

## **Addendum No. 2 to Notice of Potential Funding Availability Rent Relief & Housing Assistance Program**

1. **Change:** Notice, Page 2 – The Submission Deadline for applications is hereby changed to July 13, 2020 until 2:00 PM.
2. **Clarification:** Notice, Page 6 – As noted on Exhibit A, the subsidy amount and income limits may be adjusted based on program needs. HHFDC would therefore like to encourage input from applicants to assist HHFDC in developing an effective program that maximizes outreach and best enables HHFDC to achieve the desired program outcomes in a timely and efficient manner.
3. **Change:** Application Package, Page 5 – Item No. 3 is hereby replaced in its entirety with the following:

**3) Provide a detailed Service Plan for achieving the Program Objectives and achieving the desired program outcomes:**

**Part 1 – Program Objectives.** Based on your organization’s experience, are the current Program Objectives outlined in Exhibit A sufficient to achieve the desired program outcomes? Please explain and, if not sufficient, propose objectives that your organization believes will increase the effectiveness of the Program.

Click here to enter text.

**Part 2 – Issues and Concerns.** What are the primary concerns and issues your organization has in administering the Program? Describe at least three concerns, citing past examples on previous or current programs and how your organization dealt with those concerns? Could those concerns have been dealt with more effectively? Please explain.

Click here to enter text.

**Part 3 – Implementation.** Please describe how your organization plans to implement the program, including your organization’s capacity to carry out each component and the specific timeline for implementation. Include a process flowchart to illustrate how the program will work.

Click here to enter text.

4. **Replace:** The Application Package has been updated to include the Change noted in Item 3 above. A revised “Application v2” has been posted to the HHFDC website, replacing the previous program Application.
5. Is the maximum payment of \$500/month flexible? Currently, the City & County of Honolulu maximum is \$2,000 which more closely matches the average rent on Oahu. The Neighbor Islands also have higher maximum payments. There are two issues with the \$500 maximum: 1) The community will go to the program where they can receive the largest amount of help – meaning the HHFDC program will be under-utilized until the County funding is depleted; and, 2) This lower limit will encourage “double-dipping” because the beneficiary will have to seek additional funding to reach their full rent payment.

See Items 2 and 3 above.

## **Addendum No. 2 to Notice of Potential Funding Availability Rent Relief & Housing Assistance Program**

6. There is much confusion in the community about what assistance is available and how to apply. I am aware of seven different rent assistance programs – DHHL, City & County of Honolulu, ESG, CAP, CDBG, EFSP and now this HHFDC program. Most are small dollars or aimed at unique populations – but the C&C of Honolulu and HHFDC programs are large dollars and broadly available. Additionally, each program covers different expenses. Perhaps if HHFDC and C&C could agree to cover certain expenses – for instance, HHFDC does rent (at a higher maximum payment) while the C&C cover mortgages, utilities (-water), childcare, and eldercare. With a coordinated structure like described, it would be far simpler to market, do outreach and for AUW 211 to guide people to the correct program.

See Items 2 and 3 above.

7. Since the gathering of the required documentation is very time consuming and is by far the biggest complaint from the community, would HHFDC consider awarding beneficiaries three months of assistance at the initial qualification and then having the client reapply for the final two months? To reapply, a minimal set of documents to verify current hardship would be required (i.e., unemployment status, employment verification of business still closed or minimal operating hours, bank statement, etc.)

See Items 2 and 3 above.

8. Based on the use rate of rent assistance programs to date, it appears unlikely that the HHFDC program will be able to spend down the \$85M by December 31, 2020. Right now, the demand is just not there and if the demand does increase, the capacity of the nonprofits to deliver the assistance will likely be inadequate. It appears that an extension on the CARES expenditure period will be required – have we communicated that to the Congressional Delegation?

We will take this into consideration.