible applicant. The proposed amendments would allow applications by cities, counties, or entities that have entered into agreements with a qualified city or county pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Authority for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 261—Chapter 199.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written or oral comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Authority no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 13, 2021. Comments should be directed to:

Lisa Connell
Iowa Economic Development Authority
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50315
Phone: 515.348.6163
Email: lisa.connell@iowaeda.com

Public Hearing

No public hearing is scheduled at this time. As provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b,” an oral presentation regarding this rule making may be demanded by 25 interested persons, a governmental subdivision, the Administrative Rules Review Committee, an agency, or an association having 25 or more members.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee’s meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making actions are proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend rule 261—220.2(88GA,SF608) as follows:

261—220.2(88GA,SF608) Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

“*Agreement*” means a contract for financial assistance under the program describing the terms on which financial assistance is to be provided.

“*Applicant*” means an Iowa city community applying for financial assistance under the program. ~~The terms “applicant” and “community” may be used interchangeably in this chapter.~~

“*Authority*” means the economic development authority created in Iowa Code section 15.105.

“*Community*” means a county, an incorporated city, or a community designee.

“*Community designee*” means a legal entity established or designated by a county or incorporated city in an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E for the purposes of evaluating housing needs.

“*Director*” means the director of the authority.

“*Financial assistance*” means a grant made by the authority to an applicant approved for funding under the program.

“*Program*” means the procedures, agreement, terms, and assistance established and provided pursuant to this chapter.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **220.3(2)“a”** as follows:

a. *Forms.* All applications and other filings related to the program shall be on such forms and in accordance with such instructions as may be established by the authority. Information about the program, the application, and application instructions may be obtained by contacting the authority or by visiting the authority’s website: Iowa Economic Development Authority, Community Development Division, 200 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, (515)328-3000, iowaeconomicdevelopment.com 1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50315, (515)348-6200, iowaeda.com.

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 220.4(1) as follows:

220.4(1) Program eligibility. An applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria to qualify for financial assistance under this program:

a. The applicant must be an Iowa city community as defined in rule 261—220.2(88GA,SF608).

b. ~~The~~ An applicant that is an incorporated city must have a population of 20,000 or fewer and shall not be contiguous to a city with a population of 40,000 or greater. An applicant that is a county shall be one of the 88 least populous counties in the state. An applicant that is a community designee shall have entered an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E with an incorporated city or county meeting the population criteria in this paragraph.

c. to h. No change.