

**261—45.3(15) Program eligibility, application scoring, and funding decisions.**

**45.3(1) *Program eligibility.*** An applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria to qualify for financial assistance under this program:

- a.* The applicant must be a city. If the project building(s) are owned by an entity other than the city, the city must provide information to the authority regarding ownership and the relationship between the owner and the city.
- b.* A building that constitutes the project must be an underutilized building and a community catalyst as determined by the authority.
- c.* The project must include financial or in-kind resources contributed by the city.
- d.* The applicant must complete the application and provide all other information and documents reasonably required by the authority.

**45.3(2) *Application scoring criteria.*** Each complete and eligible application will be scored by authority staff using criteria set forth by the authority, which may include the following:

- a.* Economic impact of the project. The authority will take into account the potential economic growth and investment that is reasonably expected to occur as a result of the project. The applicant must provide information demonstrating that the expected economic impact of the project is reasonable based on existing factors.
- b.* Local government support. The level and amount of local government support, including financial support, will be considered for each applicant.
- c.* Readiness. The authority will assess whether the project is well-prepared and ready to begin within a reasonable amount of time.
- d.* Project plan and timeline. The authority will assess whether the applicant has prepared a detailed project plan and timeline for the execution of the project.
- e.* Project financing. The authority will assess whether the applicant has secured financing and is financially prepared to complete the project.

**45.3(3) *Funding decisions.***

- a.* Each application and its average numerical score will be referred to the director with a recommendation as to whether to fund the project and, if financial assistance is recommended, a recommendation as to the amount of financial assistance.
- b.* The director will make the final funding decision on each application, taking into consideration the amount of available funding, the average numerical score of the application, and the recommendations made by authority staff. The director may approve, deny, or defer any application.
- c.* An application must receive the average minimum score established by the authority to receive funding. A score exceeding the minimum does not guarantee that the applicant will receive financial assistance.
- d.* Each applicant will be notified in writing of the funding decision.
- e.* A project that does not receive financial assistance may reapply.

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