



U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Jacksonville Field Office  
CPD Division, 4HD  
Charles Bennett Federal Building  
400 West Bay Street, Suite 1015  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202-4410

September 27, 2023

The Honorable James Hilty  
Council President of Ocala  
110 SE Watula Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471-2180

Dear James Hilty:

**SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Agreement Transmittal**

The Jacksonville Field Office would like to thank you for your continued partnership in providing quality affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons through HUD programs. On Thursday, June 10, 2021, the Department published an interim final rule with a request for comments, titled: *Requesting Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Definitions and Certifications* (86 Fed Reg 30779). The effective date for the interim rule is July 31, 2021, and you are encouraged to review the interim rule in developing your programs.

One Grant Agreement is attached for each program awarded as follows:

<b>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)</b>	<b>\$ 496,815</b>
<b><u>Total FY2023 Award</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 496,815</u></b>

**Plan Approval**

Transmittal of a grant agreement does not constitute approval of the activities described in your Consolidated Plan. You are reminded that you, as grantee, are responsible for ensuring that all grant funds are used in accordance with all program requirements. An executed Grant Agreement is a legally binding agreement between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and your agency.

Please note the special conditions attached to each Funding Agreement, including CDBG.

In accordance with the HOME regulations at 24 CFR 92.254(a)(5), a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) must establish resale and/or recapture requirements that comply with the standards of the regulation. Furthermore, the resale and/or recapture requirements must be set forth in the PJ's Consolidated Plan. HUD must determine if the PJ's provisions comply with the requirements of the regulations and notify the PJ in writing of its determination. HUD has reviewed your resale and/or recapture provisions and has determined that the provisions included in the Plan comply with the requirements at 24 CFR 92.254(a)(5).

**Environmental Review Requirements**

You are reminded that certain activities are subject to the provisions of 24 CFR Part 58 (Environmental Review Procedures). Funds for such activities may not be obligated or expended until HUD has approved the release of funds in writing. A request for release of funds (RROF) must be

accompanied by an environmental certification, and until the RROF is approved and notification is received, no HUD funds should be committed. If the project or activity is exempt per 24 CFR 58.34 or categorically excluded (except in extraordinary circumstances), no RROF is required.

### **Build America, Buy America (BABA)**

On November 15, 2021, the Build America, Buy America Act (the Act) was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Pub. L. 117-58. The Act establishes a domestic content procurement preference, the Buy American Preference (BAP), for Federal programs that permit Federal financial assistance to be used for infrastructure projects. In Section 70912, the Act further defines a project to include “the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States” and includes within the definition of infrastructure those items traditionally included along with buildings and real property. Starting May 14, 2022, new awards of Federal financial assistance (FFA) from a program for infrastructure, and any of those funds obligated by the grantee, are covered under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Act, 41 U.S.C. 8301 note. The [waiver, published March 15, 2023](#), establishes a phased implementation schedule for application of the BAP to covered materials and HUD programs.

The BAP is applicable **now** to iron and steel used in covered CDBG projects, i.e. for projects using funds obligated on or after November 15, 2022. For CPD, the BAP will apply next to iron and steel used in covered Recovery Housing Program (RHP) projects for funding obligated on or after August 23, 2023. The Phased Implementation waiver established the following implementation schedule for HUD programs:

<b>BAP will apply to...</b>	<b>Iron and Steel</b>	<b>Specifically Listed Construction Materials</b>	<b>All Other Construction Materials</b>	<b>Manufactured Products</b>
<b>CDBG Formula Grants</b>	All funds obligated on or after November 15, 2022	As of the date HUD obligates new FFA from FY24 appropriations	As of the date HUD obligates new FFA from FY25 appropriations	As of the date HUD obligates new FFA from FY25 appropriations
<b>Choice Neighborhood, Lead Hazard Reduction, and Healthy Homes Production Grants</b>	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after February 22, 2023	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024
<b>Recovery Housing Program (RHP) Grants</b>	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2023	As of the date HUD obligates new FFA from FY24 appropriations	As of the date HUD obligates new FFA from FY25 appropriations	As of the date HUD obligates new FFA from FY25 appropriations
<b>All HUD FFA except HOME, Housing Trust Fund, and Public Housing FFA used for maintenance projects</b>	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after February 22, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024
<b>All HUD FFA</b>	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024	New FFA obligated by HUD on or after August 23, 2024

Additional details on fulfilling the BABA requirements can be found at [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/general\\_counsel/BABA](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/general_counsel/BABA).

## **Executing the Grant Agreement**

Please execute each Grant Agreement with electronic signature and date and return to this office to the attention of Lee Allen, Program Manager, Community Planning and Development at Lee.A.Allen@hud.gov. Please ensure the Chief Elected Official and/or authorized designee electronically signs the CDBG grant agreement in the box directly across from the HUD CPD Director's signature. The CDBG Grant Agreement should **not** be electronically signed in box 12c. Maintain a copy of each agreement with your original signature on-site in your program files.

For additional information and guidance on grant-based accounting, please refer to the HUD Exchange at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/grant-based-accounting/>.

To establish a Line of Credit for Fiscal Year 2023 grant funds, it will be necessary for your agency to sign, execute and return one (1) copy of each Grant Agreement. If there is a need to add or remove individuals authorized to access the Integrated Disbursement Information System (IDIS), please submit an IDIS Online Access Request Form (HUD 27055), notarize, and return to this office. Additionally, if there is a need to establish or change the depository account where these funds are to be wired, a Direct Deposit Sign-Up form (SF-1199A) must be completed by your financial institution and returned to this office with a copy of a voided check.

HUD congratulates the City of Ocala on its grant awards, and we look forward to assisting you in accomplishing your programs goals. If you have any questions or need further information or assistance, please contact Deidra Hembree, CPD Representative via email at Deidra.M.Hembree@hud.gov, or by phone at 904-208-6155

Sincerely,

Larry T. Hayes, MBA  
Director  
Community Planning and Development

Enclosures: Grant agreement FY23 CDBG B-23-MC-12-0029,