

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) OneGeorgia Equity Fund Invitation to Apply

The OneGeorgia Authority hereby notifies interested applicants of the availability of funds in the Equity Program in the form of grants, loans and any other forms of assistance authorized by (O.C.G.A. 50-34-1 et seq.). The Equity Fund is designed as a flexible community and economic development tool which provides funding for projects relating to public water and sewer infrastructure; road, rail and airport improvements; capacity building for industrial/business sites; workforce and tourism.

In general, OneGeorgia Equity seeks to fund projects which increase capacity and enhance the competitiveness of rural Georgia. However, the Equity Fund should not be used for projects when other state or federal programs could be used or when local funds would be sufficient to accomplish community and economic development goals. A sample of previously funded projects may be viewed on our website at <http://www.onegeorgia.org/projects/list>.

Award limits will be based on the number of counties supporting a particular project.

- One County – Maximum of \$200,000 per project; Two Counties – Maximum of \$300,000 per project; Three or more – Maximum of \$500,000 per project

Award limits set at \$1,000,000 per project where the project: (a) evidences support by a multi-county development authority where at least one of the participating counties is a directly eligible county; and (b) a revenue/cost sharing agreement or other intergovernmental agreement between two or more counties is executed; and (c) where the project will result in regional impact and economic benefits for at least one directly eligible county. For a better understanding of what constitutes a multi-county project, please refer to Regional Bonus described under 413-1.09(6).

Due to the specialized nature of the program and the limited resources available, we encourage potential applicants to contact their local Community Services Regional Representative to discuss any projects: <http://www.dca.ga.gov/main/services.asp>

The application procedure for the Equity Program includes an optional Initial Project Assessment / Pre-application phase and an Application phase. The purpose of the Initial Project Assessment is to provide: A) a determination of a proposed activity or activities eligibility for Equity Fund financing; B) a determination on whether the proposed activity or activities and broader project can meet the basic Equity Program thresholds and be competitive under the rating and review system as outlined in Section 413-1.09; and C) an opportunity to obtain Pre-Agreement Cost Approval (PACA) from the Authority so that projects may obtain interim financing and proceed with certain identified project activities prior to receipt of an actual Grant or Loan Agreement.

Eligible applicants may submit Initial Project Assessments and/or Applications for consideration at any time. The OneGeorgia Authority strongly encourages potential applicants to contact the Authority or DCA to arrange an Initial Project Assessment review prior to submitting an Application. Pre-application is strongly encouraged and application forms are available at: <http://www.onegeorgia.org/programs/equity/applications>.

Applications under the OneGeorgia Authority Equity Fund NOFA will be accepted beginning immediately. Applications must arrive at DCA by 4:00 PM on **October 14, 2016**. No applications for this round will be accepted after this date and time. Applications under this NOFA must be addressed to:

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
OneGeorgia Equity Fund Program
c/o Office of Economic Development
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231

Postmarked applications will not be accepted under this NOFA. The next application deadline will occur **January 13, 2017** with subsequent deadlines to follow on the 2nd Friday of January, April, July and October of each year.

Frequently asked questions may be viewed at <http://www.onegeorgia.org/programs/equity/faq> or by emailing kim.carter@dca.ga.gov.

This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is issued by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), as the administrator of the programs of the OneGeorgia Authority. For more information on Equity fund regulations, follow the link to www.onegeorgia.org.

The Notice of Funding Availability and other related materials are available on the OneGeorgia website at: <http://www.onegeorgia.org/programs/equity>