



Request for Proposal (RFP): Advancing Housing Justice for Tenants through Community Organizing in NJ

Issued by: Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey

A. Purpose of Proposal:

The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (HCDNNJ) is seeking proposals from locally based nonprofit organizations to lead community-driven organizing efforts that advance housing justice for tenants and expand access to affordable homes across New Jersey.

B. Organization Background:

Since 1989, the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey has worked to improve the environment for community development corporations (CDCs) and strengthen their capacity to create housing and revitalize historically disinvested neighborhoods throughout New Jersey.

The Network is the statewide association of over 270 members and promotes economic justice by empowering low-income individuals and communities through public policy efforts. We support our CDC members by offering targeted technical assistance, educational programs, advocating for additional resources, conducting research to impact the effectiveness of the community development sector and improve public policies.

C. Project Background:

New Jersey is the seventh most expensive state for renters, and as a result, many residents face high eviction rates, landlord abuse, and the threat of homelessness. To confront these urgent challenges, HCDNNJ is funding community-led housing justice initiatives. The purpose is to build the organizing capacity of non-profits, expand representation and identify pathways to create affordable homes. The program aims to identify tenants, stakeholders and other non-profits in your geographic area to strengthen collaboration of local organizations in addressing additional affordable housing availability. In addition, the initiative welcomes newer groups that may not yet hold a 501(c)(3) status, that would like to apply through a fiscal sponsor, to ensure that grassroots and faith-based voices can participate and shape solutions.

D. Eligibility, Application Process and Tracking

To address the critical housing justice issues outlined in this RFP, the following benchmarks are required for your proposal to be selected.

1.) Determine Eligibility

- Familiarity with local affordable housing issues and housing needs in your targeted area.
- Experience collaborating with other local tenant groups, non-profits and institutions in your geographic area.

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- Be a nonprofit organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and be familiar with the lobbying rules that apply to Section 501(c)(3).
- May also be a grass roots organization working through a fiscal agent.

2.) Application Process

Meet RFP criteria and fill out attached google questionnaire to submit proposal

3.) Evaluation Criteria

- A clearly defined plan and benchmarks for achieving the proposed goals.
- Provide a monitoring and evaluation system with defined metrics of success.
- Demonstrate how proposed project and management of funds will be implemented.
- Inclusion of BIPOC led- developers or underrepresented communities in the housing market.

4.) Reporting and Tracking

- Provide a mid-point report to HCDNNJ on project activities and achievements.
- Submit an end-of-the-year report on the outcome of the project.

E. Contract Details

1) Project Budget/Grant Details:

Selected organizations will receive grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to implement their proposal during the first cycle of the agreement (12 months), with the possibility of renewal for an additional cycle based on results. This funding will support project activities, including:

- Staffing, outreach and administrative costs.
- Project expenses: stipends, food and meeting costs.

Project Proposal Submission Guidelines:

1. Proposals should include the following items:

- Organizational Background: Brief overview of mission, history, and experience in community organizing or housing justice.
- Approach: Plan to launch a 12-month housing justice advocacy campaign, including outreach, engagement, training, and advocacy strategies.
- Budget Use: Clear breakdown of how funds will support the project.
- Evaluation: Defined outcomes and metrics to measure impact.

2. Dates of Note:

- Applicant Review (optional): September 30 at 11am
RSVP to Cassandra Lainez at info@hcdnnj.org
- Deadline for RFP Submissions: October 10 at 4pm
Apply here: <https://forms.gle/oYkc8geEZu6acUHa7>