

Rural Slum and Blight Removal Grant Narrative Description Application Questions: Please briefly address the following in the portal. Point total is 150. Application must be submitted via the portal.

- I. **Project Description (30 points)**
 - a. Please list which of the eligible activities your project is seeking funding for and plans for future use of selected property (if applicable):
 - i. Purchase and removal of blighted properties
 1. If choosing this activity, please indicate if the property is community/nonprofit owned or provide a purchase agreement.
 - ii. Remove hazards or structures from blighted properties
 - iii. Up to \$10,000 per business for improvements if located in a mixed-use facility
 - b. Please provide a clear, concise description of your proposed project, including the objectives, anticipated outcomes, environmental concerns, infill or expansion (or combination) and if new infrastructure will be needed to complete this project. Please include how the partners will play a role in this project.
 - c. Please provide a clear, concise description of your organization and the role that it will play in the development and/or implementation of this project.
 - d. List any partnering organizations or developers involved in this project?
- II. **Need and Impact (30 points)**
 - a. Describe how your project will positively impact the vibrancy of your community?
 - b. What are the anticipated long-term economic benefits for the community resulting from this project?
- III. **Project Budget and Timeline (10 points)**
 - a. Please provide a detailed project budget. This budget should include amounts of purchase, demolition, renovation, and sources of any matching funding (including in-kind resources).
 - b. Please provide a detailed project timeline, showing when, if funded, you anticipate the planning project would commence and be completed. Please include interim and major milestones in the planning process.
- IV. **Need for Project Funding (30 points)**
 - a. Does your community have the financial resources to fund this project without assistance from the Department of Commerce? Please explain.

Supplemental Materials (50 points total for this section):

1. **Main Street Initiative Engagement**
 - a. If your community is a Main Street Champion Community, along with your completed application please submit the following:
 - i. Signed Main Street Community Proclamation issued from the City Council/Commission
 - ii. Completed Main Street Action Plan or Comprehensive/Strategic Plan.
2. **Most recent community plan(s)**
 - a. Please submit or link to a copy of your community's most recent plan(s) (strategic, comprehensive, housing plan/study).
3. **Letter of support from local organizations and/or political entities**
 - a. **Please provide a letter of support, indicating participation in the process and specifically referring to this grant application, from any of the following partners**
 - i. Local school district
 - ii. Local park and recreation district (or similar entity that would support community activities/vibrancy associated with increase in housing)
 - iii. JDA, chamber or other economic and/or community development organization
 - iv. City and/or County Commission/Council
 - b. Nonprofits that are applying on behalf of a city/political subdivision must have a letter of commitment for the application included to be considered for funding.

Application Deadline: Please ensure that you address each of the questions above in your application. All application materials must be submitted via the portal no later than **5:00 pm CST on April 18th** . Applications received after the deadline will not be considered by the review committee.