



The Cuyahoga Land Bank announces the availability of construction gap grants to support the construction of new single-family homes and townhomes. The Land Bank will strategically invest in emerging markets by offering construction financing gap grants for eligible projects to incentivize development activity, strengthen markets and stimulate investment in these areas. The Land Bank is seeking “shovel-ready” projects that have the support of their respective municipalities.

Project location in emerging and markets: The project must be located within the County Housing Program emerging market as shown in Exhibit A, preference will be given to projects proposed in the suburban communities within the emerging market. For a more detailed view of the emerging market boundary, and potentially available lots, please visit <https://bit.ly/RollingGapGrantProgram>.

Project type: Newly constructed single or two-family homes. Both free-standing homes and townhomes are eligible. All projects must submit a Pricing Set, or plans that include the equivalent construction information, along with the application. Townhome projects must also submit a full site plan. Renovation projects are not eligible.

Disposition type: Homes must be built or sold to an owner-occupant(s). Investor-owned rental properties are not eligible. Construction of the homes may not commence until after such time that a grant has been awarded.

Home sales price: Up to \$385,000.

Income Limits: There are no income limits for homebuyers.

Deadline: Proposals are due by COB 9/30/2025.

Grant Awards:

The grant award shall be a maximum of \$35,000 per unit. The amount of each award will be determined by the Land Bank based on its evaluation of the financing gap, considering a reasonable return to the developer and available funds. Award announcements will be made no later than 30 calendar days after the application deadline. Awards will be made on a competitive basis. Submission of application does not guarantee funding. Additional information will be provided upon inquiry.

Additional Details:

1. Projects **MUST BE** supported by the local municipality as evidenced by a support letter executed by the Mayor or the Director of the City’s Housing, Community Development, or Building Department.



- ## Exhibit A





Evaluation Criteria and Process:

Applications that have satisfied the threshold criteria will be further evaluated with weight given to the following criteria and factors:

1. Projects which can be expected to: 1) have the greatest positive impact on the value of surrounding home values, 2) encourage spin-off housing investment from others, and 3) strengthen and support current development efforts underway in the general vicinity.
2. Projects that will result in a sale by the Developer of a completed home to an owner-occupant are preferred. Less preferable is where an owner-occupant secures a vacant lot and the Developer is hired to serve as a general contractor to build a home on the aforementioned vacant lot. One of the reasons for our preference is that in the former case the sale is recorded with the County Fiscal Office at the time of the sale of the completed home thus creating a comparable that reflects the sales price of the home. From that point on, appraisers can look to that value when appraising other properties in the neighborhood. In the latter case, the sale that is recorded is much lower - just the purchase price of the vacant lot. In these cases, there is a lag until the next triennial property assessment by the County fiscal office before the value of the completed house itself is recorded. It is not until then that appraisers will consider the house's value as a comparable when appraising properties in the neighborhood. Thus, the positive impact on neighborhood property values is felt more immediately when there is a recorded sale of a completed house. To put it more directly, a higher comparable will be created faster, which is an important goal of this grant program.
3. Applications that include multiple units as opposed to an application for a single house are preferred. In addition, projects that propose to build multiple units located within a geographic area of no greater than 40 acres or within a municipally approved planned unit development are also looked upon more favorably. Applications that propose multiple units must submit a site plan indicating the number of units per building.
4. Projects for which site control has been secured either through direct ownership or by executed option agreements or other similar contracts. If site control has been established, applications must include supporting documentation.
5. Projects that are financially feasible based on our review of the proposed product, the asking price, the sub-market, the proforma showing all projected sources and uses and the status of securing financing. Direct hard and soft costs and reasonable Developer/GC fees should be included in project costs; however, indirect costs and developer overhead expenses should not be included. The degree to which the information that the applicant submits demonstrates that, but for the grant, the proposed project may not proceed, shall also be given weight in our evaluation.



6. Projects where the homes can feasibly be completed and a certificate of occupancy be obtained within 9 months of the project start date.
7. Projects for which detailed and relevant information has been provided. The Land Bank will not contact applicants to pursue incomplete and/or non-specific information. Your application, and the supplemental attachments that you provide, shall be evaluated on their face. Please be thorough in compiling your submittal. All applications must be submitted electronically.
8. Projects **MUST BE** supported by the local municipality as evidenced by a support letter executed by the Mayor or the Director of the City's Housing, Community Development, or Building Department. Preference will be provided to proposed
9. Once an application has been approved, the Land Bank and the Developer will sign a Letter of Intent to Fund the Developer's project. This letter gives the Developer 90 days from the date of the letter of support to show proof of receiving a Notice of Plan Approval, (or other type of written proof,) that the City is ready to issue permits. The Land Bank will only enter into a Grant Agreement once the Developer meets all conditions of the Letter of Intent.

A review committee consisting of members of the Land Bank's staff and/or other industry professionals who have experience in the development, sale and/or financing of single-family homes may review submitted applications and select projects for awards. The Land Bank reserves the right to consult others in this process, to accept and/or reject any or all applications, to require additional information from an applicant, or to negotiate separately as necessary to serve its best interests.

Developer Requirements

1. Developers desiring to apply may be organized as a for-profit or a non-profit entity registered with and in good standing with the Ohio Secretary of State. A developer is defined as a company whose principals and staff will conceive, control, invest in and orchestrate the project from beginning to end.
2. Developers must demonstrate that it has developed at least 3 newly-constructed, single or two-family homes or 3 newly-constructed townhouse projects in Northeast Ohio and that the units were sold during the period 3 years prior to the date of their grant application.
3. A development company and/or each of its principals may not be on the Cuyahoga County Inspector General's debarred contractor list.
4. The development company and/or each of its principals may not have owned any real property wherein they lost title to the property or had any foreclosure filings 3 years prior to the date of their grant application.



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5. The company and principals may not currently own any real property that:
 - a) is known to have material violation(s) of state and/or local codes or has a history of code violations;
 - b) is known to have a history of being a site for criminal activity during their ownership;
 - c) is tax delinquent.

Grant Agreements

A grant agreement shall define the terms of the grant including:

- 1) A requirement that the awardee submit brief quarterly progress reports until the funded homes are sold. The quarterly reports should mirror the milestone schedule that was indicated on the grant application with emphasis on the entitlement and pre-construction process.
- 2) The Maximum Sales Price may not exceed \$385,000 as described previously within the Threshold Criteria section of this document. Any change in the PSP that would exceed the Max Sales Price limit must receive written approval from the Land Bank through a grant addendum. The request should include a brief narrative describing the reason for the price increase along with an updated proforma using the same form required in the application process. If the Actual Sale Price exceeds the MSP, the grantee agrees to pay the Land Bank the difference between the MSP and the Actual Sale Price at closing. Any request for changes to the Projected Sales Price must be received before the project reaches 75% completion.

Grant dollars awarded for each house will be funded as follows:

The grant will be disbursed to the awardee when the house is deemed to be 75% complete based on an inspection by the Land Bank. When grant dollars are disbursed, and at the sole discretion of the Land Bank, it may place a lien on the parcel which shall later be released upon sale of the property to the homebuyer. The lien may be subordinated to 1st mortgage construction financing from a financial institution and will be released as part of the homebuyer's closing process.

The Land Bank shall retain the right to revoke its obligation to fund the grant award if: 1) the developer fails to timely submit complete quarterly progress reports, 2) the project has not commenced construction within 30 days of the grant award and has not achieved 75% completion within 7 months of the grant award, or 3) the inspection reveals that the construction is not being executed in compliance with local codes and/or if required building permits have not been secured. Any changes to the grant agreement timeline must be approved through a written request to the Land Bank at least 60 days before the proposed change. The Land Bank retains sole discretion to honor such a request based on mitigating circumstances.



Application Process:

The application form, proforma worksheet and related supporting documentation can be found on the Land Bank's website at: <https://cuyahogalandbank.org/about/public-notices>. We strongly encourage you to read through the entire application form, the proforma worksheet and related supporting documents before you commence completing the application materials.

Applications must be submitted electronically and will not be accepted on paper. Applicants must submit the application form, the proforma worksheet the municipal letter of support, along with a pricing set, or plans that include the equivalent construction information.

All applicants are required to submit application materials in the original format. All application materials are to be submitted by attaching to an e-mail and sending to:

gapgrant@cuyahogalandbank.org

Please submit any questions you may have to: gapgrant@cuyahogalandbank.org. In your e-mail, please provide your full name, the name of your company and your phone number.

The Land Bank reserves the right to amend this document, the application form, the proforma worksheet, along with any supporting documentation. Before submitting your application, please check for any amendments and for answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) posted at: <https://cuyahogalandbank.org/about/public-notices>.

Required Application Materials:

Application Form

Proforma

Letter of Municipal Support

Pricing Set of Architectural Drawings