

NIFA Housing Study Grant Evaluation Criteria

Applicant Eligibility	<p>Ineligible application: Does not meet all eligibility requirements. Application will not be considered.</p> <p>Acceptable Application: Fully eligible and all information provided. Application will be scored according to criteria below.</p>		
CRITERIA	INSUFFICIENT	ADEQUATE	EXEMPLARY
Match Requirement	<p>Evidence of matching funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 50% cash match (stand-alone study) • Less than 70% cash match (part of comprehensive plan) 	<p>Evidence of match funds at the required levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing study: 50-67% • Comprehensive plan with housing study: 70-77% 	<p>Evidence of match above the required levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing study: more than 67% • Comprehensive plan with housing study: more than 77%
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 20	Ineligible	10 points	20 points
Description of Need	Narrative does not describe a clear need to conduct a housing study.	Narrative describes a need to conduct a housing study and provides limited description of past housing studies.	<p>Narrative describes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for housing study • How study will have a broad impact on the community • Other housing initiatives in the community and how new study will support these programs • How past studies have informed the current request
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 15	0–5 points	6–10 points	11–15 points
Community Coordination/ Public Planning Process	No or only some mention of community partners without describing how they will collaborate. No/limited description of plan for resident engagement/citizen participation.	Includes some community partners, limited description of plans for collaboration, and suggests only some means to engage residents.	Includes multiple community partners along with a plan for collaboration. Describes plan for resident engagement/citizen participation.
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 20	0–6 points	7–13 points	14–20 points
Experience	No written description of track record.	Limited description of the applicant's experience in community or housing development.	Detailed description of the applicant's experience in community or housing development.
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 10	0	1–5 points	6–10 points
Letters of Support	Less than three (3) letters of support.	At least three (3) letters of support, but none from the local governing jurisdiction.	At least one (1) letter of support from a local governing jurisdiction and at least two (2) independent letters of support from community organizations written expressly to support the project application.
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 10	0 points	5 points	10 points
Timeline	No or incomplete timeline.	Complete timeline with limited details.	Detailed timeline provided.
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 10	0–3 points	4–6 points	7–10 points
Budget	No or incomplete budget.	Complete budget with limited details.	Detailed budget with justification and supporting documents if needed.
<i>Total Possible Points</i> 10	0–3 points	4–6 points	7–10 points

NIFA reserves the right to modify or withdraw the housing study grant program and may exercise such right at any time and without notice and without liability to any applicant or other parties for their expenses incurred in the preparation of a proposal or otherwise. NIFA also reserves the right to reject any applications that do not correspond with NIFA's current housing priorities as identified by the NIFA Board. NIFA will evaluate and award housing study grants to ensure equitable geographic distribution of investments.